

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

<b>Project Ref No</b>	22-017
<b>Project Title</b>	Mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and Plant Treaty
<b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies)</b>	Madagascar and Benin
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Bioversity International
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<b>Report date and number</b>	HYR2 – 31 October 2016
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://bit.ly/DarwinInitiative">http://bit.ly/DarwinInitiative</a>
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	DFID

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

**Activity 1.2 Project steering committee coordinates and oversees project supported research and capacity building and policy development activities.** (To be conducted throughout the entire project)

The Project Steering Committee of both Benin and Madagascar has continued their efforts for coordinating the different planned project activities. To that end, the committees have met regularly to assess the status of the implementation of the project. Main tasks undertaken by these committees during the last six months included: reviewing plans for the field activities in the four case study sites related to consultations with local communities and municipal authorities related to analysing impacts of climate on local farming systems, identifying potentially useful germplasm, development of community biocultural protocols, biodiversity registers, and related methods and tools. Also reviewing plans for development of the juridical instruments, identifying relevant experts, providing them with guidance for their work.

**Activity 2.2 Expert groups draft policy, legal instruments and guidelines.** (To be accomplished by month 21)

During the first year of implementation of the project, the two national teams developed road maps of the legal and policy instruments needed to be developed for implementing the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the Nagoya Protocol (NP) in a mutually supportive manner in their respective countries. Benin decided to develop a unified system for the implementation of both agreements together, whereas the team from Madagascar opted to develop two separate implementation systems. Accordingly, during the last six months, both countries have made important progress in the development of these policy instruments. In both countries, the teams decided that they should

develop interim measures – in the form of ministerial decrees – to start implementing the ITPGRFA and NP, until such time as they could go through the longer-term processes of developing and passing legislation through their national parliaments.

In both countries, the teams were able to take advantage of in kind support from the ABS Capacity Initiative in the development of interim measures related to the NP. Bioversity provided additional technical support with respect to the development of the interim measures related to the ITPGRFA, ensuring complementarity of approaches. Early drafts of both have been subject to consultation meetings with nationally based experts and representatives of immediately affected organizations.

The project's Expert Guidance Committee, also commented on the drafts.

Both teams are slightly ahead of schedule with respect to this core activity.

**Activity 3.1 National project steering committees develop annotated organigram of governmental and non-governmental actors, promoting equitable representation of women and men, that need to be engaged in daily administration/functioning of the CBD/NP, MLS, including mutually supportive mechanisms, roles, responsibilities, connections, decision-points, processes for consultation through committee on difficult-to-decide cases.** (To be accomplished by month 18)

In Madagascar, the national team has developed an organigram combining the roles of the organizations involved in the implementation of both the NP and the ITPGRFA.

The Benin team has not yet finished this activity. So far, the team organized a workshop involving a number of the functionaries and stakeholders who will eventually need to be involved in the implementation of the two international agreements to develop the organigram. They made substantial progress but they have more to do. They are planning to hold a second workshop to finalize the organigram in the next two months.

**Activity 3.2 For functionaries identified in 3.1 above, provide awareness raising and training on how the system will function, how to execute their responsibilities.** (To be accomplished by the end of the project)

A large number of stakeholders at both the national and community level have benefited from the different awareness raising and consultation meetings organized throughout the project to date, at community and national policy development levels (see for examples, activities 4.2 and 4.3 below, and previous workshops and trainings reported in the first year of the project). Many of them are (or, in the case of Benin, almost certainly will be) included in the organigrams developed by the national teams under 3.1.

**Activity 4.2 Conduct initial awareness raising and capacity strengthening workshops (including 'capacity strengthening for capacity strengtheners'), Co-organised with national competent authorities. Workshops to ensure equitable representation of women and men, proactively promoting participation of women's organisations.** (To be accomplished by month 15, i.e. the current reporting period)

Following up on the efforts made during the first year of implementation of the project, the project has continued to sponsor awareness raising and capacity strengthening workshops at the community level. These workshops have covered the following issues: basic introduction to the ITPGRFA and NP, their potential significance to the communities concerned. Bioversity has kept on working with the partners from Benin and Madagascar supporting additional (beyond what was proposed in this Darwin project) workshops at community levels on resilient seed systems and adaptation to climate change in the four study sites. Its objectives were to enhance the capacities of national partners and communities to identify useful and potentially adaptable plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for climate change adaptation from other potential sources both inside and outside of Benin and Madagascar. In Benin, these workshops took place on the 9-10 of August in Bonu and on August 23 and 24 in Tori Bosito. In Madagascar, the training workshops took place in both study sites between the 25 and 30 July, 2016.

**Activity 4.3 Support women and men in at least two communities to identify appropriate mechanisms (e.g. biodiversity registers, community ABS protocols, organisations to develop specialised capacity) to help communities address ABS issues.** (Started in year

## 2. To be accomplished by month 18)

In both Benin and Madagascar, the project has supported community level workshops, in all four communities, for consultation regarding the possibilities for creating community biodiversity registries, community access and benefit sharing (ABS) protocols, and community biodiversity consideration investment plans. These consultation workshops provided opportunities for discussion with community leaders and others regarding the possible advantages of developing community biodiversity registries, ABS protocols, and investment plans and possible methods for developing them, and norms that would need to be respected in terms of collecting, documenting and providing access to those resources.

A national consultant from Natural Justice supported by the ABS Initiative supported the development of this activity in both countries. So too did two staff members from Bioversity's Benin and Uganda offices.

**Activity 4.6 Development of community biodiversity conservation investment plans by community partners, with support provided by national competent authorities for the implementation of the ITPGRFA, CBD/NP and scientists from national agricultural and environmental organizations.** (Starting in year 2. To be accomplished by the end of the project)

As reported under Activity 4.3 above, national teams are in early stages of planning for the development of investment plans in each site.

**Activity 5.4 Women and men in biodiversity-rich communities develop biodiversity registries (or other forms of collating information about biological diversity and uses) to, among other things, increase local awareness of biological diversity and issues associated with its erosion or conservation, increase their capacity to attract access-seekers, and to develop more advantageous ABS agreements. Women and men in communities working in close collaboration with scientists from national agricultural and environmental research organisations identify stresses to local agricultural production systems, and potentially adapted germplasm (and associated know-how) from national and foreign sources that could assist in addressing local needs/vulnerabilities.** (Starting in year 2. To be accomplished by the end of the project)

Considerable progress has been achieved so far in the implementation of this activity in both Benin and Madagascar. As of the end of October 2016, both countries had achieved a clear idea of the process on how to develop the community biocultural protocols and defined the data collection strategy (see 4.3). More significantly, in three of the four communities, there have been participatory exercises with farmers and representatives of national agricultural research organizations and municipal authorities to identify climate impacts on local production of selected food security crops, identify desirable traits in crops to adapt to the changing conditions, identify potentially adapted materials in ex-situ collections within the countries concerned and in genebanks around that world that publish accession level information. These exercises were facilitated by Bioversity staff from the Uganda and Benin offices with expertise in facilitation, community biodiversity management and use of IT tools to process combinations of crop adaptability, climate and accession level passport data to identify potentially adapted materials in ex-situ collections.

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

Both countries have expressed concern about the amount of time, resources and efforts they need to dedicate to make progress at the local community level. In the past year, Bioversity and ABS Capacity Initiative were able to make additional resources available to the project partners – beyond that which is available through the grant for this project – to subsidize the community level work. The same partners will continue to look for other possible additional sources of funds to subsidize this important work.

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

Discussed with LTS: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

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

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

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

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**