

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

<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 (e.g. HYR3)</b>	HYR3
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="http://www.daharicomores.org/en">www.daharicomores.org/en</a> <a href="https://www.twitter.com/DahariComores">www.twitter.com/DahariComores</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/DahariComores">www.facebook.com/DahariComores</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).**

Drs Emilie Smith Dumont and Tim Pagella of Bangor University undertook a mission in July providing input into all areas of project implementation.

**Output 1 Watershed management:** The watershed management approach integrating much of the other outputs in key focal areas has continued to progress under the regular supervision of Dr Emilie Smith Dumont (ESD), who holds fortnightly Skype meetings with the implementation team to reflect and adapt the approach and the participatory tools rolled out in the pilot micro-catchments. Efforts are concentrating on supporting local farmer groups both institutionally and technically to improve the collective management of natural resources in upland hotspots. Dr Tim Pagella has focused on reviewing and supporting the participatory water source monitoring scheme and on the integration of this evidence in processes for fostering collective action. Reforestation work continues as planned with five community tree nurseries holding 4581 seedlings put in place this year.

On the forest mapping component, a partnership and contract was agreed with Dr Mathieu Decuyper of Wageningen University to produce high quality land use maps. A satellite image company was contracted to secure new images. However, they have so far been unable to procure cloud-free images to allow work to commence despite weekly pass-overs for the last two months. Despite this delay, it is expected that this mapping work will be completed by the end of the year.

**Output 2 Agroforestry:** ESD drove forwards much of the agroforestry component during the July mission. The decision support-tool for extension agents and a manual to drive agroforestry adoption have been produced based on the research and consultation undertaken. A workshop was held inviting key agroforestry actors on Anjouan to contribute to and validate the findings, with team trainings planned during ESD's next trip in November. The monitoring and evaluation baseline was implemented using RHOMIS methodology (see next output).

**Output 3 Climate-smart agriculture:** A two-day workshop was held in July to bring together all the evidence and reflections undertaken by Dahari's agricultural programme since the start of the project and devise a strategy for expanding the work during the remaining two years. The workshop was co-led by ESD and Sven Ten Napel, a consultant who previously managed

Dahari's agricultural work. This new scaling strategy served as the basis for a proposal targeting 8000 farmers over 2.5 years which was subsequently accepted for funding by the EU for 820,000 euros, starting in Q4. The new strategy, building on the farmers' group approach tested and implemented during Year 2 has already had a significant impact on the number of farmers reached, with 2200 engaged so far this year, 44% of whom are women. The monitoring and evaluation baseline was implemented with a sample of 285 farmers using RHOMIS methodology with the support of consultants from ILRI.

Output 4 Biodiversity conservation: The targeted five Livingstone's fruit bat roost sites are now under protection through the PES scheme, with discussions underway to put additional roost trees under protection. Discussions have been undertaken with Bat Conservation International to collaborate on expanding this work moving forwards, with an initial focus on expanding the area reforested around each roost site, and integrating agroforestry cash crops to part-finance the scheme. These have resulted in an agreement to partner on this initiative, with planning and fundraising underway to devise a strategy for expansion and improvement of the PES scheme. The biodiversity hotspot maps have been finalised and will be published in Q3 along with a number of other results of ecological work undertaken over the last three years funded by CEPF. Strategic planning on how to exploit these results to protect wider biodiversity hotspots and forest habitat was started during the missions of the Universities of Bangor and Oxford in July, and will be completed during Q3 and Q4.

Output 5 Advocacy and communications: Dahari held three meetings with the new General Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment, with ESD participating in the first, securing his commitment to co-host with ICRAF and IUCN the national advocacy workshop for the landscape approach in Q4. Regular meetings were held with other key actors at the Ministry and with the funders present in Moroni, to keep them informed of Dahari's progress, and to secure their participation in the workshop. A first key output is the upcoming signature of a partnership agreement with the IFAD-run agricultural programme to manage part of their intervention on Anjouan. A similar agreement is under discussion with the UNEP watershed management programme. Meetings have been held and solicited with various UNDP representatives linked to the Protected Areas Programme, and Dahari took part in a planning workshop on Anjouan for Phase 2. However, there remains a lack of clarity over program boundaries and responsibilities and how collaboration will move forwards. Discussions are ongoing with the Ministry and other actors about how the Darwin programme can be better integrated with the Protected Areas initiative. Regular communication events and media outputs have been delivered to increase project visibility.

**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.**

The difficulties over procuring satellite images of the Comoros that are cloud-free has put back the GIS mapping as described above. However, it is expected that the work will still be completed by the end of the year.

Cyclone Kenneth in April of this year had a major impact on agricultural fields. Dahari developed in partnership with the Red Cross a substantial crisis response to relaunch agricultural production that reached over 1800 of the hardest hit and most vulnerable families. This was the most credible post-cyclone intervention of its kind in the Comoros and has had knock-on positive effects to image and requests for support from villagers.

The flexible use of the social researcher expat salary has continued to benefit the project, in this first six months of year 3 supporting an agricultural consultant and further engagement from ESD.

**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?**

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 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**