



Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2015)

Project Ref No: 2380

Project Title : Balancing Conservation and livelihoods in the Chimanimani Forest belt, Mozambique

Country(ies): Mozambique

Lead Organisation: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (RBG Kew)

Collaborator(s): MICAIA Foundation and IIAM

Project Leader: Tiziana Ulian

Report date and number (e.g., HYR3): 30/10/2015 HYR2

Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc

Funder (DFID/Defra): DFID

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Output 1: Forest surveys produced for each of 4 distinct forest areas, with a specific focus on useful plants identified by the communities (e.g. food and medicinal plants) and conservation priority species;

Activities

1.1 Carry out targeted plant surveys in each of the four forest areas, focussing on less-disturbed areas – **Completed in Mpunga and Zomba (23rd June to 6th July 2015). Surveys in Mahate and Maronga planned for November 2015.**

1.2 Identify (at IIAM and RBG Kew) botanical voucher specimens collected during survey work - **To be completed in 2016 after second field trip.**

1.4 Compile summary botanical report for each of the four forest areas – **To be completed in 2016 after second field trip.**

1.5 Establish forest sample plots in two forest areas [3-4 plots in each area] -**To be completed in the second field trip.**

Activities undertaken during reporting period:

- *Investigation of selected conservation areas to highlight threats and opportunities:* Six forests conservation areas were investigated (Mpunga Centro, Mbiquiza forest and Chikó Forest in Mpunga; Muranga/Thekeza forest, Mapira Swamp, Zomba Centro Swamp in Zomba). Conservation recommendations have been made for each of them.
- *Collection of species of conservation or potential economic importance:* 198 and 163 plant specimens were collected from Mpunga and Zomba respectively. Evidence of elephants was noted in Mpunga with ecological and tourism value. Potential economic plant species have also been identified.
- *Botanical voucher specimens identified in IIAM herbarium:* Dr Iain Darbyshire visited IIAM Herbarium in August 2015 to identify species collected and to train local staff. Outstanding specimens to be identified have been sent to RBG Kew.
- *Establishment of plots for vegetation characterisation:* 17 vegetation characterisation plots were established in Mpunga and 13 in Zomba.
- *Establishment of plots to record species composition of trees:* four 25m×25m forest plots and six 25m×25m tree diameter plots have been established in Mpunga. Three forest plots and five tree forest plots have been established in Zomba.

Output 2: Land use and sustainable off take plans created for the forest belt, including community managed conservation areas and communal and family sustainable agriculture zones;

Activities

2.1 Mobilize communities and facilitate the production of maps and land use plans (zones) using a variety of participatory methodologies - **On target.**

2.2 Organise the involvement of officials from the government's department of geography and mapping to demarcate officially the proposed conservation zones - **Postponed to 2016/ 2017.**

2.3 Work with each community, through a series of organised meetings, to prepare plans for access to forest resources (off-take), establish management committees for the conservation zones, and provide training to the members of these committees - **Ahead of agreed timetable.**

Activities undertaken during reporting period:

- *Facilitation of participatory zoning work in Mahate, including geo-referencing of agreed conservation boundaries and elaboration of participatory community maps:* 53 community members (17 women) were involved in the participatory mapping and zoning process. Bhanha Mountains were chosen as their conservation area. Discussions are ongoing on whether to protect the forests along the Mudzira and Nhamahari Rivers.
- *Facilitation of participatory zoning work in Zomba and Maronga, including geo-referencing of agreed conservation boundaries and elaboration of participatory community maps:* community conservation areas were confirmed and preparations were made for the botanical surveys in Zomba and Maronga in November 2015. Community maps were produced as a basis for geo-referencing the proposed conservation areas.
- *Capacity building of natural resources management committee's members and community forest rangers of Mpunga, Maronga, Mahate and Zomba:* 171 members (51 from Maronga, 12 from Mahate, 13 from Mpunga and 95 from Zomba) attended training about the Chimanimani National Reserve Management Plan, as well as principles and rules for protection and sustainable use of forest and wildlife resources under Forest and Wildlife law and conservation law.

Output 3: Existing natural resource based livelihood strategies – honey production, dried forest fruits, tourism and conservation agriculture – expanded to benefit 2,281 households;

Activities

3.1 Commission Eco-MICAIA Ltd to develop business plans for expanding livelihood activities (honey, tourism and forest fruits) and link these plans with resource management plans based on the inventories and land use planning exercises - **On target.**

3.2 On the basis of the studies present key recommendations to community leaders and mobilize local households around one (or more) of the proposed livelihood strategies, putting in place a package of training and organisational capacity building appropriate to the chosen strategy - **Ahead of agreed timetable.**

Activities undertaken during reporting period:

- *Identification of local species of potential economic value:* forest products identified include high-valued paper using species in the Apocynaceae family; edible fruits (e.g. *Sclerocarya birrea*, *Ximenia caffra*, *Dovyalis* spp. and *Azima* spp.); high value finished timber products, such as furniture and kitchen utensils; essential oils from Labiateae species in Zomba; and papyrus (e.g. *Cyperus papyrus*) products.
- *Identification of potentially valuable tourist sites:* two areas in Zomba have been identified as sites for community tourism camps (Thekeza forest and Zichau povoado). A viewpoint location has been identified in Mpunga for elephants and birds watching.
- *Establishment of demonstration plots for sustainable agriculture:* six plots have been established (two in Mpunga, two in Zomba, one in Mahate and one in Maronga) to support 71 families (33 from Mpunga, 31 from Zomba and 7 from Maronga). Two of the plots were set up in two schools in Mpunga and Mahate.
- *Facilitation of training in sustainable agriculture methods:* 71 families have been trained in techniques for land preparation, seed bed preparation, seedling transplantation, irrigation and mulching, and bio-pesticide production.
- *Establishment of teams to lead demonstration plot activities:* two associations (one in

Mpunga and one in Zomba) and one management team (in Maronga) have been established to ensure farmers carry out sustainable agriculture activities.

- *Apiaries in Mpunga and Mahate monitored:* 5 of 245 hives colonised in Mahate and 53 of 270 in Mpunga. Protection equipment and smokers have been provided for future management. Fourteen families in Mpunga received 11,385 Mt (c. £174) for the sale of 253 Kg of honey to the Mozambique Honey Company (MHC).
- *Apiaries delivered to beneficiaries in Maronga and Zomba:* 285 hives each were delivered to Maronga and Zomba for the benefit of 113 community members.
- *Selection of beekeeping promoters to provide assistance to other beneficiaries in their communities:* 22 community members have been selected (4 from Mpunga, 6 from Zomba, 6 from Maronga and 6 from Mahate) to receive specialised beekeeping training.
- *Establishment of contracts between community members, MICAIA Foundation and MHC for honey production activities:* 87 contracts were signed, 46 in Mpunga and 41 in Mahate.

Output 4: A minimum of 4 Forest Learning trails opened and educational materials produced, generating greater awareness and understanding of biodiversity (and threats to it) across the forest belt and engaging schools in biodiversity conservation.

Activities

4.2 On the basis of information gathered in the surveys and other research, commission a local consultant to draft content for display materials and other information. **This activity was postponed until the botanical surveys are complete and the report produced in 2016.**

Other activities undertaken during the reporting period:

The Project Manager, Hercilia Chipanga, attended two training programmes: (1) 'Leadership enhancement action plan' to build her capacity in leadership skills and (2) 'Effective management of conservation projects' to increase her capacity to develop and manage projects effectively, and to learn skills in strategic planning and effective communication.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Activity 2.2:

Community Conservation Areas are designated by the new "Conservation Law (Lei 16/2014)", articles 18 and 22, and could be applied to the communities' conservation areas because of their forest and wildlife value. This would ensure the conservation of biodiversity and the area's natural habitat, which is encouraged by the Management Plan of Chimanimani National Reserve. Demarcation needs to be led by the governmental department of Geography and Mapping by providing land certificates, which bestows the conservation areas with legal status. However, the department of Geography and Mapping is still establishing how to implement this law through consultation with other stakeholders with experience in delimitations and demarcations of community lands, such as the Initiative for Community Lands (ITC). This activity has been delayed as a result.

Activity 3.2:

It was estimated that by providing hives to all community households would cause the sale of 5 tonnes of honey. However, this amount has not been reached despite the delivery of 1,000 hives, since training and technical assistance still needs to be delivered to the beekeepers. The final outcome will depend on the uptake of the best practices on beekeeping and apiary management.

In order to achieve the sustainable agriculture target more time is needed to ensure the techniques are adopted and there is an increase in productivity.

We believe these developments will not affect the overall impact of the project.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

N/A

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your projectschedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**