



## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018)

<b>Project reference</b>	25-013
<b>Project title</b>	NTFP micro-enterprises for competitive forests and livelihoods in Ethiopia
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Lead organisation</b>	University of Huddersfield
<b>Partner(s)</b>	EWNRA, EBI, Nati Spices, Ecopia, Apinec
<b>Project leader</b>	Professor Adrian Wood
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="https://research.hud.ac.uk/institutes-centres/surge/src/">https://research.hud.ac.uk/institutes-centres/surge/src/</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).

The project started in July 2018. This report covers the period July-September 2018.

#### Key achievements:

- In July 2018 two NTFP- facilitators were recruited and assigned to district level to run the day to day project activities, following inductions with the wider team.
- In July, preliminary discussions were held between the Mizan Team Leader, Huddersfield Research Projects Manager and Managers of Apinec (honey partner) and Nati Spices (spice partner) in Addis Ababa. In August the MD of Apinec undertook an assessment of the project target districts, meeting the team and communities and assessing existing potential and training requirements. A visit by Nati Spices was scheduled for early September but delayed because of insecurity in two of the four project areas\*. This has been rescheduled and is likely to take place in November.
- Meetings with Ecopia, the forest fruits and jam processing partner, have been arranged for October with a tentative plan for them to visit in November 2018.
- In keeping with Ethiopian law the project proposal was submitted to the regional offices of various government departments for approval.
- The project launch had to be pushed back from the first quarter to the beginning of the second quarter awaiting signature of the project document by government. The project launch will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2018 with local government and communities present.
- The NTFP field level facilitators have been working with the seven community-based Cooperatives and associated Forest Management Groups. They focused on assessing the gaps, challenges and opportunities of all these Community Based Organizations as well as their capacity to trade in various NTFPs.
- Information has been collected by the NTFP Facilitators on the forest and backyard fruits and spices in three of the four target woredas (districts).
- Discussions are underway with the Ethiopian consultant developing the community-level biodiversity monitoring. It is planned that he will undertake a visit and series of focus group discussions in November 2018.



Photos: Discussions with Kontirbirhan, Amoragedel and Mejenger Cooperative members

\*There have been security issues in two of the four target districts which have created delays in start-up but progress is being made and the situation should soon allow the return of staff to field duties. The security situation is not related to the project but to changes at government level and to frustrations between communities and government officials from different ethnic groups.

**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.**

- Security problems in the target areas have caused some delays but conditions are improving. The project team will work to make up the delays created in the first quarter. Any further delays will be reported to LTSI.
- Signing of the project document took longer than anticipated and led to a slight delay in the official launch of the project but this is now scheduled for mid-October 2018. No significant impact foreseen.
- One of the partner organisations was changed with prior approval from LTSI. No significant impact foreseen.
- Vehicle purchase was not possible within the budget. A long term rental arrangement was therefore reached with prior approval from LTSI. No significant impact foreseen.

**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 other issues.

**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](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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**