



## Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020)

<b>Project reference</b>	<b>25-014</b>
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Landscapes and Livelihoods: Participatory Restoration of the Mt Bamboutos Ecosystem</b>
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	<b>Cameroon</b>
<b>Lead organisation</b>	<b>International Tree Foundation (ITF)</b>
<b>Partner(s)</b>	<b>Environment and Rural Development Foundation (ERuDeF); University of Buea</b>
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Ricardo Romero</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	<i>HYR3</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://internationaltreefoundation.org/mount-bamboutos-initiative/">https://internationaltreefoundation.org/mount-bamboutos-initiative/</a>  <a href="https://erudef.org/itf-erudef-partner-to-restore-35000ha-degraded-mt-bamboutos-in-15-years/">https://erudef.org/itf-erudef-partner-to-restore-35000ha-degraded-mt-bamboutos-in-15-years/</a>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).**

The following activities were carried out under each output during this reporting period:

**Output 1: Farming systems diversity, soil fertility and sustainable productivity for at least 1,330 households (50% women participants) in 9 villages and the pastoralist community increased over baselines through capacity building and agroforestry establishment by 2021 (200,000 agroforestry trees planted on farms by 2021)**

**Activity 1.3** Training of 1,500 farmers (50% women) to establish agroforestry tree nurseries, pegging, grafting, marcotting, composting, harvesting and tree treatment.

- During this reporting period, 180 new farmers (83 women) in Buchi, Bafou, Bangang and Babadjou villages gained knowledge and skills on how to establish agroforestry tree nurseries, pegging, grafting, marcotting, composting, harvesting and tree treatment. Some of these farmers are already having small household agroforestry nurseries and some are practicing grafting of avocado.

**Activity 1.4** Purchasing of agroforestry seeds

- This this reporting period, the following agroforestry tree species seeds were purchased and sown in MBI central nurseries, community managed nurseries and individual (household) nurseries.

No	Species	Qties sourced (kg)	No of seeds per kg	Total number of seeds	Bafou	Bangang	Babadjou	Menka	Buchi	Pinyin
1	<i>Fish-poison bean (Tephrosia vogelli)</i>	30	14000	<b>420000</b>	70000	70000	70000	70000	70000	70000
2	<i>Sesban (Sesbania sesban)</i>	3.5	18000	<b>63000</b>	9000	9000	9000	9000	18000	9000
3	<i>Pigeon pea (Cajanus cajan)</i>	10	7000	<b>70000</b>	10500	14000	24500	7000	7000	7000
4	<i>Avocado (Persea americana)</i>	864	18	<b>15552</b>	4500	3294	3200	2506	2052	0
5	<i>Leucaena (Leucaena leucocephala)</i>	31	16500	<b>511500</b>	132000	66000	66000	82500	82500	82500
<b>Total</b>		938.5		1080052	226000	162294	172700	171006	179552	168500

**Activity 1.6** Establishment and training of a local structure for extension and participatory monitoring and evaluation (PME)

- During this reporting period, the village forest management committee (VFMC) in Pinyin was restructured to continue carrying out extension and participatory monitoring and evaluation activities and maintain stewardship and sustainability of the project. The VFMC was restructured because some of her members were inactive while others had left the village due to persistent insecurity.

The capacity of 72 members of 6 VFMCs in Bafou, Bangang, Babadjou, Menka, Buchi and Pinyin, were strengthened on participatory monitoring and evaluation (**PM&E**) and on extension works. They gained knowledge and skills on how to plan for PM&E, methodology for PM&E, developing PM&E framework and how to collect and report data on survival counts of trees. Concerning extension, they were educated on the approaches to carry out community- and farmer-led extensions activities that would improve on the achievement of the targets and sustainability of the project.

**Activity 1.7** Participatory monitoring of uptake of agroforestry and sustainable diversified farming system in the 6 villages

- During this reporting period, participatory monitoring of uptake of agroforestry and sustainable diversified farming systems were carried in Bafou, Bangang, Babadjou, Menka, Buchi and Pinyin. Based on the on-farm field survey, a total of **480 farmers (40.24 % women)** have adopted agroforestry and sustainable diversified farming systems in their farms. The agroforestry and sustainable diversified farming systems observed in the farms included live fencing, alley cropping and intercropping. The tree species mostly used for live fencing included leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*), *Acacia sp.* and fish-poison bean (*Tephrosia vogelli*). The tree species used for alley cropping included sesban (*Sesbania sesban*), pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*) and leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*). The tree species mostly used for intercropping included avocado (*Persea americana*), plum (*Dacryodes edulis*), Raphia palm (*Raffia vinifera*), pygium (*Prunus africana*), Kola (*Cola accuminata*), and black fruit tree (*Canarium schweinfurthii*).

**Activity 1.8** Participatory establishment and monitoring of crop yield plots in the 6 villages

- During this reporting period, 245 crop yield plots were established in a participatory manner in Bafou, Bangang, Babadjou (MBI W) and Menka, Buchi and Pinyin (MBI NW), in addition to 234 crop yield plots established in farmers' fields. They were established in diverse types of tree species in farmers' fields including soil enrichment plants, medicinal plants, economic trees and fodder species. The soil enrichment tree species planted in the farmers' fields included leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*), acacia (*Acacia albida*), fish-poison bean (*Tephrosia vogelli*), sesban (*Sesbania sesban*), and pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*). The medicinal tree species included pygium (*Prunus africana*) and voacanga (*Voacanga bracteata*). The economic tree species included avocado (*Persea americana*), plum (*Dacryodes edulis*), Raphia palm (*Raffia vinifera*), pygium (*Prunus africana*), Kola (*Cola accuminata*), and black fruit tree (*Canarium schweinfurthii*).

**Activity 1.11** Support farming groups with tools and equipment for the planting of at least 200,000 agroforestry trees

- During this reporting period, 150 new farmers benefited from a tree planting tool in order to facilitate trees planting on farm. These included 144 dibble bars and 6 cutlasses.
- The tools were distributed to farmers in 6 villages as follows:
  - 2 dibble bars and 3 cutlasses were given to 5 pastoralist farmers in Bangang.
  - 2 dibble bars and 3 cutlasses were given to 5 pastoralist farmers in Balepo Babadjou.
  - 8 dibble bars were given 8 farmers in Balepo-Babadjou.
  - 9 dibble bars were given 9 farmers in Bamelo-Babadjou.
  - 9 dibble bars were given 9 farmers in Bawa-Babadjou.
  - 45 dibble bars were given to 45 farmers in Bafou.
  - 6 dibble bars were given to 6 farmers in Balekeu-Bangang.
  - 5 dibble bars were given to 5 farmers in Mekoup-Bangang.
  - 18 dibble bars were given to 18 farmers in Tsopeua-Bangang.
  - 20 dibble bars were given to 20 farmers in Buchi.
  - 10 dibble bars were given to 10 farmers in Menka
  - 10 dibble bars were given to 10 farmers in Pinyin.

**Activity 1.12** Planting of 200,000 agroforestry trees on farmers' fields

- During this reporting period, **a total of 89,875 agroforestry trees planted by a total of 480 farmers (40.24 % women)** in Bafou, Bangang, Babadjou and the pastoralist community. These included avocado (*Persea Americana*), leucaena (*Leucaena leucocephala*), pygium (*Prunus Africana*), plum (*Dacryodes edulis*), voacanga (*Voacanga bracteata*), pigeon pea (*Cajanus cajan*), fish-poison bean (*Tephrosia vogelli*), sesban (*Sesbania sesban*), pink cedar (*Acrocarpus fraxinifolius*) and acacia (*Acacia albida*). An average spacing of 8.43 meters was used giving approximately 638.6 hectares of degraded farm lands restored. The trees are planted within existing crop cultivation fields, using different agroforestry techniques acquired, with the aims of soil restoration and diversification of income.

**Output 2: Improved farming systems productivity and agroforestry incorporating fruit and NTFP trees enables at least 1,330 households (70% women participants) to take steps towards increased incomes and employment.**

**Activity 2.3** 1,500 farmers (70% women) are trained on NTFPs and fruit tree cultivation in the 6 villages

- During this reporting period, a total of 264 new farmers (46.25 % women) in the 6 villages in Year 3 of the project, and a cumulative total of 512 farmers (42.11 % women) trained on NTFPs and fruit tree cultivation from Year 1 to Year 3 of the project. Participants from Bafou, Bangang, Babadjou Buchi, Menka, and Pinyin gained knowledge and skills on how to cultivate fruit trees and non-timber forest products (NTFPs). Particular attention was paid to fruit trees such as avocado (*Persea Americana*) and plum (*Dacryodes edulis*), and NTFPs such as black fruit tree (*Canarium schweinfurthii*) and raffia palm (*Raphia vinifera*).

**Activity 2.4** Training of 1500 farmers on value addition opportunities in the 6 villages

- During this reporting period, 288 new farmers (41.54 % women) drawn from Bangang, Babadjou, Buchi and Menka gained knowledge and skills on how to add value to their priority products such as avocado (*Persea americana*), palm wine from raffia palm (*Raphia vinifera*), bark of pygium (*Prunus africana*) and plum (*Dacryodes edulis*). They gained knowledge and skills on how to enhance the value of a product by changing the physical state or form of the product (such as producing oils from avocado, plum and black fruit; milling the bark of pygium tree into powder form for medicinal purposes etc.).
- This adds to the 440 farmers (40.68 % women) trained in Year 2, giving a total of 728 farmers (41.11 % women) trained on value addition opportunities in the 6 villages in Year 2 and 3 of the project.

**Activity 2.6** Participatory monitoring of uptake of NTFPs and fruit tree cultivation in the 6 villages

- During this reporting period, participatory monitoring of uptake of NTFPs and fruit tree cultivation was carried in Bafou, Menka, Buchi and Pinyin. Based on the field survey, a total of 480 farmers (40.24 % women) have adopted NTFPs and fruit tree cultivation in their farms this year. The NTFPs and fruit trees planted in the farmers' fields included avocado (*Persea americana*), plum (*Dacryodes edulis*), Raffia palm (*Raffia vinifera*), pygium (*Prunus africana*), Kola (*Cola accuminata*), and black fruit tree (*Canarium schweinfurthii*).
- It was also noted that NTFPs and fruit trees were already being cultivated by few farmers in the project area. The number of farmers cultivating NTFPs and fruit trees has increased thanks to the project. Apart from NTFPs and fruit trees promoted by the project, some farmers have some citrus fruit and guava trees (*Psidium guayava*) growing in their farms.

**Expected Outcome 3: Community-led planting and regeneration of 300,000 native trees in degraded areas of Community, Riverine and Sacred Forests, and increased tree cover in farmland (200,000 agroforestry trees) launch the restoration of 3,000 ha of forests and biodiversity habitat in the degraded Mt. Bamboutos ecosystem by 2021**

**Activity 3.1** Purchase of material/equipment for the construction and management of 7 central nurseries and the Lebialem forestry center (shading nets, binding wires, wheelbarrows, trowels, iron rods, polythene bags etc)

- During this reporting period, pinning poles, polythene bags, local shading materials were purchased for the rehabilitation and management of 4 MBI central nurseries in 4 villages (Bafou, Bangang, Babadjou and Buchi).

**Activity 3.3** Purchasing of other tree species

The following tree seeds were purchased and sown in 6 central nurseries, and community managed nurseries.

Tree species	Number of seeds	Bafou	Bangang	Babadjou	Menka	Buchi	Pinyin	Mbororo community in Bangang	Mbororo community in Babadjou
Mahogany ( <i>Entandrophragma angolensis</i> )	3600 (3 kg)	0	0	0	2200	1400	0	0	0
Rafia ( <i>Raphia vinifera</i> ) wildlings	6020 (172 kg)	2000	1020	2000	0	0	0	1000	0

West African cordia ( <i>Cordia platythyrsa</i> )	9300 (31 kg)	3000	1800	0	2200	2300	0	0	0
Plum ( <i>Dacryodes edulis</i> )	2750 (55 kg)	0	0	0	1500	1250	0	0	0
Pygium ( <i>Prunus africana</i> )	149000 (67 kg)	1500 0	15000	15000	18000	18000	18000	25000	25000

**Activity 3.4** Support nursery management operations (weeding, watering, spraying, thinning etc) for the 7 nurseries to be established

- Six nursery attendants (tree planting technicians) in Mezet-Bafou, Mekoup-Bangang, Balepo - Babadjou, Pinyin, Menka and Buchi villages were supported financially to cater for/manage the 6 tree central nurseries established, by weeding, watering, filling polythene bags, potting and sowing seeds in the nurseries.

Thanks to these operations, about 150000 tree species were raised in the 6 MBI central nurseries in West and Northwest regions. Tree species raised, include: Pygium (*Prunus africana*), West African cordia (*Cordia platythyrsa*) Rafia palm (*Raphia vinifera*), Mahogany (*Entandrophragma angolensis*), broad-leaves croton (*Croton macrostachyus*), umbrella tree (*Maesopsis eminii*), parasol tree (*Polyscias fulva*), black fruit tree (*Canarium schweinfurthii*), Voacanga bracteata avocado (*Persea Americana*) and plum (*Dacryodes edulis*).

**Activity 3.6** Establishment and capacity building for the forest management institutions for the community forest to be restored

- During this reporting period, 72 members of 6 VFMCs from Bafou, Bangang, Babadjou, Buchi, Menka and Pinyin gained knowledge and skills on how to restore degraded community forest land and how to care/manage trees planted in community forest land.
- They received practical knowledge and skills on: setting management objectives, forest monitoring techniques, fire control, pest and disease control, protection from livestock and bad agricultural practices.

**Activity 3.7** Planting of 300,000 trees in priority degraded sites in community and riverine forest

- During this reporting period, 120382 forest trees were planted in water catchments, riparian forests, sacred forests and community forests in order to restore 3000 hectares of degraded forest lands. An average spacing of 8.43 meter was used, leading to 855.5 hectares of forest land restored.
- The tree species that were planted included Pygium (*Prunus africana*), West African cordia (*Cordia platythyrsa*) Rafia palm (*Raphia vinifera*), Mahogany (*Entandrophragma angolensis*), broad-leaves croton (*Croton macrostachyus*), umbrella tree (*Maesopsis eminii*), parasol tree (*Polyscias fulva*), black fruit tree (*Canarium schweinfurthii*) and Voacanga bracteata.
- The trees planting process was carried out by members of the village forest management committees, community members, pastoralists and the project team.

**Activity 3.8** Support village forest management institutions with tools and equipment for the planting of at least 450,000 native trees.

- During this reporting period, 60 pairs of rain coats and 60 pairs of rain boots of different sizes were purchased and distributed to 60 members of six different VFMCs as personal protection equipment (PPE) used during tree planting.

**Personal protection equipment issued to VFMC members in the MBI NW and W villages**

Villages	Number of rain boots issued to VFMC	Number of rain coats issued to VFMC	Number of VFMC members
MBI West			
Bafou	11 pairs of rain boots	11 pairs of rain coats	11 members

Bangang	10 pairs of rain boots	10 pairs of rain coats	10 members
Babadjou	11 pairs of rain boots	11 pairs of rain coats	11 members
<b>MBI NW</b>			
Menka	10 pairs of rain boots	10 pairs of rain coats	10 members
Buchi	10 pairs of rain boots	10 pairs of rain coats	10 members
Pinyin	8 pairs of rain boots	8 pairs of rain coats	8 members
<b>Total</b>	<b>60 pairs of rain boots</b>	<b>60 pairs of rain coats</b>	<b>60 members</b>

**NB/ THE PPE WERE DISTRIBUTED ONLY TO MEMBERS RESIDENT IN THE VILLAGES AND ARE DIRECTLY ENGAGED IN TREE PLANTING. FONS AND EXTERNAL ACTORS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE VFMCS WERE NOT CONSIDERED.**

**Activity 3.10** Train forest management institutions to Monitoring and carry out survival counts of seedlings planted in community and the riverine forest in the project site.

- During this reporting period, 48 members of 5 village forest management institutions from Bafou, Bangang, Babadjou, Buchi and Menka gained skills and knowledge on participatory monitoring and survival count of trees planted.
- They received practical skills and knowledge on: how to plan for monitoring, preparation of data collection sheet, understanding of the M&E framework and conduction sample count in a restored area.

**NB/ This activity was repeated this year in order to recommit and re-engage the members of the VFMCS in to their PM&E function.**

**EXPECTED OUTCOME 4: FRAMEWORK, COALITION, CONSENSUS AND CONDITIONS ESTABLISHED FOR LAND USE PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MT BAMBOUTOS ECOSYSTEM, SUPPORTED BY SHARED OUTPUTS FROM RESEARCH AND ONGOING M&E**

**ACTIVITY 4.6** SIX CONSULTATION MEETINGS WITH DIFFERENT STAKEHOLDERS IN 6 VILLAGES TO IDENTIFY KEY INSTITUTIONAL BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATORY LAND USE PLANNING (PLUP) AND HOW TO ADDRESS THEM

- During this reporting period, consultation meetings were held with different stakeholders to present progress, identify and re-visit the key institutional barriers to PLUP and how to address them. The stakeholders consulted included traditional authorities, municipal councils, CSOs, Mbororo community, development associations, farmers, youths and women.
- Constraints to PLUP were identified and categorised into governance, economic, financial, technology, knowledge, social, and behavioral constraints.

**ACTIVITY 5.2** CAPITALISATION OF THE PROJECT (PUBLICATIONS, NEWSPAPERS, DOCUMENTARY, SHORT FILMS, BILL BOARDS, WEBSITES, RADIO PROGRAMS, NEWSLETTERS, ETC.)

- MBI BROCHURES CONTAINING THE GOALS, OBJECTIVES, ACTIVITIES, EXPECTED OUTCOMES/IMPACT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY OF THE PROJECT WERE PRODUCED AND DISTRIBUTED TO STAKEHOLDERS. THIS WAS DONE IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT AND ALSO TO INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN THE PROJECT.
- A NEWS ARTICLE ON THE 2020 TREE PLANTING WAS PUBLISHED IN THE ERUDEF'S ONLINE GREEN VISION NEWSPAPER FOR VISIBILITY. TITLE: DISCOVER HOW LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE DETERMINED TO RESTORE THE MOUNT BAMBOUTOS ECOSYSTEM THROUGH TREE PLANTING. LINK: [HTTPS://WWW.GREENVISION.NEWS](https://www.greenvision.news)

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

**ENABLING FACTORS**

- COMMUNITY MEMBERS HAVE UNDERSTOOD THE NEED TO RESTORE RIPARIAN FORESTS
- THERE IS INCREASED INTEREST AND WILLINGNESS BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BE ENGAGED IN DIVERSIFIED FARMING SYSTEMS. THIS WILL FACILITATE THE RESTORATION OF DEGRADED FARM LANDS.
- PRESENCE OF LOCAL INSTITUTIONS FOR GOVERNANCE AND EXTENSION CAN ENABLE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROJECT OUTCOME.
- SUPPORT BY THE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO ARE SENSITIZING THE POPULATION ON THE RESPECT OF STATE LAWS GOVERNING LAND, FOREST AND ENVIRONMENT SECTORS.

**FACTORS THAT CAN PREVENT PROGRESS**

- LACK OF LEGAL PROTECTION OF DESIGNATED COMMUNITY FOREST LAND MIGHT PREVENT PROGRESS IN TREE PLANTING IN SUCH AREAS. THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT, UNPROTECTED COMMUNITY LANDS MIGHT BE SUBJECT TO LAND GRABBING IN THE FUTURE.
- Non-respect of the Cameroon forestry law on protection of riparian forests by community members can prevent the achievement of the restoration goals of these areas.
- On-going Anglophone crisis, if it intensifies or further escalates can severely restrict field activities in project villages in the NW region of Cameroon.

**2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

During the pandemic, the Government of Cameroon imposed a nationwide completed shutdown of schools at all levels, only takeaway for bars and restaurants up to 6:00pm, restricted gatherings of not more than 50 persons for churches and social events/ceremonies, fewer than 4 persons in taxis, compulsory wearing of face masks in public places, compulsory hand washing and sanitizing in all public and private offices, restricted number of not more than 2 staff members in an office at the same time, etc. The restrictions have been easing and even schools were reopened on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2020.

During the reported period work in offices and field were not fully restricted and so continued. Presently, the government has lifted all the lockdown measures, but compulsory wearing of mask, hand washing and sanitizing is maintained in all public places.

There has not been any confirmed case of COVID with staff neither with ITF or Cameroon implementing partners.

The implementing partners have taken the next measures to keep the project going during the pandemic:

- Respect of physical distance of a minimum of 1m apart from each other.
- During meetings or trainings, not more than 50 persons are allowed to take part in each session, while respecting the minimum physical distance of 1m apart.
- Make-shift buckets of water, soap and sanitizers are used to disinfect the hands in all public places, from offices to shops.
- The community members are continuously sensitized on the preventive measures of the diseases, signs/symptoms of the diseases and measures to take if related symptoms persist.

Due to the travel restrictions ITF staff postponed their M&E travel to January 2021, but the budget and delivery schedule won't be affected.

**2c. 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/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**



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

**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.**

**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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**