



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Darwin

Initiative/Darwin Plus



Projects

Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	24-002
Project title	Cattle, water and wildlife: enhancing socio-ecological resilience in Laikipia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Kenya
Lead organisation	Fauna and Flora International
Partner(s)	OI Pejeta Conservancy (OPC) Laikipia Forum (LF)
Project leader	Rob Small
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR4
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/cattle-water-wildlife-enhancing-socio-ecological-resilience-laikipia

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

Activity 1.2: Assessment and identification of key locations for restoration activities through field surveys and GIS analysis: The assessment of locations identified in Y1 for restoration was conducted and majority of the sites were found to have fully recovered. The full assessment will be shared with the end year report.

Activity 1.3: Monitor MCA grazing utilization of rangeland by herbivores to inform management and share MCA Biomonitoring findings to drive MCA's long term plans/strategies: The utilization of the MCA rangeland by the herbivores was conducted during the quarterly pasture assessments. The findings are being continually shared to inform management.

Activity 1.8: Implementation of an ecological & bio monitoring system linked to existing monitoring across the landscape: Two rapid pasture assessments conducted in June and September 2020 recorded a biomass of 6473 kg/ha and 5455 kg/ha respectively - significantly higher than the recommended standard by OPC of 1500kg/ha. A total of 20 rangers (19 men and 1 woman) were trained on Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to collect data on wildlife sightings and human activities. The project facilitated OPC to connect SMART and Earth Ranger and was piloted at MCA. The team is currently assessing how the two applications can be maximised to ease data analysis, visualization and management.

1.13: Drafting of lessons learned & guidance document on sustainable land management and ecological restoration: Drafting of key lessons on sustainable land management and ecological restoration is ongoing with publication and dissemination scheduled for Q3 & 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.

Activity 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): Three meetings were held with 44 representatives (18 women and 26 men) from Water Resource User Associations (WRUAs), pastoralists, local administration, Water Resource Authority (WRA), LF and OPC to share project socio-economic findings to inform water management interventions by different key players; develop water a rationing plan for August to November (to mitigate dry season conflicts); mobilize support from different water users along Mutara catchment and stakeholders towards the ongoing common intake program; review the current capacity of the WRUA's to guide future engagement.

Activity 2.12: Ensure appropriate water storage infrastructure and conservation technologies are operational within both MCA and neighbouring communities: The assessment of water infrastructure and conservation technologies within MCA and focal communities continued through the reporting period and are all operational.

Activity 2.13 :Quarterly web and media updates on water management activities to broader Laikipia audience through MKEWP:

A feature story publication with a national newspaper highlighting the water resources challenges in both sub catchments, prioritized strategies in place to address these challenges, and a call to support them: <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/rift-valley/article/2001391970/the-fight-for-laikipias-key-rivers-why-locals-are-fighting-for-rivers-in-laikipia>

One online story published to highlight the Mutara WRUA and stakeholders resolve to construct a common intake to regulate water abstractions, improve compliance to WRM rules and preserve the environmental flows:<https://laikipia.org/mutara-wrua-the-journey-from-water-access-equality-to-equity/>

144 copies of the case study (<https://bit.ly/2RLnmuT>) developed in Y3 was disseminated during the reporting period to Mutara and Surguroi WRUAs members, WRA, Laikipia and Nyandarua County administrations.

Activity 2.14: Bi-annual upstream-downstream water user meeting for Mutara and Sugori rivers: 4 meetings were held to support implementation of 3 priority solutions to sub catchments issues identified by the different key stakeholders in previous engagements: a) construction of common intake; b) WRUA office establishment, and improved governance; c. water monitoring, reporting and enforcement). The meetings were attended by 53 people (22 women, 31 men). Mutara and Suguroi WRUAs have acquired office spaces to facilitate improved coordination among members and other stakeholders. A community-based river water monitoring system has been formulated to provide a framework for reporting and response and will be trialed in the January-March 2021 dry season.

Activity 2.15 Drafting of lessons learned & guidance document on WRUA water management: The project is reviewing the case study developed in year 3 that focused on community-based water resource management. The reviewed version will include a sustainability plan for the prioritized interventions by key players supporting water management in the two sub catchments. Publication and dissemination is scheduled for Q3 and Q4.

Output 3: Community cattle and sustainable livelihood scheme, supporting pastoralist income diversification and wellbeing

Activity 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): In the reporting period 6 meetings were held in Tangi Nyeusi community where 45 youths (43 men and 2 women), 25 women and 31 elders were engaged to: communicate barriers to the community livestock scheme and agree on an alternative sustainable livelihood scheme.

Activity 3.17: Implement extension and training services for participating livestock keepers: Extension support was expanded in the four focal community areas with collaboration with other institutions¹: 180 (103 men and 77 women) farmers and pastoralists

¹ County government of Laikipia, Department of Social Services and Countryside Dairy
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received training on good livestock husbandry² in 15 training sessions; 25 targeted farm visits were made to community members with specific challenges on livestock management; 40 calves were placed on East Coast Fever (ECF) cover. The livestock husbandry extension manual was also further reviewed and updated to address emerging issues.

Activity 3.18: Drafting of lessons learned & guidance document on community cattle scheme: Drafting of lessons learned and documentation is ongoing. Publication and dissemination is scheduled for Q3 and Q4.

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.

Activity 4.12 :Target agricultural extension to farmer groups who have chosen to participate in increased and sustainable production of fodder: 131 farmers were trained and visited during the reporting period; 6 water harvesting trainings were held for 55 (30 men and 25 women) farmers in four communities in preparation of the anticipated rainy season; technical support was given by the project to construct water pans in 6 different households; 20 farmers (20 men) were trained on fodder storage structure construction to minimize post-harvest losses; 50 household surveys were conducted to assess the impact of fodder and conservation agriculture interventions (survey numbers to be expanded in Q3).

Activity 4.13: Drafting of lessons learned & guidance document on conservation agriculture and creation of market linkages: Documentation of lessons learned is ongoing. Publication and dissemination is scheduled for Q3 and Q4.

Output5: Vulnerable and endangered species are under effective protection on MCA

Activity 5.4: Monthly camera trapping of wildlife corridors to monitor wildlife movement between OPC and MCA: Continued data collection from the camera traps situated at the wildlife corridors between OPC and MCA is a weekly activity conducted by the OPC team. A report will be available by end of the year on wildlife movement complemented by aerial surveys to be conducted in November/December

Activity 5.5: Data from ecological monitoring (Activity 1.8) used to actively manage populations of grazing and browsing herbivores and predators species: Daily data collection on rainfall data, livestock, wildlife sightings and specific species monitoring in ongoing in MCA. Oryx monitoring on the MCA conducted in June to establish the sex ratio where total of 20³ were counted-the results will guide management on the way forward as Oryx numbers have sharply declined in recent years on OPC.

Activity 5.7: Conduct regular wildlife ranger patrols on Mutara Conservation Area: Daily patrols have been conducted and data submitted on a daily basis on species⁴ of interest, activities including human activities, species occurrence, new sightings and occurrences. A report will be compiled and shared at the end of the year.

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.

On 24th September 2020, the project submitted a change request as a follow up to concerns reported in the Y3 Annual Report (Section 11). Circumstances experienced in Y3 of the project, compounded by the secondary effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, diminished the project's ability to directly improve pastoralist livelihoods specifically/exclusively through cattle grazing on MCA (Output 3). The proposed changes can be implemented within existing budgets and OPC is contributing increased staff time from within its Community Development Programme for

² Supplementation, disease management, calf management, ration formulation and planting of protein rich fodder/concentrates

³ 13 females and 2 males, 3 sub adults, 1 juvenile and 1 infant

⁴ Oryx, predators, Ostrich, elephants, Geranak and Patas monkeys

investigating alternative energy options with pastoralist communities. The changes will not affect the budget and the proposed activities will be completed within the project time frame. On 22nd October an update was received from LTS stating adequate justification for the change request with a request for further clarification on additional project indicators. These were submitted to LTS on 26th October.

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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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

In September 2020 a second year PhD student from the University of Cambridge (Department of Geography), co-supervised by the project lead under a ESRC Knowledge Exchange Studentship, began field-based research at OPC. The student's action-based research on 'Understanding participation in and through conservation research and practice' will include the project as a case study and directly inform the development of lessons learned and guidance in Q3 and Q4.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

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

Please send your **completed report by email** to 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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**