



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

<b>Project reference</b>	4196
<b>Project title</b>	Enabling sustainable, profitable and equitable community-based forest management in Tanzania
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Tanzania
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
<b>Partner(s)</b>	
<b>Project leader</b>	Antje Ahrends
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<i>See communication in box 1 below</i>

**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).**

Progress over the last four months has been good. We have signed partnership agreements with all six partner organisations, obtained research permission, hired relevant staff and achieved all key milestones. Both the village and forest surveys are currently ahead of schedule. Specifically:

**Village surveys:** We have finalised the selection of villages to be surveyed through a matching exercise whereby pairs of villages/sites were identified that are similar in major socio-demographic and environmental characteristics but differ in governance (CBFM versus non-CBFM). The village survey team completed initial introductions with Village Councils, forest governance focus group discussions, and wealth ranking in all villages. The wealth ranking will form the basis for the selection of households for the interviews. The planned start of interviews is November. (The ambition is to complete interviews by end of December - before the planting season.)

The saw mill is operational in several villages, allowing us to assess whether the production of sawn wood (as opposed to round wood) positively influences village level benefits derived from CBFM.

**Forest surveys:** So far, a total of 11 sites have been surveyed (five under CBFM and six on general land). At each of these sites data has been collected along three transects of c. 1 km length, covering a total area of c. 33 ha. The surveys follow an established protocol whereby all trees and stumps > 5 cm diameter at reference height are (1) measured, (2) identified to species, and (3) classed as either standing, naturally dead or cut. So far we have recorded and measured over 15,000 trees and we expect to complete the surveys of all 21 sites before Christmas. Progress has also been made with trialling the use of remotely sensed radar data for inferring forest degradation from space. This was done as part of an MSc project. The methodology is looking promising so far (and the MSc project was completed with a distinction).

**Governance/financial management and equity/gender training for 450 local leaders:** These activities are scheduled to start in November 2018 and preparations are in progress.

**Policy engagement:** We are planning a ministerial visit to the project site in Y1. Preparations had been made to receive a ministerial delegation in August 2018 (coinciding with the launch of the project) but for reasons beyond our control the visit had to be postponed.

We have liaised with a Government task force that is currently reviewing whether sites under community management should be transferred back to government management (see unexpected developments).

**Communication:** The start of the project was announced in Tweets and a news article. While the project does not yet have its own website it is highlighted on the RBGE site. A dedicated website will follow once we have obtained first results.

Tweets:

<https://twitter.com/AntjeAhrends/status/1034043437673267201>

<https://twitter.com/nicolegrosscamp/status/1049441641352835073>

Article: <https://sites.alleggheny.edu/news/2018/10/05/alleggheny-professor-receives-grant-to-help-with-sustainable-community-based-forestry-project-in-africa/>

Website: <https://www.rbge.org.uk/science-and-conservation/genetics-and-conservation/global-environmental-change/forest-conservation-in-tanzania/>

**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 Tanzanian Government recently called a task force to review whether sites under community management should be transferred back to government management. Given Tanzania's long standing history of decentralising natural resources management and legally guaranteeing community rights and ownership, this is a sudden change in direction. (The expansion of community based forest management is highlighted as a key national objective in policy documents, including Tanzania's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and Tanzania's new National Forest Policy.) The justification for this sudden development is a perception that Tanzania's continued forest loss is primarily caused by communities overharvesting their forest reserves. This (contentious) view partly arise as a consequence of a lack of rigorous evidence on the impact of CBFM on forest management/quality. Our project is consequently highly relevant to this policy process.

This development impacts on our project in two ways: (1) We had originally planned to compare forest quality on general land versus community owned land. However, it is now also policy relevant to compare community owned forests with those owned by government. We consequently requested permission for a small change in our survey design. (2) Should the government withdraw support for CBFM we will need to adapt the project to the new situation (e.g. greater emphasis on awareness raising at the national decision maker level on the drivers of forest loss, and looking at solutions for local communities should the transition indeed occur). More details on this are provided under 'Outcome assumptions' in the logframe.

**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
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Formal change request submitted:	Yes
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Received confirmation of change acceptance	No
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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.

**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. 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**