



**Darwin Initiative/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019)**

<b>Project reference</b>	24-002
<b>Project title</b>	Cattle, water and wildlife: enhancing socio-ecological resilience in Laikipia
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Kenya
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Fauna and Flora International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	OI Pejeta Conservancy Laikipia Wildlife Forum
<b>Project leader</b>	Rob Small
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	HYR3
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	www.fauna-flora.org

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

**Output 1: 8000ha of restored rangeland under active sustainable management that meets the grazing needs of community livestock and wildlife**

**1.3 Implementation of ecological restoration measures - mobile cattle corrals that create ecosystem 'hotspots' to significantly increase populations of browsing wildlife (Q1-Q4):** On-going recovery of Mutara Conservation Area (MCA) has been observed as a result of halting illegal grazing through community engagement and enforcement. Structures to facilitate legal and controlled community livestock scheme and ecological restoration measures using mobile cattle corrals have been completed: cattle bomas fabricated; water structures rehabilitated. The entry of community livestock to MCA has been rescheduled to Y3 Q3-Q4.

**1.8 Implementation of an ecological & bio monitoring system linked to existing monitoring across the landscape (Q1-Q4):** 2 quarterly pasture assessments conducted in Q1 and Q2. Pasture monitoring report and map showing biomass developed and advising the proposed grazing plan. Reports on daily monitoring indicate reduced illegal grazing. MCA bird's occurrence survey ongoing. A comprehensive annual biomonitoring report detailing the analysis of the assessments is scheduled for Y3 Q4.

**Output 2. Improved water availability for domestic use, livestock and wildlife in MCA and 75% of households in 6 focal community areas that is managed by representative local institutions.**

**2.5 Stakeholder dialogue and consultation meetings with WRUA members (with both women and men including leaders to promote positive attitudes towards women's participation in project activities):** 4 stakeholder meetings held with 177 participants (137 men/40 women) from community groups<sup>1</sup>, project

<sup>1</sup> Water Resource Users Associations( WRUAs), Community Water Projects(CWP), farmers and pastoralists

partners<sup>2</sup>, government agencies<sup>3</sup> and private institutions<sup>4</sup>. Meetings addressed identified prioritized water issues in Mutara and Suguroi sub-catchments.

**2.13 Quarterly web and media updates on water management activities to broader Laikipia audience through MKEWP(Q1-Q4):** One media update published in y3(Q1-Q2):

<https://laikipia.org/water-resources-authority-commit-to-end-illegal-abstraction-in-mutara-river>

A case study on management of Mutara and Suguroi rivers is being developed and scheduled to be published in Y3Q3.

**2.14 Bi-annual upstream-downstream water user meeting for Mutara and Suguroi rivers (Q2):**

3 meetings held to enhance social cohesion and awareness on best practices in water management:

Awareness on WRUA agency model to 122 community members (91 men/31 women); Suguroi WRUA planning meeting that brought together 61 members (35 men/26 women) towards improving riparian vegetation and construction of a common intake to address prioritized water issues.

**Output 3: A community cattle to market system, that supports pastoralist livelihoods and reduces stocking densities in 4 focal community areas, is in place on MCA.**

**3.5 Stakeholder dialogue and consultation meetings with focal pastoralist communities (with both women and men including leaders to promote positive attitudes towards women's participation in project activities) (Q2):**

3 meetings held in Tangi Nyeusi community and a total of 46 community members (43 men; 3 women) were engaged to plan for the community livestock scheme on MCA (rescheduled for Q3): The Grazing agreement was communicated, discussed and reviewed with the community to build consensus on controlled grazing access scheme on MCA. This was in order to develop an understanding of the purpose of MCA fencing and outline mitigation measures put in place or planned to mitigate effects of MCA fence on communities. These measures will include an entry point in the design of the fence to allow livestock access water during dry season and improvement of water access outside of the MCA for access by community owned livestock. Separate meetings with women's groups (which have already been identified) will be conducted in Q3 and Q4 to continue their engagement in the cattle scheme and the potential development of a camel milk scheme for the MCA.

**3.12 Participatory development and implementation of local grazing plans for MCA (including identification of critical areas and periods where conflict between pastoralist livestock and wildlife is likely) (Q2):** The activity has been rescheduled to Q3 prior to the entry of community livestock.

**3.14 Purchase of focal community cattle by OPC - fattening of cattle on MCA with mobile corral system (Q1-Q4):** Logistical and management preparations for cattle entry into MCA of community cattle onto MCA completed. The actual entry of agreed community livestock numbers was rescheduled to Q3.

**3.17 Implement extension and training services for participating livestock keepers(Q1-Q4):** A total of 4 community trainings completed in Mutara and Ex Erok communities where 100 community members (75 men and 25 women) received livestock training and extension services on: nutrition and feeding management to address the challenge of pasture scarcity; and disease management. The Livestock Officer extension manual was further reviewed using feedback gathered during the trainings to prioritize community training needs to address prevailing challenges and emerging issues.

**Output 4. Women and men in 2 target communities adopt a community-based fodder production system that supports the diversification of small-scale farmer livelihoods in at least 200 households.**

**4.11 Integrate fodder production with sub-catchment water management plans (Q2):** 80 fodder farmers planting Rhodes grass from Mutara and Kiamariga communities and trained on conservation agriculture. The WRUAs have adopted fodder farming as an additional livelihood strategy in their sub-catchment plans. The farmers along Mutara and Suguroi sub-catchment have been encouraged to plant fodder varieties (Napier grass, Lucerne and desmodium) that can provide ground cover and protect riparian areas.

<sup>2</sup> Fauna and Flora International(FFI), Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC) and Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF)

<sup>3</sup> Water Resources Authority (WRA), County Government of Laikipia, Provincial Administration, Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and Mutara Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC)

<sup>4</sup> Centre of Training and Integrated Research in ASAL Development (CETRAD), Laikipia County Natural Resources Network (LAICONAR)

**4.12 Target agricultural extension to farmer groups who have chosen to participate in increased and sustainable production of fodder (Q1-Q4):** Five community trainings organized in collaboration with other local service providers where a total of 140 hay farmers (75 men/65 women) were trained. The outputs of the trainings include: Improved networking with service providers; registration of 3 self-help groups comprising of 90 fodder farmers with the ministry of social services to facilitate them to access loans from micro finance institutions to expand their fodder production and do group marketing.

**Output 5: Vulnerable and endangered species are under effective protection on MCA**

**5.4 Monthly camera trapping of wildlife corridors to monitor wildlife movement between OPC and MCA (Q1-Q4):** The sorting for 2018 images ongoing and a comprehensive analysis report for 2018 images will be completed in Q4.

**5.5 Data from ecological monitoring (Activity 1.9) used to actively manage populations of grazing and browsing herbivores and predator's species (Q1-Q4):** Daily data on rainfall data, daily sightings of both livestock and wildlife are ongoing. A comprehensive report will be produced in Q4.

**5.7 Conduct regular wildlife ranger patrols on Mutara Conservation Area (Q1-Q4):** Daily patrols ongoing and data on wildlife sightings and livestock sighting is collated daily. Data collected continuously inform management

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

In the past 6 months three unexpected developments have occurred that are related to the project, but these do not result from Darwin Initiative project funded activities. We would be happy to discuss these further with LTS or Defra as appropriate. Please consider the following as sensitive material:

1) Following complaints formally received by Ol Pejeta Conservancy from community representatives at the end of February 2018 an internal investigation into allegations of misconduct by one of its members of staff (not project funded) on the Mutara Conservation Area was conducted. This incident was logged in the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism and following an investigation the staff member's employment was terminated. The grievance was completed and therefore closed in July 2018.

2) During 2019 Ol Pejeta Conservancy, on behalf of the Mutara Conservation Area, has been erecting a perimeter fence (with funds raised separately from FFI and the Darwin Initiative). A 1.8km stretch of this fence on the northern MCA perimeter (adjoining Eland Downs/Laikipia National Park) was cut down and damaged as we were compiling this report. Police investigations, supported by National Police Reserve units based at Ol Pejeta Conservancy and ADC Mutara Ranch are on-going. Meetings between Ol Pejeta Conservancy project staff and pastoralist community members (Tangi-Nyeusi) to the immediate east of MCA are on-going.

3) The MCA is leased by the Monarch Group for conservation and tourism from the owners of the Mutara Ranch – the parastatal Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) (project stakeholder not partner). In Q2 of 2019 the Managing Director of ADC and its Financial controller were dismissed on charges of fraud (no FFI and no Darwin Initiative funds involved). Since this time Ol Pejeta Conservancy has been seeking to fully inform senior ADC staff and its board on the detail of the Darwin project, including the previously agreed community cattle scheme. In September 2019 a meeting was held between the new acting Managing Director of ADC, the ADC board, Monarch Group and Ol Pejeta Conservancy. During this meeting it was agreed that a pilot of community grazing scheme would be viable to commence in Y3 Q3-4 but where possible ADC would want some revenues from the management of MCA. We also note that the pilot phase of the scheme will only allow 500 head of cattle which will limit the pool of direct beneficiaries from this element of the project. If the pilot phase proves to be workable to all parties we expect an expansion of cattle up to 1000 head during the course of Y4 and the development of a rolling access plan for men and collective women's groups.

With a common position being established between land owners, leaseholders, conservation managers and community cattle owners we feel that the establishment of the cattle scheme on MCA is still feasible

within Y3. A key lesson for the project is that the development of trusting relationships that balance the interests and needs of commercial enterprise, conservation management and community aspiration is a long-term process during the course of which there will be successes and challenges. However, as has been seen with the multi-stakeholder approach that the project has used to reinvigorate agreement over riverine water management, positive outcomes have been achieved to reduce water related conflict and create a common vision for management of water resources in a complex landscape.

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

We do not feel that the issues detailed in section 2a necessitate a change request

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

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

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** 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?**

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R25 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report** by email to [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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**