



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2018)**

Project reference	24-009
Project title	Landscape approach to enhance biodiversity and livelihoods in the Comoros
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Comoro Islands
Lead organisation	Bangor University, UK
Partner(s)	Dahari, ICRAF, IUCN
Project leader	Dr Fergus Sinclair
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc.	www.daharicomores.org/en www.twitter.com/DahariComores www.facebook.com/DahariComores

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 Watershed management: Most activities are progressing as planned, though further GIS mapping has been delayed due to political problems (see next question). Dr Tim Pagella of Bangor undertook a dedicated mission on this output in April and has since been supporting the development and implementation of a participatory water source monitoring system. Dr Alain Tsobeng of ICRAF, a specialist in tree nursery management and domestication of native species, also visited and provided training to the team and local stakeholders thanks to cofunding from the FAO. Following this visit four community tree nurseries were again put in place this year, with a reduced number of seedlings in order to focus on testing the techniques and species introduced by ICRAF.

Output 2 Agroforestry: The participatory research into farmer knowledge has been completed as planned by Subira Bonhomme, an ICRAF consultant funded by FAO, and supported by Dr Emilie Smith Dumont (ESD). Analysis of data is now underway ahead of the production of decision support-tools for extension agents and a manual to drive agroforestry adoption. Dahari and ICRAF have also been supporting the development of a national agroforestry strategy as part of a programme funded by the FAO that is providing cofunding to this project. The implementation of the monitoring and evaluation baseline has been delayed (see next question).

Output 3 Climate-smart agriculture: Research into contextual variation of uptake of Dahari's agricultural activities has been completed. A further analysis of the programme, including a cost-benefit analysis, will be undertaken over the next quarter in order to feed into a revised offering. Awaiting this larger evolution, various improvements to the outreach approach and the techniques proposed have already been effected for this year's campaigns, including development of a gender focus through mobilising women and youth associations. As per agroforestry, the implementation of the monitoring and evaluation baseline has been delayed (see next question).

Output 4 Biodiversity conservation: Four Livingstone's fruit bat roost sites are now under protection through the PES scheme, with discussions underway with three further landowners around roost sites. A review of the scheme is being undertaken as a precursor to thinking about

potential for expansion around each roost site and to other biodiversity or ecosystem service hotspots. The production of the final biodiversity hotspot maps has been slightly delayed but will be completed by the end of the year, which will feed into this process.

Output 5 Advocacy and communications: The first national workshop involving IUCN has been put back until the last quarter of the year due to political problems and upcoming elections (see next question). Otherwise regular village communications events, media outputs, and meetings with authorities have continued – with exchanges underway towards signature of a partnership agreement with the UNDP Protected Areas Programme. The project team made regular visits to UN partners to enable synergies between programs

All of these different outputs are feeding into a new intervention strategy for Dahari, the development of which has been led by ESD with the input of other researchers and of course the Dahari team. Coalescing its different interventions around an integrated water catchment approach is a substantial change for Dahari, at the same time as seeking to improve their impact, requiring important HR as well as technical evolutions. Progress has been made in this regard as well, in particular with the recruitment of dedicated social mobilisation agents and the merging of the biodiversity conservation and natural resource management teams.

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.

Political trouble in the Comoros has already caused significant difficulties for the project and could continue with elections coming up at the end of the year, and wider problems over constitutional changes. ESD's last mission with the ICRAF mapping consultant Katrine Turner was curtailed due to civil unrest in Mutsamudu, where Dahari is based. This has put back the latest mapping and monitoring and evaluation components until Q4. We have also put back the first IUCN workshop and linked advocacy work until Q4 awaiting the election. Assuming the situation allows these activities to go forwards in Q4 then there will not be an impact on the budget, nor much impact on timetable.

As per the change request accepted, the salary for the expat social research scientist at Dahari for this year has been used to support additional partner and consultant missions, and expat costs. It was agreed that this would lever both greater and more expertise in support of the local team following difficulties in recruiting the social research scientist.

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 Yes

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

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 R24 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 send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at 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**