



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

<b>Project reference</b>	24-004
<b>Project title</b>	Conserving critical forest biodiversity in Guinea through sustainable agricultural livelihoods
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Guinea
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Fauna & Flora International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Centre Forestier de N'Zérékoré (CFZ) Association pour le Développement Communautaire et Agro-Pastorale (ADCAP)
<b>Project leader</b>	Michelle Villeneuve
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	October 31 2019 HYR3
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/supporting-effective-management-ziama-man-biosphere-reserve">https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/supporting-effective-management-ziama-man-biosphere-reserve</a>

**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: Bas-fond farmers and current transition zone farmers in 4 villages are trained in improved agricultural practices and apply them to farmland in transition zones**

**Output 2: The incentives and wellbeing (food security, physical security, time, income, yield) from farming in the transition zone are equal to or greater than farming in the illegal bas-fonds in the core and buffer zones**

ADCAP began their work as project partner on April 01 2019, and immediately identified that the groups established by IRAG were not conforming to the Guinean law on groups and associations, which require a minimum membership of 15 people. As such, the groups were rebalanced and some new members added; what were formerly 24 groups with a membership of 368 people became 18 groups with a membership of 412 total (187 men and 225 women).

Direct training and support for communities in improved agricultural practices was re-launched at this time (Y3Q1), informed by the results of a farmer needs assessment survey run in Y2Q4 (January 2019). Based on this feedback, key crops for further economic development were identified and seeds and cuttings were distributed to the appropriate groups in each village. New tools were also purchased for each village, and a tool log established for each.

A demonstration site for the growth of market vegetables was established in the central town of Irié, complete with a drip irrigation system, and 45 people were trained in Y3Q1 on growth of market vegetables.

Seed selection training for market vegetables was delivered (45 beneficiaries), to allow farmers to select the best seeds for use on their own fields.

Harvest of Y3Q1 market vegetable plots was undertaken by ADCAP (Y3Q2) using harvest box methodology to accurately understand yield per ha; yield data not yet collated and available at the time of writing; this will be reported upon in the Y3AR.

After the irrigation demonstration mentioned above was successful for the market vegetable production training, each village was kitted with a motorpump and tubing for an irrigation demonstration in their own communal (demo) market garden plots. This training (reaching beyond the original 45 beneficiaries) begins at the start of the next market vegetable season, in Y3Q3 (November 2019).

Oil palm seedlings (improved variety- Tenera) were established at each of the nursery sites in the 4 villages, with 7000 total seedlings established for the benefit of the 142 members of the agroforestry groups. 88 people were trained on the establishment and maintenance of nurseries, as well as transplantation processes in Y3Q1. Training on cocoa and coffee agroforestry also delivered to same group in Q2.

Previously planted (Y2) cocoa, bush pepper and banana seedlings were occupying space in the village nurseries, due to having been planted at the wrong time of year by IRAG. This planting occurred in a rush in Y2Q3 in an attempt to disguise the lack of activity when the IRAG fraud was discovered; the money spent on the inputs for these seedlings is being reimbursed by IRAG, please see section 4 below. The seedlings were sold to interested buyers in the community at a discount; demand was understandably low, but some recipient farmers were grateful and we were able to prevent some from going to waste. Sale price was 1500 GNF per seedling, a 25% discount off of the IRAG rate of 2000 GNF. Total profit reinvested into the communities: ~ £1585

*Mucuna (Mucuna puriens)* seeds were purchased and distributed to all groups in each of the 4 villages (Y3Q1), for the purpose of demonstrating the land regenerative properties of fast-growing nitrogen-fixing plants. A demonstration plot for the effects of mucuna was planted on the central demonstration plot in Irié, and communities have begun experimenting with the seed on their marginal lands.

Four (legal) bas-fonds sites of 1.5 hectares each were identified for rice trainings (one per target village) in Y3Q1, and 480 kg of improved rice (high-yielding variety name: Robert) was distributed to groups in the same quarter, for use on their own (non-MAB) lands. A technical training on rice cultivation specific to Guinee Forestier was delivered to all beneficiaries (412 total) in Y3Q2. Yields are being monitored and will be reported in Y3AR.

A central compost production and training area was constructed in Irié in Y3Q1, with updated training scheduled to commence in Y3Q3.

The PICS post-harvest storage bags that were purchased in Ghana in Y1Q4 finally made it into Guinea and cleared customs in Y2Q4. A survey was run in Y3Q2 in order to identify the first set of beneficiaries, in the target villages as well as in other villages surrounding Ziama, with those who grow large quantities of cowpea (niébé) and cassava prioritised for the first round distribution. ADCAP has created a training module to be delivered in conjunction with the distribution, and training on the use of PICS bags in the prevention of post-harvest loss will begin Q3Y3 (November 2019). Post-training ( in June 2020), original PICS beneficiaries will be surveyed in order to understand the impact of the PICS bags, and at that time they will be asked to feed back regarding additional post-harvest loss interventions that might be useful (per Activity 2.7).

In Y2Q4, supplies for the establishment of a large-scale agricultural buffer zone in the HWC crisis zone of N'Zebela were purchased, and the signing of the MoU between communities, CFZ and FFI occurred Y3Q1. Establishment of an elephant-deterrent ginger, coffee and pepper plantation/buffer zone and the establishment of oil palm nurseries (elephant-deterrent once they reach 2m in height) took place throughout Y3Q1 and Q2.

Gender role data (as it related to roles within agricultural production as well as village life) was collected at project inception, and a follow-up workshop was undertaken in October 2019 by the Seredou-based socioeconomic expert, with guidance from the Cambridge-based gender and livelihoods expert. Results will be shared in the Y3 AR.

**Output 3: Illegal activity within Ziama is reduced through a shift from bas-fonds to farming in transition zones**

**Output 4: Targeted bas-fonds in Ziama MAB are showing signs of forest recovery**

We are extremely pleased to announce that the Ziama MAB Management Plan has been finalised, and was validated in Conakry during a workshop October 20-25 2019. As such, farming in the bas-fonds is not just prohibited by CFZ, it is now illegal.

CFZ rangers, led by FFI, continued biweekly patrols, completing 30 patrols during Q1 and Q2 of Y3, recording 408 cases of HWC including crop raiding, destroyed fields/property and traps set.

As described in the Y2AR, the Agricultural Landscapes team has allocated time to the Analytics team to assist with monitoring changes in forest cover of the MAB, including bas-fonds in the core zone; due to the nature of spatial analytics, this can be done retroactively, showing change in cover and vegetation density from Y1Q1 to EoP. This analysis is planned for Y3Q4.

Please see question 2 in the attached document "Questions from Y2 AR that require response in the Y3 HYR" for a description of the bas-fonds departure monitoring plan.

**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.**

**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?**

As reported directly via a series of emails (January 2019-current date) and in the Y2 AR, our original project partner, IRAG, fraudulently claimed a total of £ in expenses in Y1 and Y2.

The Director General of IRAG has agreed that IRAG will repay the total defrauded sum, and repayments in the amount of £ have been received in 9 instalments between April 01 and

September 30 2019. We expect to receive the balance owed £ in Q3/Q4 of Y3 (and potentially into Y4Q1; as repayment tranches have come regularly we are confident that the intention to repay is there).

This is just to inform you that repayment is occurring and on-track.

**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**