



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2022)

Project reference	29-027
Project title	Developing 'Lion Friendly Livestock' to reduce poverty and incentivise conservation
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Kenya
Lead organisation	Loisaba Community Trust
Partner(s)	Lion Landscapes, Borana Conservancy
Project leader	Tom Silvester
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31th Oct 2022 HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	<i>There is not yet any specific project social media but all three project partners have websites and related social media: www.lionlandscapes.org, www.loisaba.com, www.boranaconservancy.com</i>

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).

1.1 Development and registration of Lion Friendly certification criteria.

This activity was scheduled to be started in this reporting period and is on schedule to be completed by the end of year 1 as planned. Lion Landscapes (LL) is in the process of co-developing a 'Lion Friendly Livestock' (LFL) certification, working with pastoral communities to co-determine 'conservation-friendly' livestock farming activities and incentivise their uptake through increased livestock value. Women's cooperatives will be key partners, improving equity in a traditionally-male enterprise. These economic incentives are aimed at strengthening local livelihoods and enable communities to more sustainably manage their rangeland for people, livestock and biodiversity.

Certification criteria have been designed and are in the process of being reviewed. Once agreed, Lion Friendly certification will be endorsed by the Wildlife Friendly Network and reputable conservation organisations, and finally registered with the Kenyan Bureau of Standards. Certification criteria include ecologically appropriate stocking rates, herd management, biodiversity objectives, and appropriate responses to wildlife conflicts that minimise losses of lions and other wildlife.

Lion Friendly certification can also be used in other landscapes that meet the criteria, and where there is the capacity to monitor and verify livestock production activities.

1.2 Certification of commercially run wildlife conservancies and their community grazing schemes.

Certification of commercially run wildlife conservancies and their community grazing schemes is due to start during the next reporting period. We are on target to certify at least two properties by the end of project year 1.

1.3 Ongoing monitoring and verification that Lion Friendly standards are being met for all certified wildlife conservancies and their community grazing schemes.

This activity was not scheduled for this reporting period. Once certification is complete, Lion Landscapes will help certified properties to set up monitoring systems that provide ongoing data that allows verification of their Lion Friendly status, and measures the conservation and economic impacts of the LFL programme. This monitoring and verification of standards will therefore begin in the next reporting period and should reach targets for year 1.

1.3 Development and verification of Conservation Agreements with participants in Lion Friendly certified community grazing schemes.

This activity was not scheduled for this reporting period - the development of 2 community agreements was scheduled for the last quarter of Yr 1 - however, a modification to this activity will be requested via a change request. In our proposal we outlined how we would enable and incentivise more sustainable management practices on traditional pastoral rangelands through Conservation Agreements linking rangeland and biodiversity conservation action by community members to meaningful benefits from Lion Friendly Livestock fattening and sales. In this way, benefits from access to well managed commercial rangelands would actively incentivise a change towards sustainable practices on community land. However, since the start of this project, the study area has been in the grips of a major drought, resulting in many livestock dying, and those that survive being in bad condition. Even in the commercial conservancies, the extreme drought conditions have resulted in a considerable lack of grazing and loss of livestock condition or life. This is a natural tragedy, leading to a great deal of human suffering (see section 2.a. below). All targets linked to increased profits from fattening livestock will therefore suffer a serious and unavoidable delay, and are unlikely to reach meaningful levels within the life of the project (see change request sent in a separate email, suggesting alternative metrics of success for project activities).

The drought is demonstrating that activities incentivising behaviour changes that lead to more sustainable rangeland management is even more important than ever. In the absence of financial benefits generated from the fattening and sale of Lion Friendly livestock, co-funding has allowed us to begin the process of developing Community Agreements that link the presence of wildlife to much needed community benefits, supported by philanthropic funds. This is allowing the development of strong and valued benefit sharing mechanisms within local communities that incentivise positive change, even before LFL is in a position to generate financial benefits, and helps to reduce the short-term suffering. These agreements will be extended to allow further benefits to be received if communities follow agreed rangeland regeneration practices once rainfall allows.

Developing Community Agreements is always a slow process but this is even more the case now, as many members of the community are absent, searching for grazing for their livestock in other areas. Nonetheless, one Community Agreement has been signed during this reporting period, and 2 more are planned to be signed by the end of the first 12 months of this project. If our change request is granted, and this modified activity is successful then we will have exceeded our year end target. Once LFL financial benefits are ready to be distributed, then the mechanism to do so will be in place but in the meantime, desperate communities are seeing some benefits from biodiversity conservation in their area.

1.4 Development of partnerships with women's groups in order to include livestock owned by women in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme.

This activity started on schedule and project partners have already identified 7 women's groups in the initial LFL area that we can work with. We have held initial engagement meetings with 6 of those groups. The drought conditions have highlighted the lack of power women have in their communities when it comes to decisions over livestock sales. While there are some individual women livestock owners in the community grazing schemes, very few have true decision making power. For example, most men have moved away from their communities in search of grazing for their cattle during the drought. Meanwhile, women have been left behind with sheep and goats but don't seem to be empowered to either sell, or slaughter them for food. Infact, women are so disempowered when it comes to the sale of livestock that without

the men at home, they are commonly suffering diseases associated with malnutrition (as identified by Loisaba mobile clinics) rather than eating the sheep and goats entrusted to them.

At the project start, project partners were aware that cultural norms meant women were not empowered to own cattle, and were not allowed to own small stock in large numbers. However, one community had entrusted women to run small numbers of shoats within the land allocated to them, and other similar discussions with women's groups indicated that women might be given wider powers over sheep and goats when it was seen to benefit their whole family. However, this has also been derailed by the prolonged drought. As cattle die, goats and sheep become more important to a household, and perceived as more important for men to maintain control over, revealing the true fragility of women's power over livestock sales.

As this drought is occurring at the very start of this project, project partners have the opportunity to reassess how women can be best included in any benefits from the Lion Friendly Livestock programme. Including meaningful numbers of women as small stock owners, with decision making powers in the livestock trade, is going to take longer than first thought - possibly beyond the life of this project with the current drought situation - but women can be engaged and benefit in other ways.

In the short term, some project partners have since started handing out food parcels, approximately 750 food parcels per month to the families left in the communities, to try and reduce starvation particularly among women and children. In the longer term, this project will focus on ensuring that women equitably benefit from any additional profits arising from future LFL sales, and from knowledge sharing on sustainable rangeland management and alternative financial management awareness training (see below).

2.1 Development of a Lion Friendly Livestock marketing and communication plan and materials.

This activity is scheduled for the next reporting period. Development of a Lion Friendly Livestock Marketing and Communication Plan will commence as soon as the final criteria are agreed, and the first conservancies are certified. The drought has negatively impacted livestock production but work to make Lion Friendly branding familiar and understood by meat packing companies and the general public will start as soon as possible, to ensure the best chance of brand recognition once quality livestock production at scale resumes.

2.2 Development of agreements with meat packers and butchers, to directly supply Lion Friendly certified livestock.

This activity was not scheduled for this reporting period. The development of a Marketing and Communications Plan (see above), and resulting brand recognition, will help to build direct relationships with bigger, more reputable meat packers and butcheries. It needs to be noted however, that the development of a consolidated, equitable supply chain of Lion Friendly Livestock is affected by the drought, and the anticipated increase of average sales weight of community owned livestock taking part in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme will not be realised as envisaged until climatic conditions improve.

2.3 Quarterly analysis of local livestock market trends and assessment against data from Lion Friendly Livestock records.

This activity was officially scheduled to begin once properties become certified as Lion Friendly i.e. during the last quarter of year 1. However, ongoing data is being collected at local livestock markets in the region to provide baseline data on livestock sales prices. Note, livestock is not sold by weight at local markets, but the prices fetched per head for different livestock categories will still be helpful as a comparison to livestock sold through the Lion Friendly certified grazing schemes. Livestock enterprises who are likely to become Lion Friendly certified during the next reporting period, all maintain detailed livestock grazing, management and sales records, allowing us to verify the impacts (whether positive or negative) of project activities on livestock weights and sales prices, and the finances going back to livestock owners. Note, We do not expect any increases in the number of community livestock sold through Lion Friendly certified grazing programmes, or weight gain of that livestock, to happen in this period or the next reporting period because there is minimal grass on the conservancies.

In a normal year, grazing schemes on the conservancies would lead to significant weight gain for community livestock but currently the difference in weight gain will not be clear.

2.4 Expansion of the Lion Extension Officer programme.

This activity was scheduled to start during this reporting period. The Lion Extension Officer programme is relatively new and will provide a key mechanism through which most information sharing and awareness building between project partners and the local communities will be achieved. The LEO role was co-developed by project partners and local traditional leadership, through meetings with the local chief, sub-chief and nyumba kumi (traditional leadership structures). Within this project, LEOs will be tasked with sharing know-how on two key aspects of making pastoral livelihoods more sustainable 1) protecting livestock from predation through predator proof livestock husbandry practices, and 2) protecting rangelands from degradation through simple rangeland regeneration practices. Information is shared between LEOs and project partners through extensive training and refresher training, and between LEOs and their communities through household visits, community meetings, and through holding DVD nights in their communities, whereby films and presentations are shown providing engaging information followed by discussions on these key subjects.

The first 3 Lion Extension Officers (LEOs) were employed within the Lion Friendly Livestock project area prior to this project start, one of which is a woman. These LEOs also received full training on large carnivore behavioural ecology, preventing and responding to livestock predation and resultant wildlife poisoning in their communities, and predator proof livestock husbandry practices prior to project start. Three more LEOs will be employed in Lion Friendly Livestock areas during the next reporting period bringing the total number to 6. By being easily available and maintaining a continuous dialogue with their communities over these important subjects, LEOs will form a key link between the latest scientific advances and traditional practices.

2.5 Household visits by Lion Extension Officers to discuss predator-proof livestock husbandry practices, and collect conflict data in communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme.

This Activity has also started. The current 3 LEOs visit 20-50 households a month. Through these visits, the LEOs are sharing valuable information with their communities on predator-proof livestock husbandry practices as well as responding to incidents of conflict as a result of predation of livestock by carnivores. We are also using LEOs to help address challenges arising from the drought. By communicating the benefits of healthy functioning ecosystems in reducing the frequency and severity of drought, the community can start changing their mindset and willingness to adopt conservation measures that will prevent degradation of the land.

3.1 Development of rangeland regeneration demonstration projects around schools in communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme.

The development of one new Rangeland Regeneration Demonstration Plot for communities in Lion Friendly Livestock areas is scheduled for the first year of this project. The exact location and infrastructure for this plot has been decided on, and infrastructure construction will be completed during the next reporting period. During this reporting period we have begun to explore a partnership with <http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/restoringafricangrazing/> over this activity. These discussions will continue, and hopefully a partnership, where we will share information and data in adjoining autonomous sites will be agreed during the next reporting period. The Lancashire University team bring a depth of knowledge that can only improve this activity.

3.2 Quarterly assessments of rangeland regeneration demonstration projects.

This activity will commence after the first Rangeland Regeneration Demonstration plot has been set-up, scheduled during the next reporting period.

3.3 Design and delivery of Lion Extension Officer training on sustainable rangeland management.

All 6 LEOs and key project partner staff, will receive rangeland regeneration training, consisting of a 3 day intensive course delivered by True Range at Borana Conservancy during the next reporting period. The course will be about regenerative land management and will be centred around grazing planning, livestock and plant management as well ecological monitoring and holistic decision making. The course instructor has over 10 years of personal experience of running rangelands and cattle in protected areas, as well as training from the Savory institute in Holistic management and ecological outcome verification.

3.4 Household visits by Lion Extension Officers to discuss sustainable rangeland management practices in communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme.

LEOs have already begun their household visits, talking to their community members door to door about protecting their livestock from predation and the problems, currently mostly drought related, that their community is facing. This is building strong trusting relationships, which help form a foundation to effective information sharing. Messaging around sustainable rangeland management practices will be added to these household visits after all the LEOs have received their Rangeland Regeneration training in the next reporting period. The value of these discussions will be heavily underscored by the drought, which has tragically highlighted the dangers of relying on unsustainable livestock production for all basic needs.

3.5 Design and delivery of sustainable rangeland management days (held on Lion Friendly certified conservancies or at community Rangeland Regeneration demonstration projects) for communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme.

This activity was scheduled to start during this reporting period but has been delayed due to the drought. This activity was designed to allow community members, who never see what well managed healthy rangelands look like, to visit the commercial conservancies and spend the day immersed in a healthy rangeland, learning about how good quality soils and grazing are maintained. The severity of the drought combined with the need for conservancies to support their neighbouring community's livestock during this desperate time, when they would otherwise have been reducing livestock on their property, has meant that even the well managed conservancies have no grass. They therefore cannot be used as an example to communities until the next rains allows them to recover. This will be reassessed during the next reporting period. This emergency situation is very different from the functional droughts due to overstocking of livestock on community lands, during which conservancies remain as an example of healthy grazing management.

3.6 Design and delivery of sustainable rangeland management DVD/film nights for communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme.

This activity was scheduled at the end of this reporting period and is just starting. More information on this to be given in the next reporting period.

4.1 SACCO sensitisation meetings held in the communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme.

This activity was started during this reporting period as scheduled. This sensitisation aims to empower women to make their own decisions on how to manage their finances, using locally available and appropriate mechanisms, and was going to be run by the Department of Cooperatives. However, it became clear during this reporting period that the capacity of this

department to carry out sensitisation at the scale we want is limited. Instead, project partners will conduct the training going forwards. Project partners have developed a sensitisation course for women's groups, which shares information on the pros and cons of using SACCOs vs small stock for savings, other savings options available and also, should they decide to pursue the SACCO idea, how to choose the right SACCO. Sensitisation meetings will also include exercises to better understand the community's financial management needs. To date the sensitisation course materials have been developed, and will be shared with the Department of Cooperatives and other financial institutions for approval before starting to be delivered to pastoral women's groups during the next reporting period.

4.2 Development and registration of a SACCO specifically supporting communities taking part in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme.

This activity was not scheduled to start until next year, however it was decided during this reporting period that rather than start a new SACCO, this project would initially work with existing reputable SACCOs to try to provide LFL communities with a product appropriate to their needs. Due diligence is currently being carried out on 3 local SACCOs available in the LFL project area (Northern Rangeland Trust, Siraji and Kis-Borana). Understanding the financial needs of the LFL communities, and provision of the necessary information for community members to enable them to make their own financial management decisions, will occur during the sensitisation process (section 4.1 above). Project partners will then work with the existing SACCOs to see if they can provide for these needs, and finally, project partners will facilitate discussions between suitable SACCOs and community groups if/when requested by the community.

Working with existing SACCOs shortens the time before a stage of maturity is reached where a full range of services are available to SACCO members. The approach described above, also gives community members a choice in available SACCOs and ownership over that choice. This change will be formally requested in a separate Change Request form.

4.3 Prior and post surveys on the use of savings accounts Vs. Livestock to store family wealth.

The prior surveys were completed and the post surveys will be carried out after the financial management sensitisation process.

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.

Drought - there are two types of droughts experienced in the project area, 1) functional droughts, where rainfall is not low enough to be classed as a drought but where overstocking and habitat degradation is such that grazing becomes limited and livestock dies, and 2) climatic droughts where rainfall fails or is extremely low. Functional droughts are frequent (almost annual) in traditional pastoral areas within the LFL study area, and their causes are addressed by this project's activities. Functional droughts do not affect the commercial conservancies, where stocking rates are held at sustainable levels. True climatic droughts are much less common and above and beyond the scope of this project, although project activities will reduce the impact of these droughts over time. The last 8 months have seen the LFL project area hit by a severe climatic drought, which has led to a loss of grazing and a huge livestock die-off across the whole region. While traditional pastoral areas are worst hit, commercial conservancies have also been badly hit whilst also needing to support their neighbouring communities with grazing, resulting in loss of livestock even where grazing is normally carefully managed.

This is first and foremost a human tragedy but has also impacted project activities on several levels. Many men from the traditional pastoral communities within the LFL area have taken their remaining cattle and left in search of grazing further afield. While survivors will return

along with the rains, communities are currently composed mostly of women, children and some older men. Those community members remaining in the area are weakened, often to the point of malnutrition, and participating in project activities is a low priority. This means that any activities involving the engagement of community members have to be conducted with care and empathy for the current situation. People will not be able to take in new information or actively participate in discussions if they are starving. We are providing food at engagement activities to ensure that participants at least enjoy a nutritious meal when they attend but engagement events are mostly missing young men, and attendance rates from other segments of the population are low. Engagement events, where the participation of young men is needed e.g. the formation of Community Conservation Agreements, will need to have additional meetings scheduled once the men return, so they are brought up to speed and allowed to participate in the decisions made by the other members of their community. If necessary, agreements can be adjusted to reflect feedback from the younger men. This sense of ownership will be essential in ensuring their long term buy-in. Project partners are engaging in additional drought relief activities, such as delivering food parcels to community households, during this time. Drought has also meant the delay of certain activities, for example the Rangeland Regeneration visits to LF certified conservancies for community members (see section 3.5 above).

On top of the logistical challenges faced due to the drought, there are also some activities where the measures of success will not be met. These are primarily any metrics linked to improvements in livestock condition, specifically weight gain through access to better grazing on commercial conservancies. This grazing does not currently exist at levels where livestock condition can improve, and many more heads of livestock are expected to die before the drought ends. Also the development of the rangeland regeneration plots will be slower - agreements and infrastructure can be put in place, but none of the rangeland regeneration techniques will begin to bear fruit until the rains return.

On the positive side, the drought is illustrating the longer term need for more sustainable livestock production in the region as a whole, and the imperative nature of work towards regenerating rangelands and reducing the effects of climate change. All of the project activities address these core issues and so remain extremely relevant. Rangeland regeneration has become a huge focus in the landscape as a remedy to the effects of the drought.

Overall, the current drought has not led to any major changes to project activities - they all remain relevant - but it will likely result in some changes to the project timetable and, in some cases, the expected measures of success. An adjusted Logframe and activity timetable will be shared with the Darwin team along with a change request form.

Insecurity - there was some insecurity in the project area during the last reporting period, linked to national elections combined with resource limitations. So far this has not limited project activities but we will keep an eye on the situation and report if it does.

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.

Project partners have managed to run the vast majority of our field programmes throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including continuing training using smaller groups and following COVID-19 protocols, so we are confident that we will be able to continue to do so. The project activities in this project were devised during COVID-19 times and so we do not expect the pandemic to our budget or timetable of activities.

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: No

Formal change request submitted:	Not yet but very soon
Received confirmation of change acceptance	No

<p>3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p>
<p>No</p>

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. 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**