



## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	22-015
<b>Project Title</b>	Sustainable management of an Ethiopian rangeland for biodiversity and pastoralists
<b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies)</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Ethiopian Wildlife Natural History Society; SOS Sahel; BirdLife International; Coventry University; Manchester Metropolitan University
<b>Project Leader</b>	Alice Ward-Francis
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	01 April 2016 – 30 September 2016: HYR2
<b>Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc</b>	
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	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).**

There has been slower than expected progress with kallo creation (output 2). 300 hectares of kallos have now been created and fenced, but this is still well below the 1000 hectare objective for the end of Y2 (extended deadline as agreed through an approved change request). Additional kallos have been committed and fenced by local communities, although creation of these is not complete. Increasing kallo creation will be an emphasis for the next project period, although please note the issues raised in section 2a and 4, below. Existing kallos have recently been observed to be in good condition with “luxuriant” grass growth. Both local communities and government remain very supportive of the project, and a “Kallo Celebration Day” was even initiated and organised by the local communities.

Delivery of output 3 has progressed well. As discussed in the Y1 report, community-based organisations (CBOs) were established in Y1 and business planning was completed ahead of time in March 2016. Training in literacy and numeracy for CBO members has now been underway for 6 months, employing three officers, and has had good uptake.

Progress in the delivery of Output 4 has been strong. During this reporting period, BirdLife have developed criteria to identify priority areas for rangeland conservation and applied these to identify 9 sites. The project will initially focus on two of these: Yabelo (Borana National Park) and Dawa-Wachille. The next step will be to develop a map of these sites to promote to government under the auspices of the Oromia Pastoralist Development Strategy. A desktop analysis of regional stakeholders has been carried out and has highlighted nine key stakeholders; the list has now been shared with local partners in Ethiopia for review. During the next project team field visit, we will meet as many of these stakeholders as possible to explore opportunities for lesson-sharing on participatory rangeland management.

**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.**

Throughout August, September and into October, a wave of political protests across Ethiopia led to widespread political instability prevailing in the country and the government declaring a 6 month state of emergency on 9 October. Liben has not escaped impact, and some have tried to use the situation to violate established kallos and start new cultivation on the plains. This situation has been alleviated by the local people themselves through their own internal discussions, however, further challenges related to the state of emergency are likely (see section 4, below).

The community based organisations are still without an office, and this has been delayed by the unrest and because of a high initial quotation from a potential contractor. A revised quotation has now been received and it is hoped that construction can soon begin. This new activity has been discussed with LTSI, and will be included in a change request to be submitted later in November. Political instability also caused delay to the adult education programme – this is scheduled to resume soon.

As the planned November visit to Ethiopia by the project team has been delayed, this will delay the collection of indicator information related to Indicators 1 and 3. The project team is planning a meeting in November to discuss implications for the project and whether a change request or budget change will be necessary.

**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 – some discussion
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Formal change request submitted:	No
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Received confirmation of change acceptance	No
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**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: £

At this stage we do not anticipate such a significant underspend, but need to closely examine the implications of the delays due to the political situation and whether it will be possible to achieve our objectives, or whether a change request and budget amendment will need to be sought. This discussion will happen later in November.

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

The current State of Emergency in Ethiopia has already had some impact on the project's planned operations in the current half-year. A site visit and team meeting planned for November has been postponed indefinitely; training for CBO members had to be suspended in October; and some disruption to the kallos has occurred. In addition, access to the internet and mobile phone network has been severely restricted. In November, a project team meeting will take place remotely to assess the implications of the political situation for the project, and following this a change request (and possibly a budget amendment) will be submitted.

We will keep Darwin updated of any developments, and after the November meeting we will be

in touch with more information on revisions we think may need to request to the workplan and budget.

**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 project schedule/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](mailto: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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**