

**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31 October 2017)**

<b>Project Ref No</b>	23-017
<b>Project Title</b>	Building resilient landscapes and livelihoods in Burkina Faso's shea parklands.
<b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies)</b>	Burkina Faso
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	BirdLife International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Naturama, Trinity College Dublin, RSPB, University of Ouagadougou, Global Shea Alliance, and VBN.
<b>Project Leader</b>	Ms Elaine Marshall.
<b>Report date and number</b>	HYR2
<b>Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc</b>	<a href="http://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/news/shea-shea-everywhere-no-insects-left-eat">http://www.birdlife.org/europe-and-central-asia/news/shea-shea-everywhere-no-insects-left-eat</a> <a href="http://www.birdlife.org/africa/news/shea-butter-nourishes-more-dry-skin">http://www.birdlife.org/africa/news/shea-butter-nourishes-more-dry-skin</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/NaturamaBurkina">https://twitter.com/NaturamaBurkina</a> <a href="http://www.naturama.bf/web/index.php/component/k2/item/83-projet-darwin-naturama-et-birdlife-international-pour-une-gestion-durable-des-parcs-agroforestiers">http://www.naturama.bf/web/index.php/component/k2/item/83-projet-darwin-naturama-et-birdlife-international-pour-une-gestion-durable-des-parcs-agroforestiers</a>

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

*The past 9 months in the project cycle has made notable progress towards the Outcome – ‘understanding the relationship between tree diversity, pollination, shea yields and agricultural land use....’ At this mid-point of the project, outcome indicator (0.1) ‘role and importance of insect pollinators quantified and habitat requirements established’ ..... is on target to complete in Q4, when the active research phase closes.*

*Output 1. Research outputs completed and used to educate the shea-growing community around KTNP via pollination demonstration sites. Entire evidence base reviewed and used to inform development of the “trees, bees and birds” agri-environment strategy.*

**Activities 1.3 and 1.4** Field surveys and experiments carried out in 20 pollination sites North and South of Kabore Tambi National Park (KTNP), *Centre-Sud*, Burkina Faso. Samples of shea flower visiting insects were collected to determine the main pollinating species, and, as a result of cost efficiencies, also identified (some 1500 individuals) by South African bee expert, Connal Eardley, , making an important contribution to the scarce scientific data held on African pollinators. Insects visiting flowering trees and shrubs in or near sites provided information on other floral resources which support pollination services, and pollen limitation experiments were conducted on each of the trees where insect visitors were collected. Locations of honey bee hives on village lands near the sites were recorded, and the nests of stingless bees (*Hypotrigena* spp, a known shea pollinator) were sampled within 100 meters of each site. Site-based habitat maps were generated using satellite imagery and used to estimate the amount of natural and semi-natural habitat, as well as the number and extent of human dwelling places in the landscape surrounding each site. Data analysis is under way (and scientific papers drafted for submission by end of research contract in Q4) evaluating at site level, the influence of tree density, parasitic species, floristic diversity, crops and the presence of domestic bee hives or stingless bee colonies affecting the delivery of pollination services, is being evaluated, and on a landscape scale, the impact of human habitation presence / the amount of natural and semi-natural habitat around sites, being assessed.

**Activity 1.7** Naturama have been working on a document designed to raise awareness around landscape management for biodiversity, aimed at the Basic Education District level: the format and content are being finalised prior to integration into awareness and education activities, and meetings have been held with each of the Directors of the 10 primary schools involved in the project, to elicit feedback on most effective mechanisms for dissemination and outreach.

*Output 2. 500 people from 10 communities around KTNP have implemented the “trees, bees and birds” parkland management strategy, while another 1000 via farmer-to-farmer education have the knowledge and capacity to do so. Access to market and potential revenue streams have increased via better knowledge of certification.*

**Activity 2.2** To promote further engagement of the TBB strategy, an information workshop was held in each Po and Nobere, specifically to collect implementation feedback from locally elected officials, and to present preliminary results. A total of 184 people including village representatives, municipal councillors, presidents, and technicians participated in these workshops. Ongoing assisted natural regeneration monitored to ensure effective coverage across the intervention sites: activities included training of 250 farmers from the wider research area, in the tree species selected (preferred by migratory birds), and pollination ambassadors subsequently oversaw the distribution and planting of over 10,000 trees.

**Activity 2.4** The 20 TBB pilot demonstration sites previously identified during biodiversity and habitat surveys, used to site the pollination experiments, which have been GPS recorded for future records (see Output 3).

*Output 3. Capacity of the host country for pollination research, long-term impact monitoring, and pollination education has been developed via mentoring by in-country and international pollination experts. Naturama have the capacity for ongoing development and monitoring of the ‘Trees, bees and birds’ strategy.*

**Activities 3.3** Trinity College researchers (principally Dr Aoife Delaney) continued to provide support to Naturama field staff on insect pollinators in the landscape and documented the most suitable pollination monitoring protocols to be adopted at site level (**Activity 3.4**), including the experimental design protocol and training for the Masters student (**Activity 3.5**) in its application. This has increased the capacity for pollinator research within Burkina Faso and further developed international and Burkinabe research links. Awareness of the role and importance of pollinators in agriculture was discussed with the farmers whose land was used to research pollination services, Some community members were remunerated for their direct involvement in the fieldwork, which in addition to strengthening interest and engagement also helped facilitate continued safe access to remote survey sites, during the field work. In early October, members of the Pollination Advisory Committee (PL, Prof. Stout, Dr Delaney, and Dr Vickery) met to confirm the data analysis is progressing well, discuss the integration of bird data, and drafting of scientific papers. Initial findings strongly indicate that there is a pollination limitation, and analysis is underway to determine the most important explanatory variables.

*Output 4: An advocacy strategy developed for the integration of the ‘Trees, bees and birds’ management strategy into policy and practice leading to the integration of TBB advice into GSA sustainability guidelines.*

**Activity 4.1** In collaboration with policy strategists at the RSPB, a policy and advocacy plan has been drafted to help support the integration of the ‘TBB’ management strategy (i.e. the biodiversity component) into the existing Sustainability best-practice guidelines of the Global Shea Alliance (GSA); The project leader is in regular contact with the GSA Secretariat, and an active member of the Sustainability Working Group (SWG) which meets annually. Draft biodiversity guidelines (prepared with Naturama), have been submitted to the GSA, and it is hoped that these will be approved by the SWG during its annual meeting, held again in Tamale, Ghana in November. PL will present initial pollination findings at the event, and meet with Naturama, to discuss the support they require to secure the integration of the TBB findings into regional policy avenues, including the Burkinabe National government, and district authorities.

**Activity 4.2** Members from the BirdLife European office, participated in the European Development Days conference held in Brussels (7-8 June 2017), representing the project during the International Conservation and Development event. It provided an important opportunity for the GSA to showcase the Darwin project to Industry stakeholders, as an example of ongoing work with a strong sustainability focus.



**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.**

As per project change request (Oct 30<sup>th</sup> 2017), the interim Project Leader has stayed in place, and is under contract for another year, bringing continuity and oversight to this key role.

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

Discussed with LTS: Yes

Formal change request submitted: Yes

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?**

No

Please send your **completed report (2-3 pp)** 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**