

## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017)

<b>Project reference</b>	24-009
<b>Project title</b>	Landscape approach to enhance biodiversity and livelihoods in the Comoros
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Comoro Islands
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Bangor University, UK
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Dahari, ICRAF, IUCN
<b>Project leader</b>	Dr Fergus Sinclair
<b>Report date and number</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="http://www.daharicomores.org/en">www.daharicomores.org/en</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).

In general the project progressed as planned in its first six months, Dahari's implantation in the Comoros allowing the prompt start of most activities once notification of funding had been received from Darwin. A first meeting of the project management team was held in September during the first mission by Bangor/ ICRAF (Emilie Smith-Dumont: ESD) and IUCN (Dr Gill Shepherd: GS). A second mission by ESD took place in October to run a workshop to improve the field intervention strategy ahead of enlargement by focusing on watersheds as an umbrella strategy, and by targeting intervention areas based on soil degradation, and improving inclusion of poorer and female villagers.

Output 1 Watershed management: All activities progressing as planned, with tree nurseries in place in four communities run by community management bodies. The methodology for monitoring waterflow in rivers and springs is being finalised to implement in Q4.

Output 2 Agroforestry: Improvements have been to the method for monitoring seedling and tree survival following the mission by ESD. Research into farmer tree knowledge is planned to start in Q4. The baseline for livelihood monitoring has not yet been created awaiting the targeting of new areas as part of the updated intervention strategy developed during the workshop, and identification of associated beneficiaries. This will be done in Q4 during another mission by ESD and GS.

Output 3 Climate-smart agriculture: Research into contextual variation in uptake is underway and all other activities progressing as planned other than the M+E - the baseline for livelihood monitoring has not yet been created as per explanation under Output 2, but will be undertaken during Q4. The sub-set of farmers will include new beneficiaries of Dahari's improved and expanded agriculture extension program.

Output 4 Biodiversity conservation: All activities progressing as planned with discussions engaged to put a third Livingstone's fruit bat roost site under protection.

Output 5 Advocacy and communications: All progressing as planned in-country, with a first blog to go up on the partner websites early January 2017, and regularly from then on. Regular meetings have been held with the Anjouan authorities, including the Governor, and in Moroni at the Ministry. Dahari's Sing 4 Comoros Forests event attracted blanket media coverage, as well as some regional and international outputs, including about the fieldwork – in particular the reforestation and roost-site protection initiatives.

**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.**

We have had difficulties recruiting the full-time expatriate social scientist, with few strong candidates received despite two calls. We then decided not to renew the contract of the candidate recruited at the end of her trial period. Another recruitment call is now out. This has delayed some of the research elements of the project, though mitigation solutions have been implemented with an alternative arrangement found for the research into uptake of agricultural techniques. We would like to use the money saved on expat salary to bring out Dr Gill Shepherd for a second mission in February. Together with Emilie Smith Dumont they will support Dahari's team in finalising and implementing the strategy for increasing social mobilisation and land restoration in degraded hotspots of the catchments, coordinating the various research projects including the development of the monitoring and evaluation framework that will include a new sub-set of target beneficiaries for scaling up and out.

We have decided to push back the first advocacy workshop with IUCN to year 2 of the project, to allow more time for individual advocacy with key government contacts, building up to a more formal workshop. We would like to put the associated budget to Year 2.

**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: submission of this report	No – details included in email with
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Formal change request submitted: proposals in email accompanying this report	No – will submit following reply from LTS on
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Received confirmation of change acceptance	N/A
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**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.

*See accompanying email and draft budget change*

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

No