



Darwin Initiative Main Project Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Writing a Darwin Report" guidance: (<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2018

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	22-015
Project title	Sustainable management of an Ethiopian rangeland for biodiversity and pastoralists
Host country/ies	Ethiopia
Contract holder institution	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Partner institution(s)	Ethiopian Wildlife Natural History Society (EWNHS); SOS Sahel; BirdLife International; Coventry University (CU); Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU)
Darwin grant value	£285,490
Start/end dates of project	01 April 2015 / 30 September 2018
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2017 – Mar 2018) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	01 April 2017 - 31 March 2018: Annual Report number 3
Project Leader name	Clare Stringer
Project website/blog/Twitter	http://www.rspb.org.uk/community/ourwork/b/biodiversity/archive/2015/06/15/closing-the-hunger-gap-establishing-grassland-reserves-in-ethiopia.aspx http://www.cebmmu.co.uk/research/darwin-initiative-sustaining-pastoralist-livelihoods-in-ethiopia-and-saving-the-liben-lark-from-extinction http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/speciesfactsheet.php?id=1017228
Report author(s) and date	Clare Stringer; Sarah Havery; Yilma Abebe; James Bennett; Teshome Dega; Mercy Kariuki; Huw Lloyd; Kariuki Ndong'ang'a; and Abduba Yacob (April 2018)

1. Project rationale

Pastoralism is potentially the most effective system for managing dry grasslands, delivering sustainable resource management with poverty alleviation. The Liben Plain supports c.10,000 pastoralists with usufruct property rights. Designated an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area and part of the South Ethiopian Highlands Endemic Bird Area, the Plain holds one of only two populations of Liben Lark *Heteromirafra archeri*, and important agro-biodiversity (a strategic priority in Ethiopia's NBSAP), including c.50 grass species and the unique Boran cattle. Poverty and drought have led to overgrazing, soil erosion, scrub encroachment, conversion of grassland to crops and severe degradation, with just 7,500 ha of degraded grassland remaining (30% of its extent 20 years ago).

Consequently, the Liben Lark is listed as Critically Endangered. Our research suggests that habitat degradation is the biggest threat to its survival. This degradation is also causing pastoralists to suffer from declining livestock productivity, reduced income and increasing food insecurity (particularly during a three-month dry season hunger gap). This results in poor child nutrition and increased vulnerability to the impacts of drought. Driven by the declining fortunes of pastoralism, some pastoralists are turning to cultivation, which, due to unpredictable rainfall and poor soils, is unsustainable and accelerates grassland and biodiversity loss.

2. Project partnerships

BirdLife International is a global Partnership of autonomous NGOs who share a mission to conserve birds, their habitats and biodiversity, working with people towards the sustainable use of natural resources. The **BirdLife Africa Partnership Secretariat (BLAPS)**, based in Kenya, supports and coordinates partners' work in Africa. The **Ethiopian Wildlife and Natural History Society (EWNHS)** is the BirdLife International Partner in Ethiopia and has long experience of conservation work in the country, being established in 1966. The **Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)** and EWNHS have worked closely together since 2007, researching the Critically Endangered Liben Lark and other threatened species in southern Ethiopia. RSPB are recognised as a 'Supporting Partner', within the BirdLife Partnership, which means they provide targeted support to other BirdLife Partners, who request support. This project is the first large-scale partnership project between EWNHS and RSPB.

SOS Sahel had been leading several successful development-focussed livelihood projects in the region and were invited to join the project partnership in 2014, to meet the need for development expertise in implementing this project. Their expertise has been extremely valuable and their involvement in the partnership has been welcomed, they have been able to share their skills and knowledge with project partners. Unfortunately, over YR3 the funding for the Negele Borana Field Office has stopped, meaning that the ongoing work for SOS Sahel on Liben Plain is now solely funded by this Darwin project and additional co-funding from RSPB. This has created an additional challenge in terms of the sustainability and legacy of this project, see Section 12.

Coventry University (CU) became involved in the EWNHS-RSPB research project in 2010 and provide crucial technical advice on collective rangeland management and grassland assessments. **Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU)** has been working on the EWNHS-RSPB project since 2012, through supporting a PhD student to research the status of the Liben Lark and degradation of the plain. The student was co-supervised at CU and has now completed her PhD (see details in AR2). MMU provide technical advice on species research and monitoring.

All partners bring specialist technical skills and experience, in a variety of different disciplines that complement each other and together provide a strong partnership for project delivery. All partners have been involved in project planning, monitoring and evaluation and decision-making, this has occurred formally through two Project Steering Committee meetings held this year, as evidenced in the meeting notes, **Annexes 4.2 & 4.8**. Because of the impact of the 2016/17 drought on the project site, a project meeting was held in Addis in June 2017 by RSPB and BLAPS with the in-country partners, evidenced in **Annex 4.1**. The purpose of this meeting was to (1) review progress with the Liben lark Darwin project; (2) to assess gaps and areas where objectives may not be met; and (3) to revise log frame and develop a change request for

submission to Darwin. Subsequently a change request was submitted and accepted by Darwin in August 2017.

Communications have been challenging again in YR3 due to the cancellation of the rescheduled and planned field visit in November 2017 due to continued security concerns, evidence provided in **Annex 4.7**. However, regular updates have been received from the field teams (see partner reports in **Annex 4**) and meetings have been held via conference calls.

In the partnership over YR3 there have been significant project staff changes, notably from RSPB. From RSPB there has been a complete change in the staff managing the project. To mitigate this risk there was substantial handover time between project leaders and both previous project leaders are still working for BirdLife International and are therefore contactable for advice when needed.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Activities which were completed in YR1 and YR2, or have not yet started (as per the project timetable), have not been reported on below. See **Annex 1** for more details.

Output 1: Participatory Rangeland Management process facilitates development of an institutional framework for managing community grassland reserves ('kallos')

Activity 1.3 Facilitate a series of stakeholder-led workshops, engaging communities, Government and civil society to identify locations for kallos and develop management, by-laws and benefit-sharing agreements for them through the Participatory Rangeland Management process

Several meetings have been held in YR3 with local communities and government officials, evidence of the presentations is in **Annexes 4.9 & 4.10**. The project was presented at the Zonal GO and NGOs Partnership forum, evidence in **Annex 4.14**.

Output 2: Grassland restoration increases dry season food security for pastoralists equitably and restores grassland quality and Liben Lark habitat

Activity 2.1: Committees identify and establish local teams to build the kallos

In YR3 143 people (107 males, 36 females) were involved in the urgent repairs of the kallos damaged due to the drought. It was indicated by District officials and community members that due to the presence of these kallos the death of livestock during the drought was substantially reduced.

Activity 2.2: Remove acacia scrub from 1,000 ha of grassland, outside kallos, adjacent to existing Liben Lark populations, to encourage range expansion and grassland restoration (increasing the size of the open plain by 14%)

In YR3 the overall total of scrub cleared has been 350 ha by SOS Sahel and 600 ha by EWNHS, totalling 950 ha towards the 1,000 ha target. The remaining 50 ha will be cleared before the end of the project.

(This target was increased as part of the August 2017 change request, for reasons explained in Section 10 below.)

Activity 2.3. Use cut acacia scrub, underplanted with euphorbia, to create at least four kallos of around 100 ha each in key sites for Liben Larks

In YR3, a total of 131 ha of kallos have been repaired and maintained by SOS Sahel, 90 ha have been repaired and maintained by EWNHS, and 100 ha have been committed to be maintained as kallos, as evidenced in **Annexes 4.4 and 4.14**. This means currently we have secured 320 ha of the 400 ha target. Over the next months of the project extension EWNHS is responsible for creating another 50 ha of kallos and SOS Sahel is responsible for creating another 65 ha of kallos. This will result in a total of 435 ha of kallos being created by the end of the project.

(This target was decreased as part of the change request – again please see Section 10 for more details.)

Output 3: Pastoralist communities have the capacity to develop livelihoods without reducing grassland area

Activity 3.2: Support local communities to develop/establish three Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) to manage and oversee livelihood and infrastructure development initiatives:

Over YR3 the completed office and store built by the project was officially handed over to the CBO. Furniture including table, chairs and cabinets have been ordered and will be installed in the next reporting period, evidence in **Annex 4.15**.

Activity 3.4. Provide training in numeracy and literacy skills and business and financial management to CBO committees (70 people, 35 women) to enable them to facilitate community engagement in livelihood development and diversification initiatives

Cattle fattening training was completed to 30 people (26 male, 4 female) by SOS Sahel in October 2017 to improve knowledge of CBO members of cattle fattening and to improve cattle fattening management skills, evidence provided in **Annex 4.6**.

Output 4: Project partners maintain and build on the outcome of the project and promote Participatory Rangeland Management to conserve biodiversity across Ethiopia's rangelands in the long-term

Activity 4.4. Facilitate transfer of skills and expertise between EWNHS and SOS Sahel project staff e.g. the value of biodiversity conservation in development and participatory processes for rangeland management

Meetings were held in Ethiopia in June with stakeholders that are involved with the management of the identified priority areas for participatory rangeland management, evidence provided in **Annex 4.1**. A lessons learnt and guidance document for integrating biodiversity into Participatory Rangeland Management in priority areas in Ethiopia has been drafted by BirdLife and will now be consulted with in-country partners, evidence provided in **Annex 4.12**.

Activity 4.5. In Yr3, hold stakeholder visits to demonstration kallos and national level multi-stakeholder workshop at Liben Plain, including to raise awareness and promote integration of biodiversity conservation into sustainable grassland management systems for application at other priority grassland sites in Ethiopia

Planning is underway to complete the workshop before the end of the project, including the production of the lessons learnt and guidance document mentioned above.

Output 5: Project management, monitoring and evaluation structures and processes ensure that the project objectives are achieved on schedule and within budget

Activity 5.4. Collect baseline survey of vegetation height and diversity of vegetation and Liben Lark distribution and productivity inside and outside kallos

Baseline reports were completed in Year 1, except for the kallo vegetation height and diversity surveys. Partners decided to delay these surveys due to the delay in establishing kallos in Year 1, and it has not been possible for the UK partners (who have the required expertise and specified roles in the Project Document to lead on these aspects) to visit Liben during the state of emergency which has been in place since October 2016. Due to continued security concerns, a trip planned for November 2017 was cancelled, evidence in **Annex 4.7**. The trip is currently planned for June 2018 following advice from the FCO website and local partners.

Activity 5.5. Facilitate 6-monthly Steering Committee (SC) and quarterly Project Implementation Committee (PIC - including local stakeholders) meetings to evaluate project process towards impact

Over YR3 two project steering committee meetings have taken place, minutes provided in **Annex 4.2 and 4.8** including local partners. Stakeholder meetings were held in Addis in June

2017 to evaluate and determine a way forward for the project post-drought and with the lifting of the state of emergency in YR2, evidence provided in **Annex 4.1**.

Activity 5.6. Monitor project progress on a monthly basis through liaison with all partner staff
There have been several partner meetings during the last 12 months (June, September, November), including very constructive discussions in Addis in June 2017 which led to the submission of a change request to Darwin. The project leader is in regular contact with all project partners in regards to reporting, project delivery and planning for the last 6 months of the project.

Activity 5.8 Undertake repeats of baseline surveys and produce comparative analysis reports
Our planned survey trip in YR3 (November 2017) had to be cancelled due to continued security concerns, evidence in **Annex 4.7**. The trip is currently planned for June 2018 following advice from the FCO website and local partners it is currently looking possible to complete this trip before the end of the project. The socio-economic survey questionnaires were redesigned to capture the impact the kallos may have had during the drought, evidence in **Annex 4.11**. The data was collected by EWNHS in January/February 2018 and the data is currently being analysed by RSPB and will be reported on by the end of the project.

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Indicators that were completed in YR1 and YR2, or have not yet commenced as per the project timeline of activities, are not reported on below. See **Annex 1** for details.

Output 1: Participatory Rangeland Management process facilitates development of an institutional framework for managing community grassland reserves ('kallos')

Output 2: Grassland restoration increases dry season food security for pastoralists equitably and restores grassland quality and Liben Lark habitat

Against the new targets following the August 2017 change request, the project is making good progress:

- 143 people (107 males, 36 females) were involved in the urgent repairs of the kallos damaged due to the drought.
- It was indicated by District officials and community members that due to the presence of these kallos the death of livestock during the drought was substantially reduced.
- 131 ha of kallos have been repaired and maintained since the drought, engaging 94 people and benefitting 24 households.
- A total of 320 ha of kallos have been repaired and maintained on Liben Plain.
- 950 ha of scrub has been cleared improving the amount of grassland available for pastoralists and for larks.

The grass species richness and diversity data were due to be collected in November 2016 and March 2018 and the repeat Liben lark surveys were due in November 2017. Due to the state of emergency in Ethiopia, the UK partners were unable to visit Liben in November 2016, and were unable to visit in November 2017 due to continued security concerns, a summary of events leading to this decision are in **Annex 4.7**. Although the country has recently entered another state of emergency, the security situation has improved enough to plan for this assessment to take place in June 2018.

The baseline socio-economic report was submitted with the first annual report (2016). We worked on the questionnaire for the repeat surveys to capture some of the impacts that the kallos may have had during the 2015/16 drought, evidence in **Annex 4.11**. The data was collected by EWNHS in February 2018 and is currently being analysed and will be reported on at the end of the project.

Output 3: Pastoralist communities have the capacity to develop livelihoods without reducing grassland area

We are working with the CBOs and local partners to develop small projects for funding in support of the overall Darwin Project Outcome and Impact. These will include supplementary projects to provide additional support for the cattle fattening alternative livelihood work already initiated by the CBOs at Liben; to develop ecotourism initiatives at Liben, especially birdwatching and nature tours; and to provide additional livestock (goats, cattle) to households where all livestock have been lost during the drought period. Training has been provided to CBOs on cattle fattening initiatives to improve resilience during drought.

Output 4: Project partners maintain and build on the outcome of the project and promote Participatory Rangeland Management to conserve biodiversity across Ethiopia's rangelands in the long-term

The process of reviewing the Oromia Pastoralist Development Strategy is still underway, with the inclusion of a priority map expected by the end of the project. This will be a key document in influencing the uptake of this method of pasture management in the future which will be an output of the stakeholder workshop in September 2018.

Meetings were held in Ethiopia in June 2017 with stakeholders that are involved with the management of the identified priority areas for participatory rangeland management, **Annex 4.1**.

A lessons learnt and guidance document for integrating biodiversity into Participatory Rangeland Management in priority areas in Ethiopia has been drafted by BirdLife and will now be consulted with in-country partners, current draft in **Annex 4.12**.

Output 5: Project management, monitoring and evaluation structures and processes ensure that the project objectives are achieved on schedule and within budget

Our planned survey trip in November 2017 had to be cancelled due to continued security concerns. There have been several partner meetings over YR3 (June, September, November), including very constructive discussions in Addis in June which led to the submission of change requests to Darwin in August 2017 and January 2018. Short reports have been received from partners according to plan.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: Sustainable management of the Liben Plain enhances livelihoods and food security for 10,000 pastoralists, prevents mainland Africa's first bird extinction and integrates biodiversity conservation into Ethiopian rangeland recovery

The Liben district in the Oromia Region of Ethiopia suffered a **severe drought in 2016/17**, the worst Ethiopia has seen in over 50 years, and there was an extended period of political instability and the declaration of a **state of emergency** in the country in October 2016, followed by violent clashes including in towns near the project area. The drought affected areas of Somalia and Ethiopia, resulting in pastoralists from other areas moving to Liben seeking food for their animals. Some of these new arrivals were armed and this led to some violent clashes. There was also increased immigration onto the Plain as people have fled from more densely populated areas with more violence elsewhere in Ethiopia and Somalia. This increased pressure on scarce resources at the Plain. The drought and state of emergency in YR2 has led to some significant set-backs in the project, including the near-complete destruction of the kallos that had been created in YR1. In light of these events, over YR3 the project has had a refocus to ensure that it is still able to deliver the intended Outcome. The progress made towards the Outcome indicators are discussed below:

Outcome indicators:

Indicator 1: *By end of project, around 2,000 pastoralist households (10,000 people, including c.2,000 women and 7,000 children) on and around the Liben Plain have access to milk during the dry season, reporting a closure of the current hunger gap:*

The baseline socio-economic report was submitted with the first annual report (2016). We worked on the questionnaire for the repeat surveys to capture some of the impacts that the kallos may have had during the 2015/16 drought, evidence in **Annex 4.11**. The data was

collected by EWNHS in February 2018 and is currently being analysed and will be reported on at the end of the project.

By end Yr 1, socioeconomic surveys quantify dry season milk production and food shortage:
Completed. See Annual Report 1 (AR1).

By end of project, communities have developed by-laws and benefit sharing agreements to govern the use of kallos, and at least 4km² of kallos have been created:
See Section 2.3.

By end of project, kallos completed, grass species richness and diversity, and proportion of high fodder value species within kallos are increasing in line with the harvest target of a 50% increase, and fodder biomass within kallos is increasing in line with a harvest target of 1000% increase over surrounding grassland:

Unfortunately due to the cancellations of the field visits, we do not have a baseline dataset to compare to. However the fieldtrip is scheduled for June 2018 which will instead be able to compare the biomass figures between kallos and non-kallos which will be reported on at the end of the project.

Indicator 2: *By end of project, three CBOs (70 people, >35 women) have the capacity to support communities to implement livelihood development/diversification initiatives:*
Completed. See AR1 & AR2.

By end Yr 1: three CBOs established and are developing business plans for most feasible livelihood development and diversification schemes:
Completed. See AR1 & AR2.

By end Yr 2: Business plans developed; training of CBO committees in progress:
Business plans completed. See AR1. Additional training in cattle fattening completed, as evidenced in **Annex 4.6**. Over the last 6 months of the project there will be a focus on looking into microfinancing schemes for the CBOs.

Indicator 3: *By end of project, the precipitous population decline of the Critically Endangered Liben Lark has been halted or reversed:* The rescheduled field trip will take place in June 2018 which will determine the current status of the Liben Lark. It has not been possible for any surveys to be completed for Liben lark since the baseline survey in YR1.

By end of project, surveys undertaken after kallo creation indicate strong selection of kallo grassland by birds and nesting density is higher inside kallos than outside:
As above.

Indicator 4: *By end of project, the potential for integrating biodiversity conservation with pastoralist development is understood by at least 10 key government and civil society stakeholders:*

This will be completed by the end of the project. Currently planning for a stakeholder workshop to be held in Ethiopia in September which will involve engaging all stakeholders.

By end Yr 1, kallos established on the Liben Plain provide a demonstration of how biodiversity and development can be delivered through Participatory Rangeland Management:
Completed. See AR1 and AR2.

By end Yr 2 other priority areas for using PRM to deliver biodiversity conservation in Ethiopia's rangelands are being identified.

Completed. See AR2. Priority areas are being considered within the PRM lessons learnt and guidance document produced by BirdLife, evidence in **Annex 4.12**.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

All the key assumptions are outlined in the log frame, **Annex 2**. Of these, over YR3 there are two assumptions that have not held true, details of future mitigation below.

Outcome Assumptions

Assumption 1: '*Ethiopian Government continues its current drive to restoring sustainable pastoralism*' has not been challenged during this reporting period. Meetings have continued to be held with government officials evidenced in the report from EWNHS in **Annex 4.4**.

Assumption 2: '*There are no more serious outbreaks of political instability in the project area*' has not fully held true – continued concerns regarding security, particularly on the road transport to the project site from Addis, led to the cancellation of the rescheduled November 2017 trip. Furthermore the recent resignation of Ethiopia's Prime Minister has led to the country entering another state of emergency in February 2018. This is politically-based, and although the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) still advises against travel to some areas of Ethiopia (advice at www.gov.uk accessed on 30 April 2018), this no longer includes the Liben region. Following the advice from FCO and the partners based in Ethiopia, we are currently planning for the fieldtrip to take place in June 2018.

Assumption 3: '*There are no more serious drought episodes during the project period*' has not been challenged during YR3, with good rains in both November 2017 and April 2018, evidenced in **Annexes 4.8 and 4.14**. However the recovery of the grasslands following the 2016/17 drought has been slow resulting in some delays in repairing, maintaining and recreating new kallos. We are confident that with the impacts of the current rains in April, this assumption will not impact the remaining 6 months of the project.

Output Assumptions

Assumption 1	Existing Borana mechanisms for enforcing by-laws and distributing fodder to the most needy members of society are applied to new kallos
Assumption 2	Drought does not disrupt normal grassland management processes
Assumption 3	Illegal conversion of grassland to crops by external investors does not increase
Assumption 4	Local CBOs remain viable and engaged
Assumption 5	Other grassland stakeholders external to the Liben Plain are interested in learning from the project

Assumptions 1, 3 and 4 have not been challenged during this reporting period (see reports from EWNHS and SOS Sahel in **Annex 4**).

As for assumption 2, after many months of drought, there was very little grass remaining on the plain for management (see reports from EWNHS and SOS Sahel in AR2) meaning the recovery of the grasslands over YR3 has been slow. However the rains in both November 2017 and April 2018 have been good, therefore this assumption has held true over YR3.

Assumption 5 has not been challenged, but work to engage other grassland stakeholders has been delayed due to the inability of non-Ethiopian partners to travel to (and within) the country during the continued security concerns. This work will be reinvigorated during the planning for the stakeholder workshops in September 2018.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

The establishment of the grazing reserves (kallos) at the heart of this project should impact on both poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation. Advice from our local partners is that the kallos have already “saved livestock and saved lives” during the 2016/17 drought in Ethiopia (see AR2). Our calculations are that the 300 hectares of kallos currently in place should have been able to support 2,700 cows, giving additional food to approximately 900 households (4,500-7,200 people) during the hunger gap period. Over YR3 we have redesigned the socio-economic questionnaire (**Annex 4.11**) aiming to not only compare to the baseline data collected in YR1, but to also collect quantitative and qualitative data on the impact of the kallos during the 2016/17 drought and to better capture information of food insecurity of the Liben Plain following FAO criteria <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bl404e.pdf>; <http://www.fao.org/in-action/voices-of-the-hungry/fies/en/>. These data are currently being analysed and will be reported on at the end of the project.

As we have not been able to visit the site as planned to carry out surveys of vegetation inside and outside the kallos, it is hard to gauge the project’s impacts on biodiversity. Gathering this information is now a very high priority for the project team, and surveys have been rescheduled for June 2018. Anecdotal information is that the kallos held grass on the Liben plain longer than anywhere else, and Critically Endangered Liben larks have been seen using the kallos and their adjoining areas (see partner reports in AR2). Now that the spring *ganna* rains have fallen we hope to see a recovery of the biodiversity that was inevitably lost during this period.

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

This project was designed to contribute towards achievement of several SDGs. The grazing reserves (kallos) have already assisted at Liben by providing around 900 local pastoralist households with the ability to support more cows through the three-month hunger gap, giving year-round access to food (SDG2, target 2.1). However, the impacts of the severe drought and political instability at Liben (discussed in Section 3.3) have meant that many people have still suffered from food shortages, and many livestock have died (see reports from SOS Sahel and EWNHS in AR2), and the recovery of the Plain has been slow over YR3, though fortunately there have been good rains in the region in November 2017 and April 2018. We have designed the repeat socio-economic questionnaire to obtain quantitative and qualitative information on whether the kallos made a significant difference during this crisis, and on their feelings and support for this form of pastoral management, evidence provided in **Annex 4.11**. The data have been collected and is currently being analysed.

The work of the CBOs, whose members include unemployed people and female heads of household, are contributing towards SDGs 5 (target 5.1) and 8 (target 8.6) (see reports from EWNHS and SOS Sahel in AR2).

In addition, the kallos will enable sustainable use of the grassland ecosystem and halting biodiversity loss (SDG 15). However, this is difficult to measure due to the delays in collecting field data. Data will be collected during the next field visit planned for June 2018.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

The project was designed to support Ethiopia in meeting its NBSAP targets. It aims to develop sustainable management systems for a degraded rangeland, building upon indigenous knowledge and traditional systems (contributing to CBD articles 8, 10 and 11 and the programme of work on agricultural biodiversity; informing the UNESCO-SCBD programme on linking biological and cultural diversity, and contributing towards Aichi Targets 1, 7, 12-14 and 18).

During this project period, the combined impacts of the drought and political situation in YR2 (see section 3.3) have meant that the grazing reserves (kallos) had been under intense additional pressure from pastoralists who have travelled to the Liben plain in search of forage for their animals, which has meant Liben Plain has taken time to recover over YR3. The planned November 2017 field visit had to be cancelled due to security concerns and was

rescheduled for the next rains. Therefore the results of the biodiversity monitoring will not be apparent until after the field visit in June 2018.

We are still confident that the project will assist the Ethiopia in meeting three strategic objectives of its NBSAP by its' completion, namely:

- Objective 2: By 2020, all remaining natural ecosystems outside protected areas are under sustainable management
- Objective 3: The costs and benefits of biodiversity conservation are equitably shared through a range of public, private, community/CBO and NGO partnerships
- Objective 4: The rich agro-biodiversity of Ethiopia is effectively conserved
- During this project period, the project has not had any interaction with the Ethiopian CBD focal point; this contact is planned before the end of the project.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

To-date, the project has supported the creation, repair and maintenance of 320 ha of kallos on the Liben Plain. Each 100 ha (1 km²) of kallo grassland supports 900 milking cows through the dry season. An average household (5-8 persons) currently has three milking cows. Thus 100 ha of kallo will benefit approximately 300 households x 5-8 = 1,500-2,400 people. The 320 ha of kallos we have created can therefore support approximately 900 households, or 4,500-7,200 people through the hunger gap.

Until around November 2016, the kallos appeared to be doing their job extremely well. However, the autumn *hagaya* rains failed at Liben, and this led to the kallos being put under increased pressure from pastoralists who were not part of the beneficiary communities (see reports from SOS Sahel and EWNHS in AR2). A large number of livestock are known to have died at Liben and in the surrounding area, see AR2. Our local partners (EWNHS and SOS Sahel) reported that the kallos had "saved lives and livestock" (see AR2). However, humanitarian assistance has not been evident in the area, and some human lives were certainly lost during the drought and conflict period. We will measure the direct impact of the kallos on pastoralist households by comparing the results of a baseline (c. 400 households surveyed) and end-of-project stratified sample surveys of milk production and food security. These data have been collected by EWNHS and will be analysed and reported on by the end of the project.

Kallo creation has been slowed over YR3 due to the slow recovery of Liben Plain from the drought in 2016/17, and there has been an increased need to repair and maintain the current kallo area. The labour and transport costs of creating kallos have been paid directly to local pastoralists of the Liben Plain providing a source of income and engendering ownership (see SOS Sahel and EWNHS reports in Annex 4). After the community showed high interest in repairing kallos, SOS Sahel intervened through the Darwin project. The total number of participants (community members) involved in urgent repair of damaged areas of kallos was 143. Of this total, 107 were male and 36 were female; and 35 were from Miesa PA and 108 from Siminto PA. Evidence is provided in SOS Sahel's report **Annex 4.14**. In addition to this work clearing kallos, the project team also made the decision (approved by Darwin) to increase the amount of scrub to be cleared through the project. This increased the amount of land area available for grazing, and should reduce pressure on the kallos in future.

Communities have also been working on developing and diversifying their livelihoods. SOS Sahel have been working with CBOs on cattle fattening projects which provided additional income, evidence in SOS Sahel report **Annex 4.3**.

We will measure the increase in CBO capacity by comparing end of project and baseline CBO capacity needs self-assessments, and the production of governance documents and business plans.

7. Project support to gender equality issues

Women in the Liben area still have a lower level of education than men - many women over 20 have not completed school, and there are high rates of illiteracy and innumeracy in women over

30. In Borana culture, women's roles are focused on domestic duties, raising children, collecting water, firewood and cooking. Young girls often assist with these activities to support their mothers and prepare them for adulthood. Consequently women do not often engage in livelihood or decision-making processes outside their households.

The project is contributing to gender equity through provision of training for both men and women. For example, the project has provided training on business and entrepreneur skills and loan management for all members of the cooperatives. 101 heads of households have now participated in these training opportunities: 68 of these were male, and 33 female. Training in basic literacy has also been provided: 43 women participated, with a total of 52 adult students across 3 sites (see AR2). In YR3, 4 women attended additional training in cattle fattening techniques, and evidenced in SOS Sahel's report **Annex 4.6**.

Women are members of the general Kallo Management Committee and are in the leadership teams of the 3 CBOs. 36 females were involved in the urgent repairs of the kallos damaged due to the drought in YR3. Although the proportion of female members of these groups is still low, it is a significant achievement in this community. These groups were identified by the communities and self-elected, which is essential for ensuring local ownership of the project and sustainability of activities.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

An M and E plan was developed and adopted, based on project Outputs, Outcome and indicators, and was submitted with the first annual report in 2016. This has not changed during this reporting period. Monitoring top level project progress is focussed on 3 key project measures:

1. The proportion of pastoralist households that experience a dry season hunger gap at the start compared to the end of the project.

Baseline socio-economic data has been collected and a report produced outlining that 100% of households currently experience the dry season hunger gap. This survey has been repeated using an adapted at the end of the project to measure the impact of kallos and CBO initiatives on reducing the dry season hunger gap.

2. The capacity of 3CBOs to develop and diversify sustainable livelihoods.

Baseline data on CBO capacity has been recorded using self-assessments. This exercise will be repeated at project end to measure the impact of training/livelihood initiatives on CBO capacity.

3. The change in the conservation status of the Liben Lark population on the Liben Plain.

Baseline data on the distribution, population and productivity of the Liben Lark has been collected. The planned re-survey has now been delayed until June 2018; when completed, this, will allow us to assess the impact of kallos and more sustainable livelihoods on the Liben Lark, as an indicator of grassland biodiversity.

Progress against activities and indicators has been tracked and measured through 6 monthly technical written reports, quarterly Steering Committee meetings and frequent email communications.

9. Lessons learnt

The stakeholder meeting held in Addis in June 2017 reviewed the project progress and refocussed the project in light of the challenges faced in YR2 with the drought and state of emergency. The key lessons learnt are highlighted in the draft document produced by BirdLife, **Annex 4.12**, which will be used to inform stakeholders and government plans in the workshops due to be held before the end of the project.

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

The YR2 Annual Report Review listed three comments. These were responded to in the Half Year Report for YR3, as follows.

Comment 1: *Review the workplan and identify what further action can be undertaken to bring the project back on track, particularly focusing on expanding the Kallo area and conducting the surveys and associated monitoring as originally planned.*

At a project review meeting involving EWNHS, SOS Sahel, the RSPB, and BirdLife International staff in Addis Ababa in June it was apparent that some of the indicators needed to be adjusted in order for us to deliver the original impacts of the project. It was also recognised that there was a need to minimise the level of additional benefits we expect the project to deliver. As a result, a change request was submitted in August which was approved in September.

The project partners agreed that the best option to sustain the current inputs beyond the project grant period was to reduce the target to 400 hectares, whilst increasing the target for scrub clearance to 1,000 hectares to increase the unfenced grazing area available to pastoralists. An increase in scrub area will reduce pressure on the kallos and will also provide additional habitat for larks. There is a continued need to support repair and maintenance of the existing kallos, as well as the development of new kallos. Scrub clearance is significantly less labour-intensive than kallo creation and maintenance, and therefore was the only realistic and cost-effective way of re-balancing of the project targets.

Comment 2: *Provide a project update following the next management committee meeting; report on the planned activities for 2017-18 and reassess the likely outcome and impact of the project given the current conditions in Ethiopia.*

The planned activities for 2017-18 were revised in the change request (discussed above) and amendments to the project logframe. The partners remain optimistic that the project will deliver its planned outcome and will have high impact, but this does depend on the security situation in Ethiopia reaching a point where the pastoralists workshop can be held, and where local partners are able to share experiences with other sites. The partners are now working to make back-up plans – e.g. to deliver training in a third country such as Kenya if Ethiopia is still too unsafe. Government and local community agencies remain supportive of the project locally, and the impact of the kallos in saving lives and livestock during the prolonged drought has been recorded. Our local partners have let us know that the spring rains have now arrived at a good level, and we are providing monitoring protocols remotely so that we can collect some data this season.

Despite the very difficult conditions, the partners in this project remain convinced that sustainable rangeland management should be a part of helping our partners to manage grasslands in Ethiopia and provide communities with greater resilience in the face of potentially increased climate-related stress.

Comment 3: *Provide further information on the planned activities for the Indicator 3c: “by the end of the project two of the three CBOs are in discussion with donors or applying to microfinance schemes to ensure funding for livelihood initiatives”.*

During meetings in Addis, the project team developed a short list of “sub-projects” that cannot be covered from within the Darwin grant, but that would assist the community at Liben to develop their sustainable rangeland management practices. The RSPB has now carried out a desk review of potential microfinance schemes (local and international) that could be available to local partners to fund some of these small projects, evidence in **Annex 4.16**. Over the next few months, we will work closely with the local partners to develop funding bids and ensure these are submitted to benefit the CBOs.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The challenges and risks encountered by the project over the past year have all been discussed in other sections.

12. Sustainability and legacy

Kallos have a high commercial value and low management costs. The Borana communities have a strong culture of sustainable community grassland management. For these reasons, kallos are likely to be retained and deliver sustainable benefits to local people long after project ends. SOS Sahel report 100% retention rates on kallos elsewhere after seven years. It is now extremely important that we can repair and maintain the existing kallos at Liben as the grassland recovers in order to make this form of management sustainable and ensure the project's legacy. It is also extremely important that we work in the next 6 months to develop the project's links outside Liben and ensure wider application of participatory rangeland management, which has been challenging over YR3 due to limited options for project staff to visit Addis because of continued security concerns and political instability resulting in protests etc. However the outcomes of the stakeholder workshop which will be held in September 2018 will be a priority and a means for addressing this.

SOS Sahel - Unfortunately, over YR3 the funding for the Negele Borana Field Office has stopped, meaning that the ongoing work for SOS Sahel on Liben Plain is now solely funded by this Darwin project and additional co-funding from RSPB. This has created an additional challenge in terms of the sustainability and legacy of this project. However SOS Sahel have confirmed they are committed to the project activities on Liben Plain and are therefore willing to continue fundraising for this important work.

The project partnership feels that there is significant potential for the benefits of participatory rangeland management to be further realised in the post-project period, and that it is therefore important that the current efforts are maintained and expanded on. Therefore, the partnership will be having a workshop in September 2018 to identify the best way to ensure that this happens.

13. Darwin identity

Over YR3 the priority has been refocussing the project and getting it working in a way that it is still able to deliver the project Outcome. The delay in the field visit has meant there is limited data to report on but will be published when the results are available. This has meant there has been limited opportunity to communicate more widely outside of Ethiopia about the project. In Ethiopia, both EWNHS and SOS Sahel have presented the project at events such as the Zonal GO and NGOs Partnership forum, evidence in presentations in **Annexes 4.9 and 4.10**. There will be increased efforts to communicate about the project during the final project period and afterwards, when we hope to be able to comment on the wider potential application of the project's results.

14. Project expenditure

We have not yet received all financial information from project partners, so a complete detail of expenditure will follow in the expense claim for the fourth quarter of the project.

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2017/18 Grant (£)	2017/18 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				TBC
Consultancy costs				TBC
Overhead Costs				TBC
Travel and subsistence				TBC
Operating Costs				TBC

Capital items (see below)				TBC
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				TBC
Others (see below)				TBC
TOTAL				TBC

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2017-2018

Progress made in Years 1 & 2 are in italics

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2017 - March 2018	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>The sustainable management of rangelands throughout Ethiopia increases the resilience of 12 million pastoralists and conserves grassland biodiversity</p>		<p>This project delivers positive impact on both poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation. By project end, 2000 pastoralist households (10,000 people, including c.2,000 women and 7,000 children) around the Liben Plain have access to milk during the dry season, reporting a closure of the current hunger gap. In tandem, the precipitous population decline of the Critically Endangered Liben Lark has been halted or reversed.</p>	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Sustainable management of the Liben Plain enhances livelihoods and food security for 10,000 pastoralists, prevents mainland Africa's first bird extinction and integrates biodiversity conservation into Ethiopian rangeland recovery</p>	<p>Indicator 1: By end of project, around 2,000 pastoralist households (10,000 people, including c.2,000 women and 7,000 children) on and around the Liben Plain have access to milk during the dry season, reporting a closure of the current hunger gap</p> <p>By end Yr 1, socioeconomic surveys quantify dry season milk production and food shortage</p> <p>By end Yr 1, communities have agreed locations of 10km² of kallos, have developed by-laws and benefit sharing agreements to govern their use and at least 5km² of kallos have been created</p> <p>By end Yr 2, kallos completed, grass species richness and diversity, and proportion of high fodder value species within kallos are increasing in line with the harvest target of a 50% increase, and fodder biomass within kallos is increasing in line with a harvest target</p>	<p><i>YR 1: Baseline socio-economic surveys and baseline statistics completed. Kallo management by-laws agreed and signed. 276 ha of kallos delivered. 150 ha in development.</i></p> <p><i>3 CBOs established with membership of 100 people (66 men, 34 women) Business planning complete 6 months ahead of schedule in March 2016. Established kallos acting as demonstration, with Government visit in January 2016.</i></p> <p><i>YR 2: Area of kallos increased to 300 ha, with a further 100 ha in development</i></p> <p><i>Training programme maintained for CBO members: training in literacy and business development delivered Business plan implementation.</i></p>	<p>Field visit to Liben to survey larks and vegetation planned for June 2018</p> <p>Completion of the additional 125 ha of kallos, bringing the total to 425 ha created by the project</p> <p>Workshops planned for participatory rangeland management stakeholders outside of Liben for August/September 2018</p> <p>Fundraising training workshop to plan for a post-project Darwin application in September 2018</p>

	<p>of 1000% increase over surrounding grassland.)</p> <p>Indicator 2: By end of project, three CBOs (70 people, >35 women) have the capacity to support communities to implement livelihood development/diversification initiatives.</p> <p>By end Yr 1: three CBOs established and are developing business plans for most feasible livelihood development and diversification schemes.</p> <p>By end Yr 2: Business plans developed; training of CBO committees in progress.</p> <p>Indicator 3: By end of project, the precipitous population decline of the Critically Endangered Liben Lark has been halted or reversed</p> <p>Indicator 4: By end of project, the potential for integrating biodiversity conservation with pastoralist development is understood by at least 10 key government and civil society stakeholders.</p> <p>By end Yr 1, kallos established on the Liben Plain provide a demonstration of how biodiversity and development can be delivered through Participatory Rangeland Management</p>	<p><i>Mid-project biodiversity surveys delayed due to State of Emergency, now rescheduled for November 2017</i></p> <p><i>Site and stakeholder identification for promotion of Participatory rangeland management approaches and integration with biodiversity conservation completed</i></p> <p><i>Government visit and kallo celebration day held in July 2016</i></p> <p>YR 3: Kallos maintained at 320 ha. Training with CBOs on cattle fattening completed. Repeat of socio-economic surveys completed at data currently being analysed to be reported on at the end of the project. Biodiversity surveys delayed from November 2017 until June 2018 due to ongoing security concerns, Annex 4.7.</p>	
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<p>Output 1. Participatory Rangeland Management process facilitates development of an institutional framework for managing community grassland reserves ('kallos')</p>	<p>1a. By end of Month 4, Kallo Management Committees are established with equitable representation from all stakeholder groups (including women)</p> <p>1b. By end of Month 4, stakeholders, including communities, Government and civil society have agreed locations for kallos, and developed management, and equitable benefit-sharing</p>	<p><i>YR 1: General Kallo Management Committee comprising 17 people, alongside a Kallo Management Steering Committee, comprising 7 representatives have been established. This includes, Government staff, village elders, village leasers, pasture elders and 3 women.</i></p> <p><i>Stakeholders decided on locations, benefit-sharing approach and management of kallos by July 2015.</i></p>	<p>Continue work with Kallo Management Committees</p> <p>Monitor harvesting and distribution of forage from kallos</p>
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	<p>agreements for them, upheld through by-laws</p> <p>1c. By end of project, Kallo Management Committees are distributing dry season forage under agreed management and equitable benefit sharing approaches</p>	<p><i>Kallo management by-law finalised and signed by September 2015</i></p> <p><i>Due to drought in year 1, 90 ha of kallos were harvested to provide emergency dry season forage under the management agreement by-law (Output Assumption 2). (see section 3.1 for potential consequences of this activity)</i></p> <p><i>YR 2: The project continued to work with the Kallo Management Committees (see reports from SOS Sahel, EWHNS in AR2 Annex 4).</i></p> <p><i>The severe drought in Ethiopia meant that kallos were under extreme pressure and subject to regular incursions. In the early stages of the drought, forage was harvested and distributed according to the agreed approaches and this was considered to be very beneficial (see reports from SOS Sahel, EWNHS AR2 Annex 4).</i></p> <p><i>YR 3: The project continued to work with the Kallo Management Committees to identify the new sites for kallos, as evidenced in the reports from SOS Sahel and EWNHS in Annex 4</i></p>	
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Activity 1.1 Undertake a Participatory Rangeland Resource Assessment	<i>Completed</i>
Activity 1.2 Support customary institutions and Government bodies to establish joint Kallo Management Committees to oversee community kallos through the Participatory Rangeland Management process	<i>Completed</i>
Activity 1.3 Facilitate a series of stakeholder-led workshops, engaging communities, Government and civil society to identify locations for kallos and develop management, by-laws and benefit-sharing agreements for them through the Participatory Rangeland Management process	<i>Completed. Awareness raising activities and stakeholder engagement will continue to be an essential piece of work in year 2 and 3.</i>

	<p><i>Information on stakeholder workshops and engagement events held in second year is contained in the reports from SOS Sahel and EWNHS (AR2 Annex 4)</i></p> <p>YR3: Meetings and workshops have continued to be held by SOS Sahel and EWNHS, see Annexes 4.9 and 4.10 for presentations. The End of project stakeholder workshop planned for September 2018</p>
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<p>Output 2. Grassland restoration increases dry season food security for pastoralists equitably and restores grassland quality and Liben Lark habitat</p>	<p>2a. By end of project, scrub cleared from 1,000 ha adjacent to areas occupied by Liben Larks, increasing the size of the open Liben Plain by 14%</p> <p>2b. By end of project, fences made using cut scrub (underplanted with non-invasive euphorbia to create permanent living fences) demarcate community kallos covering around 400 ha, located to capture >20% of the core area occupied by Liben Larks</p> <p>2c. By end of project, grass species richness and diversity, and proportion of high fodder value species, are 50% higher and forage biomass is 1000% higher within kallos than outside</p> <p>2d. By end of project, 50% of the population of Liben Larks have responded to improved grassland quality by breeding in kallos and areas cleared of scrub, and having nest survival rates greater than 30% (the average for larks in degraded habitats)</p> <p>2e. By end of project, all 2,000 pastoralist households (including at least 5,000 women and girls and over 300 households headed by women) have cows that produce milk for calf rearing and human consumption during the dry season (Yr1 baseline likely to be 0-5% based on stakeholder discussions in Nov 2014)</p>	<p><i>YR 1: 690 ha of scrub has been cleared. 276 ha of kallo created. 150 ha of kallo now in negotiation. Change request agreed, to extend kallo delivery into end of year 2.</i></p> <p><i>Yr 1 baseline collected in July-August 2015. 0% of pastoralist households have milk for human consumption during the dry season. Scheduled to be measured again in January 2018.</i></p> <p><i>YR 2: 300 ha of kallo created. 100 ha of new kallo in negotiation. High impact of drought has meant additional resources needed to repair and maintain existing kallo area with continued incursions from outside the beneficiary communities.</i></p> <p>YR 3: The re-establishment of the kallos took longer than planned due to the long recovery time of the Liben plain following the impacts of the drought. Now have 320 ha of kallos repaired and established, with another 125 ha of kallos to be completed before September 2018.</p> <p>Planned field visit in November 2016 was cancelled due to State of Emergency and political unrest. Due to continued security issues, the rescheduled November 2017 trip was also cancelled. The trip is now planned for June 2018, with a back-up plan of training in Kenya if the security situation becomes a problem again.</p>	<p>Carry out field visit and survey quality of vegetation as well as breeding and nest survival of larks (planned for June 2018)</p> <p>Complete analysis of repeat survey data of pastoralist households to assess food availability (data collected February 2018)</p>
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Activity 2.1. Committees identify and establish local teams to build the kallos	<i>Completed</i>
Activity 2.2. Remove acacia scrub from 500 ha of grassland, outside kallos, adjacent to existing Liben Lark populations, to encourage range expansion and grassland restoration (increasing the size of the open plain by 7%)	<i>Completed</i>
Activity 2.3. Use cut acacia scrub, underplanted with euphorbia, to create at least four kallos of around 100 ha each in key sites for Liben Larks	<p><i>YR 1: 276 ha of kallo created. 150 ha of kallo now in negotiation. Change request agreed, to extend kallo delivery into end of year 2. Priority for implementation in 2016/17.</i></p> <p><i>YR 2: 300 ha of kallo now created, and 100 further ha identified for development. Impact of drought and State of Emergency has led to significant impact on this activity. Completing kallo development and maintaining and restoring existing kallos remains a priority for Yr 3.</i></p> <p><i>YR 3: 320 ha of kallo has been re-established and maintained, and a further 125 ha is currently in negotiation which will be completed by September 2018</i></p>

Output 3. Pastoralist communities have the capacity to develop livelihoods without reducing grassland area	3a. By end Month 6, three CBO's baseline capacity needs self-assessments complete and opportunities for equitable livelihood development are identified and prioritised by communities	<i>YR 1: 3 CBO baseline capacity self-assessments complete and opportunities for livelihood development identified and prioritised by September 2015</i>	Initiate new funding applications from CBOs to donors or microfinance schemes
	3b. By end of Yr1, three community based organisations (CBOs) are established to manage livelihood development and diversification initiatives	<i>3 CBOs formally established under single umbrella group, with legal status and cooperative accreditation.</i>	
	3c. By end of Month18, three CBOs have developed business plans for sustainable development initiatives, potentially including resource centre for visitors and local people, communal vehicles, milk collection and storage point (all are ideas suggested by local people during visit in November 2014)	<i>Business planning complete 6 months ahead of schedule in March 2016. (section 3.1 for explanation)</i>	
	3d. By end of Yr 2, 70 pastoralist (35 male heads of household and 35 female heads of household) household heads are receiving training in basic numeracy and literacy skills	<i>Initial training initiatives run with CBO members.</i> <i>YR 2: Training programme has continued with CBOs. By end of Y2, 101 heads of households have received training in business and entrepreneur skills and loan management (68 men and 33 women) (ref SOS Sahel reports Annex 4). Training in literacy has also been provided to 52 adult</i>	

	<p>and business and financial management to facilitate community engagement in livelihood initiatives</p> <p>3e. By end of project, at least two of the three CBOs are in discussions with donors or applying to microfinance schemes to secure funding for livelihood initiatives</p>	<p><i>students (43 female) (EWNHS reports Annex 4).</i></p> <p><i>A small office and store for cooperative members has been built at Liben. This will be used to run ecotourism activities as well as to store important documents and records. The store will be used to keep grain to resell when prices are high (April 2017 EWNHS report Annex 4).</i></p> <p>YR 3: Cattle fattening training completed with CBOs. Building and equipment now the property of the CBOs.</p>	
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Activity 3.1. Support CBOs to undertake a self assessment of their capacity needs and prioritise needs for enabling equitable livelihood development and diversification	<i>Completed</i>
Activity 3.2. Support local communities to develop/establish three Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) to manage and oversee livelihood and infrastructure development initiatives	<i>Completed</i>
Activity 3.3. Support CBOs to develop business plans that potentially could include: a resource centre for visitors and local people, communal vehicles, milk collection/storage point and local commodities shop (ideas suggested by local people during visit in November 2014)	<i>Completed</i>
Activity 3.4. Provide training in numeracy and literacy skills and business and financial management to CBO committees (70 people, 35 women) to enable them to facilitate community engagement in livelihood development and diversification initiatives	<p><i>Yr 1: Initiated. Priority for continuation in 2016/17.</i></p> <p><i>YR 2: By end of Y2, 101 heads of households have received training in business and entrepreneur skills and loan management (68 men and 33 women) (ref SOS Sahel reports Annex 4). Training in literacy has also been provided to 52 adult students (43 female) (ref EWNHS reports Annex 4).</i></p> <p><i>Completed.</i></p>

<p>Output 4. Project partners maintain and build on the outcome of the project and promote Participatory Rangeland Management to conserve biodiversity across Ethiopia's rangelands in the long-term</p>	<p>4a. By end of Yr 1, priority areas for biodiversity in Ethiopian Borana rangelands are identified for establishing Participatory Rangeland Management, linked to the Oromia Regional Pastoralist Development Strategy4b.</p> <p>By end of Yr 2, regional stakeholders managing priority biodiversity areas (Indicator 1) that could benefit from Participatory Rangeland Management processes and from</p>	<p><i>Initial discussions led to development of a project plan but identification delayed until Year 2. No impact on project outcome, or outputs, only this indicator, which is suggested to be changed for delivery by end of Year 2, as designed in the project schedule (see explanation in 3.1).</i></p>	<p>Participatory Rangeland Management Workshop to be held in September 2018</p> <p>Proposal for a post-project Darwin drafted for Birdlife to lead in partnership with SOS Sahel and EWNHS</p>
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	<p>integration of biodiversity conservation into management practices are identified</p> <p>4c. By end of project, partners and stakeholders agree a business plan for expanding the area of community kallos on the Liben Plain</p> <p>4d. By end of project, SOS Sahel and EWNHS staff submit two proposals for funding to donors and supporting CBOs in implementing business plans and monitoring project interventions</p> <p>4e. By end of project, partners have promoted Participatory Rangeland Management and biodiversity mainstreaming to 50 stakeholders managing other grassland sites of high biodiversity importance in Ethiopia, through a workshop in Yr3</p>	<p><i>YR 2: Seven priority areas for Participatory Rangeland Management have been identified (see AR2 section 3.1 and map in BirdLife report in Annex 7).</i></p> <p><i>Regional stakeholders managing priority biodiversity areas that could benefit from Participatory Rangeland Management processes have been identified (see section 3.1, and BirdLife report in Annex 7)</i></p> <p>YR 3: Report on lessons learnt and guidance for Participatory Rangeland Management drafted, current draft in Annex 4.12. Planning for a fundraising session in September to get an application together for a post-project Darwin application to submit at the next call.</p>	<p>Agree business plan for expansion of kallos on the Liben Plain as an output of the September 2018 stakeholder workshop</p>
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<p>Activity 4.1. Identify priority areas for rangeland biodiversity and regional stakeholders that could benefit from Participatory Rangeland Management in Ethiopian Borana Rangelands, to direct implementation of Oromia regional Pastoralist Develop Strategy to inform Activity 4.5</p>	<p><i>YR1: Not initiated. Suggested delay of indicator to year 2. Project schedule included in project proposal and project planning documents, was for year 2 already.</i></p> <p><i>YR 2: Seven priority areas identified and mapped. Priority stakeholders identified (see AR2 section 3.1, and BirdLife report in Annex 7).</i></p>
<p>Activity 4.2. Assess current use of the kallos on the historic (240km²) extent of the Liben Plain and develop strategy to support the expansion of kallos across the Liben Plain</p>	<p><i>YR 2: Not yet initiated, as per project schedule.</i></p> <p>YR 3: Planned to complete within the stakeholder workshops in September 2018 and will be reporting on at the end of the project.</p>
<p>Activity 4.3. Provide training in fundraising, communications and monitoring impacts of interventions to in-country partners and CBOs to enable them to build on project outcome in the long-term</p>	<p><i>YR 2: Not yet initiated, as per project schedule.</i></p> <p>YR 3: Planning for a fundraising session in September to get an application together for a post-project Darwin application to submit at the next call.</p>
<p>Activity 4.4. Facilitate transfer of skills and expertise between EWNHS and SOS Sahel project staff eg the value of biodiversity conservation in development and participatory processes for rangeland management</p>	<p><i>YR 1: Initiated. Project staff worked jointly on activities, bringing participatory rangeland management and biodiversity knowledge and skills together, to enable knowledge sharing. In 2016/17 a training plan for knowledge transfer and skill sharing amongst the partnership has been drafted and will be implemented.</i></p>

	<p>YR 2: Staff have continued to work together throughout the project period, although there has been less opportunity for meetings during this year due to the political unrest and the severe drought at Liben.</p> <p>YR 3: Same as YR2 though due to continued security concerns.</p>
<p>Activity 4.5. In Yr3, hold stakeholder visits to demonstration kallos and national level multi-stakeholder workshop at Liben Plain, including to raise awareness and promote integration of biodiversity conservation into sustainable grassland management systems for application at other priority grassland sites in Ethiopia</p>	<p>YR 1: Not initiated as per project schedule. However, Government staff have made a site visit to the kallos.</p> <p>YR 2: Not initiated, as per project schedule. However, government officials and other stakeholders visited the kallos in July 2016</p> <p>YR 3: Stakeholder workshop planned for September 2018 once the field surveys have been completed and we have results to present</p>

<p>Output 5. Project management, monitoring and evaluation structures and processes ensure that the project objectives are achieved on schedule and within budget</p>	<p>5a. By end of month 2 project partners have signed partnership agreements and confirm their respective roles and responsibilities</p> <p>5b. By end Yr 1, Baseline surveys complete: 1. milk production level/ hunger gap assessment survey (stratified sample of the 10,000 households – part of PRRA); 2. Three CBO capacity needs self assessments; 3. Height and diversity of vegetation in kallos, from freely available aerial photographs and field visits; 4. Liben Lark distribution and productivity surveys</p> <p>5c. Project partner Steering Committee meets twice annually; Project Implementation Committee (local stakeholders) meets quarterly to project progress (enables local stakeholder involvement in M+E)</p> <p>5d. By end of Yr 2, mid-term review of vegetation recovery and Liben Lark responses to management</p> <p>5e. By end of project, repetition of all baseline surveys complete</p> <p>5f. All financial and progress reports submitted to the project manager and project donor on time</p>	<p>YR 1: Project partnership agreement signed.</p> <p>Baseline surveys 1 and 2 completed in year 1. Baseline survey 3 - kallo vegetation will be surveyed in November 2016 and March 2018 (see section 3.1). Baseline survey 4, completed.</p> <p>4 Steering Committee meetings held in Year 1.</p> <p>6-monthly reporting submitted on time.</p> <p>YR 2: Baseline survey 3 delayed due to State of Emergency and cancellation of field visit in November 2016. Rescheduled for November 2017.</p> <p>3 Steering Committee meetings held in Year 2 (one cancelled due to communications difficulties during early period of State of Emergency)</p> <p>Mid-year report submitted on time; annual report 19 days late (agreed with LTS)</p> <p>YR3: 2 steering committee meetings held.</p> <p>Further delays to field visit until June 2018. Situation has improved, but back-up plan is for training in Kenya</p>	<p>Completion of vegetation and lark surveys in June 2018</p> <p>remote meetings quarterly throughout year</p> <p>All reports submitted on time</p> <p>Repeats of baseline surveys analysed and reports completed</p>
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		Half Year report and Annual report submitted a week late (agreed with LTS)	
Activity 5.1. Formalise roles and responsibilities, including project management and implementation structure in project partnership agreements		<i>Completed</i>	
Activity 5.2. Collect baseline data on current milk production levels and hunger gap assessment (stratified sample of the 10,000 households)		<i>Completed</i>	
Activity 5.3. Analyse CBOs capacity needs self assessments (done under activity 3.1)		<i>Completed</i>	
Activity 5.4. Collect baseline survey of vegetation height and diversity of vegetation and Liben Lark distribution and productivity inside and outside kallos		<p><i>YR 1: Not completed. Suggested change to year 2 (see section 3.1). No impact on outcome or outputs as measurement comparison is between inside and outside kallos.</i></p> <p><i>YR 2: Not completed. Planned for November 2016, but visit cancelled due to State of Emergency. Now rescheduled for November 2017.</i></p> <p>YR3: Not completed. Rescheduled for June 2018. Situation appears better.</p>	
Activity 5.5. Facilitate 6-monthly Steering Committee (SC) and quarterly Project Implementation Committee (PIC - including local stakeholders) meetings to evaluate project process towards impact		<p><i>YR 1: On track. Although suggested change to amalgamate the 2 committees into one on a quarterly basis.</i></p> <p><i>YR 2: On track. Meetings held regularly, although one missed due to communications issues during early state of emergency period.</i></p> <p>YR 3: On track. Have been held 6-monthly in YR3.</p>	
Activity 5.6. Monitor project progress on a monthly basis through liaison with all partner staff		<i>Completed</i>	
Activity 5.7 Undertake a mid-term vegetation recovery and Liben Lark survey		<p><i>YR 2: Not completed. Planned field visit to carry out this work was cancelled due to declaration of the State of Emergency in October 2016. These surveys are now planned for November 2017.</i></p> <p>YR3: Not completed, November 2017 trip cancelled. Now rescheduled for June 2018.</p>	
<p>Activity 5.8 Undertake repeats of baseline surveys and produce comparative analysis reports on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Milk production level/ hunger gap assessment survey (stratified sample of the 10,000 households); 2. CBOs capacity needs self assessments 3. Changes to height and diversity of vegetation in kallos, including freely available satellite photographs; 4. Liben Lark distribution and productivity 		<p><i>YR 2: Not yet initiated as per project schedule.</i></p> <p>YR 3: Repeat socio-economic surveys completed in January 2018, data currently being analysed. Remaining surveys due to be completed in June 2018.</p>	

Annex 2: Project’s full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Sustainable management of the Liben Plain enhances livelihoods and food security for 10,000 pastoralists, prevents mainland Africa’s first bird extinction and integrates biodiversity conservation into Ethiopian rangeland recovery</p>	<p>Indicator 1: By end of project, around 2,000 pastoralist households (10,000 people, including c.2,000 women and 7,000 children) on and around the Liben Plain have access to milk during the dry season, reporting a closure of the current hunger gap</p> <p>By end Yr 1, socioeconomic surveys quantify dry season milk production and food shortage</p> <p>By end of project, communities have developed by-laws and benefit sharing agreements to govern the use of kallos, and at least 4km² of kallos have been created</p> <p>By end of project, kallos completed, grass species richness and diversity, and proportion of high fodder value species within kallos are increasing in line with the harvest target of a 50% increase, and fodder biomass within kallos is increasing in line with a harvest target of 1000% increase over surrounding grassland.</p> <p>Indicator 2: By end of project, three CBOs (70 people, >35 women) have the capacity to support communities to implement livelihood development/diversification initiatives.</p> <p>By end Yr 1: three CBOs established and are developing business plans for most feasible livelihood development and diversification schemes.</p> <p>By end Yr 2: Business plans developed; training of CBO committees in progress.</p> <p>Indicator 3: By end of project, the precipitous population decline of the Critically Endangered Liben Lark has been halted or reversed</p>	<p>Indicator 1: Reports of baseline and end-of-project participatory community milk production/hunger gap assessment surveys</p> <p>Indicator 2: We will monitor CBO capacity through comparative analysis of baseline and end of project self-assessment reports of capacity needs and by the generation and quality of business plans for livelihood initiatives and approaches made to donors. We will also monitor how CBOS are using their training to set up an ongoing M&E process to measure the impact of their activities on the wellbeing of the communities in the long term. This will be done through verbal reports of discussions the CBO committees, and the sharing of source materials such as data sheets and monitoring plans.</p> <p>Indicator 3: Biological transect surveys will quantify the use made by kallos by Liben Larks, and their distribution and population will be compared with baseline transect data going back to 2005. Population size will be estimated using distance sampling. Results will be published in the peer-reviewed literature.</p> <p>Indicator 4: The aim of the stakeholder visits and multi-stakeholder workshop held in the final year of the project will be to encourage stakeholders from other priority sites for rangeland biodiversity in Ethiopia to adopt the PRM approach at their sites. At the end of the</p>	<p>Ethiopian Government continues its current drive to restoring sustainable pastoralism</p> <p>There are no more serious outbreaks of political instability in the project area</p> <p>There are no more serious drought episodes during the project period</p>

	<p>By end of project, surveys undertaken after kallo creation indicate strong selection of kallo grassland by birds and nesting density is higher inside kallos than outside</p> <p>Indicator 4: By end of project, the potential for integrating biodiversity conservation with pastoralist development is understood by at least 10 key government and civil society stakeholders.</p> <p>By end Yr 1, kallos established on the Liben Plain provide a demonstration of how biodiversity and development can be delivered through Participatory Rangeland Management</p> <p>By end Yr 2 other priority areas for using PRM to deliver biodiversity conservation in Ethiopia's rangelands are being identified.</p>	<p>workshop/stakeholder visits we will ask participants to provide feedback of the event, which will include indicating whether they intent to promote PRM at their priority site. We will provide a summary report of these statements as part of the final project progress report.</p>	
<p>Outputs:</p> <p>1. Participatory Rangeland Management process facilitates development of an institutional framework for managing community grassland reserves ('kallos')</p>	<p>1a. By end of Month 4, Kallo Management Committees are established with equitable representation from all stakeholder groups (including women)</p> <p>1b. By end of Month 4, stakeholders, including communities, Government and civil society have agreed locations for kallos, and developed management, and equitable benefit-sharing agreements for them, upheld through by-laws</p> <p>1c. By end of project, Kallo Management Committees are distributing dry season forage under agreed management and equitable benefit sharing approaches</p>	<p>1a. Records of stakeholder meetings and Kallo Management Committees meetings, ToR for Committees and lists of representatives</p> <p>1b. Kallo management and equitable benefit-sharing agreements and by-laws</p> <p>1c. Kallo Management Committees forage distribution records</p>	<p>Existing Borana mechanisms for enforcing by-laws and distributing fodder to the most needy members of society are applied to new kallos</p> <p>Drought does not disrupt normal grassland management processes further</p>
<p>2. Grassland restoration increases dry season food security for pastoralists equitably and restores grassland quality and Liben Lark habitat</p>	<p>2a. By end of project, scrub cleared from 1,000 ha adjacent to areas occupied by Liben Larks, increasing the size of the open Liben Plain by 14%</p> <p>2b. By end of project, fences made using cut scrub (underplanted with non-invasive euphorbia to create permanent living fences) demarcate community kallos covering around 400 ha, located to capture >20% of the core area occupied by Liben Larks</p> <p>2c. By end of project, grass species richness and diversity, and proportion of high fodder value species, are 50% higher and forage biomass is 1000% higher within kallos than outside</p> <p>2d. By end of project, 50% of the population of Liben Larks have responded to improved grassland quality by breeding in kallos and areas cleared of scrub, and having nest</p>	<p>2a. Before-and-after geo-referenced photographs showing extent of scrub clearance</p> <p>2b. Satellite images showing extent and quality (based on NDVI – see section 27) of new community kallos</p> <p>2c. Published analysis of the vegetation survey reports</p> <p>2d. Published analysis of surveys of Liben Larks comparing densities and breeding behaviour inside and outside kallos</p> <p>2e. Comparative analysis report of the baseline/end of project milk production level/ hunger gap assessment surveys</p>	<p>Illegal conversion of grassland to crops by external investors does not increase</p> <p>Local CBOs remain viable and engaged</p> <p>Other grassland stakeholders external to the Liben Plain are interested in learning from the project</p>

	<p>survival rates greater than 30% (the average for larks in degraded habitats)</p> <p>2e. By end of project, all 2,000 pastoralist households (including at least 5,000 women and girls and over 300 households headed by women) have cows that produce milk for calf rearing and human consumption during the dry season (Yr1 baseline likely to be 0-5% based on stakeholder discussions in Nov 2014)</p>	<p>2f. Data collected from socioeconomic survey of pastoralists in July 2017</p>	
<p>3. Pastoralist communities have the capacity to develop livelihoods without reducing grassland area</p>	<p>3a. By end Month 6, three CBO's baseline capacity needs self-assessments complete and opportunities for equitable livelihood development are identified and prioritised by communities</p> <p>3b. By end of Yr1, three community based organisations (CBOs) are established to manage livelihood development and diversification initiatives</p> <p>3c. By end of Month18, three CBOs have developed business plans for sustainable development initiatives, potentially including resource centre for visitors and local people, communal vehicles, milk collection and storage point (all are ideas suggested by local people during visit in November 2014)</p> <p>3d. By end of Yr 2, 70 pastoralist (35 male heads of household and 35 female heads of household) household heads are receiving training in basic numeracy and literacy skills and business and financial management to facilitate community engagement in livelihood initiatives</p> <p>3e. By end of project, at least two of the three CBOs are in discussions with donors or applying to microfinance schemes to secure funding for livelihood initiatives</p>	<p>3a. Baseline capacity needs self-assessments /livelihood prioritisation report</p> <p>3b. Community-Based Organisation (CBO) constitution documents and records of CBO meetings</p> <p>3c. Business plans</p> <p>3d. Training materials, training workshop list of attendees, training workshop photographs</p> <p>3e. Funding proposals, records of meetings</p>	
<p>4. Project partners maintain and build on the outcome of the project and promote Participatory Rangeland Management to conserve biodiversity across Ethiopia's</p>	<p>4a. By end of Yr 1, priority areas for biodiversity in Ethiopian Borana rangelands are identified for establishing Participatory Rangeland Management, linked to the Oromia Regional Pastoralist Development Strategy</p> <p>4b. By end of Yr 2, regional stakeholders managing priority biodiversity areas (Indicator 1) that could benefit from Participatory Rangeland Management processes and from integration of biodiversity conservation into management practices are identified</p>	<p>4a. Map of identified sites for inclusion within Oromia Regional Pastoralist Development Strategy</p> <p>4b. List of land management stakeholders in Ethiopian Borana rangelands to be invited to workshop (activity 4.5)</p> <p>4c. Business plan for kallo sustainability assessment report</p> <p>4d. Project proposals and CBO records</p>	

rangelands in the long-term	<p>4c. By end of project, partners and stakeholders agree a business plan for expanding the area of community kallos on the Liben Plain</p> <p>4d. By end of project, SOS Sahel and EWNHS staff submit two proposals for funding to donors and supporting CBOs in implementing business plans and monitoring project interventions</p> <p>4e. By end of project, partners have promoted Participatory Rangeland Management and biodiversity mainstreaming to 50 stakeholders managing other grassland sites of high biodiversity importance in Ethiopia, through a workshop completed by end of project</p>	4e. Workshop presentations, attendance lists and minutes, scientific papers and technical guidance publications	
<p>5. Project management, monitoring and evaluation structures and processes ensure that the project objectives are achieved on schedule and within budget</p>	<p>5a. By end of month 2 project partners have signed partnership agreements and confirm their respective roles and responsibilities</p> <p>5b. By end Yr 1, Baseline surveys complete: 1. milk production level/ hunger gap assessment survey (stratified sample of the 10,000 households – part of PRRA); 2. Three CBO capacity needs self-assessments; 3. Liben Lark distribution and productivity surveys</p> <p>5c. Project partner Steering Committee meets twice annually; Project Implementation Committee (local stakeholders) meets quarterly to project progress (enables local stakeholder involvement in M+E)</p> <p>5d. By end of Yr 2, mid-term review of vegetation recovery and Liben Lark responses to management</p> <p>5e. By end of project, repetition of all baseline surveys complete</p> <p>5f. All financial and progress reports submitted to the project manager and project donor on time</p>	<p>5a. Copies of signed partnership agreements</p> <p>5b. Baseline survey reports of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Milk production level/ hunger gap assessment survey (stratified sample of the 10,000 households); 2. CBO capacity needs self-assessments 3. Published analyses of Liben Lark distribution and productivity <p>5c. Records of Steering Group and Project Implementation Committee meetings</p> <p>5d. Report of mid-term review</p> <p>5e. Comparative analysis report of baseline and end of project surveys; scientific papers</p> <p>5f. Report submission records; Darwin feedback on annual and 6-month reports</p>	
Activities (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)			
Activity 1.1	Undertake a Participatory Rangeland Resource Assessment		
Activity 1.2	Support customary institutions and Government bodies to establish joint Kallo Management Committees to oversee community kallos through the Participatory Rangeland Management process		

Activity 1.3	Facilitate a series of stakeholder-led workshops, engaging communities, Government and civil society to identify locations for kallos and develop management, by-laws and benefit-sharing agreements for them through the Participatory Rangeland Management process
Activity 2.1	Committees identify and establish local teams to build the kallos
Activity 2.2	Remove acacia scrub from 1,000 ha of grassland, outside kallos, adjacent to existing Liben Lark populations, to encourage range expansion and grassland restoration (increasing the size of the open plain by 14%)
Activity 2.3	Use cut acacia scrub, underplanted with euphorbia, to create at least four kallos of around 100 ha each in key sites for Liben Larks
Activity 3.1	Support CBOs to undertake a self-assessment of their capacity needs and prioritise needs for enabling equitable livelihood development and diversification
Activity 3.2	Support local communities to develop/establish three Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) to manage and oversee livelihood and infrastructure development initiatives
Activity 3.3	Support CBOs to develop business plans that potentially could include: a resource centre for visitors and local people, communal vehicles, milk collection/storage point and local commodities shop (ideas suggested by local people during visit in November 2014)
Activity 3.4	Provide training in numeracy and literacy skills and business and financial management to CBO committees (70 people, 35 women) to enable them to facilitate community engagement in livelihood development and diversification initiatives
Activity 4.1	Identify priority areas for rangeland biodiversity and regional stakeholders that could benefit from Participatory Rangeland Management in Ethiopian Borana Rangelands, to direct implementation of Oromia regional Pastoralist Develop Strategy to inform Activity 4.5
Activity 4.3	Provide training in fundraising, communications and monitoring impacts of interventions to in-country partners and CBOs to enable them to build on project outcome in the long-term
Activity 4.4	Facilitate transfer of skills and expertise between EWNHS and SOS Sahel project staff eg the value of biodiversity conservation in development and participatory processes for rangeland management
Activity 4.5	In Yr3, hold stakeholder visits to demonstration kallos and national level multi-stakeholder workshop at Liben Plain, including to raise awareness and promote integration of biodiversity conservation into sustainable grassland management systems for application at other priority grassland sites in Ethiopia
Activity 5.1	Formalise roles and responsibilities, including project management and implementation structure in project partnership agreements
Activity 5.2	Collect baseline data on current milk production levels and hunger gap assessment (stratified sample of the 10,000 households);
Activity 5.3	Analyse CBOs capacity needs self-assessments (done under activity 3.1)
Activity 5.4	Carry out baseline survey of Liben Lark distribution and productivity
Activity 5.5	Facilitate 6-monthly Steering Committee (SC) and quarterly Project Implementation Committee (PIC - including local stakeholders) meetings to evaluate project process towards impact
Activity 5.6	Monitor project progress on a monthly basis through liaison with all partner staff
Activity 5.7	Undertake a mid-term vegetation recovery and Liben Lark survey
Activity 5.8	Undertake repeats of baseline surveys and produce comparative analysis reports on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Milk production level/ hunger gap assessment survey (stratified sample of the 10,000 households); 2. CBOs capacity needs self-assessments 3. Changes to height and diversity of vegetation in kallos, including freely available satellite photographs; 4. Liben Lark distribution and productivity

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	