

## Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects

### Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

*Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.*

**Submission Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

<b>Project reference</b>	<a href="#">29-030</a>
<b>Project title</b>	Using invasive alien trees to support conservation and improve livelihoods
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Madagascar
<b>Lead partner</b>	Missouri Botanical Garden - MBG
<b>Partner(s)</b>	-Regional Direction of Environment, and Sustainable Development (DREDD) -Regional Direction of Industrialization, Trade and Consumer Affairs (DRICC) - Federation LOVASOA (LOVASOA)
<b>Project leader</b>	Adolphe LEHAVANA
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	<i>27<sup>th</sup> October 2022</i> HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="http://mobot.mg/conservation/pointe-a-larree/">http://mobot.mg/conservation/pointe-a-larree/</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).**

According to the timetable submitted in the project, the following activities have been planned from July 2022 to September 2022:

#### 1.1 Regional and local launch of project.

No progress and expected to be implemented from October 2022

#### 1.2 Developing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with technical service partners

Ongoing: The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the partners, DREDD, DRICC and LOVASOA. This MoU defines the objectives, the scope of cooperation, rights and roles of each party. It also clarifies modality of communication, frequency, planning of activities as well as reporting.

#### 1.3 Conducting research to develop annual exploitation plans, map priority zones

No progress and expected to be started on November 2022

#### 1.4 Directing monthly members of the “green charcoal cooperative” for producing charcoal

No progress and expected to be started on November 2022

#### 1.5 Daily patrols within Protected Area

Ongoing: two types of forest patrol were implemented. First one is daily patrol carried out by 12 Rangers, mainly within Reserve. The second type is the community patrol during which 148 persons participated, including 47 women and 101 men. The systematic forest patrol was carried out both in the protected area and in the buffer zones, currently managed by local communities. In total, 19 offenses and 42 tree of native species were detected, including 10 stems within the Reserve and 32 stems within buffer zones.

#### 1.6 Verbalisation of infractions

Ongoing : 17 offenses were detected, but only one was apprehended. Majority of perpetrators were unknown. The Dina (Local Convention) was applied and the offender paid a fine of Ar40,000, paid to the COBA Association.

#### 1.8 Three monthly transect for participatory monitoring cutting of native trees

Ongoing : 24 participatory transects were carried out by four COBA Associations, grouped in the LOVASOA Federation. The transects were carried out both in the Protected Area and in the buffer zones, managed by the COBAs Associations to detect recent cuts less than three months old. As a result, no recent cuts in the protected area and two cuts in the buffer zones.

#### 1.9 Mobilisation of female members for removing Melaleuca

No progress and expected to be started on November 2022

#### 2.1 Study trip by PM and President of GCC to Indonesia to identify best practice for the production of charcoal from Melaleuca

Ongoing: endeavor has been made to seek out where the expertise exists serving as exchanges for Melaleuca coal mining. So far, no location has been known. By discussing with professional colleagues, it seems that it is more interesting to identify techniques allowing to maximize the yield of coal mining. Recently, we are informed that this technique exists in Africa as in Benin for the charcoaling of other invasive species such as *Acacia mangium* and that the system could be adapted for Melaleuca. Currently, we are developing communication with the host entity to achieve this training.

#### 2.2 Purchase tools for conversion of Melaleuca into charcoal

No progress and this activity will be discussed with stakeholders

#### 2.3 Training workshops for members of GCC in best practice for the conversion of Melaleuca into charcoal

No progress and expected to be implemented on December 2022

#### 2.4 Coaching the charcoal producers and GCC in best practice

No progress and to be started on November 2022

3.1 Conducting diagnostic to identify SWOT of the GCC

This activity is expected to be implemented on October 2022

3.2 Developing marketing strategy and business plan of GCC

No progress and to be started on November 2022

3.3 Coaching graduates

No progress and to be implemented from November 2022

3.5 Training the Leaders of the Cooperative with six topics

No progress and expected to be started from November 2022

3.9 Construction of warehouse and extension of existing warehouse

No progress and to be started from November 2022

3.16 Conducting monthly technical monitoring and three-monthly monitoring

No progress and expected to be started on December 2022

4.1 Creation of website for the project

No progress and to be started on December 2022

4.2 Bimonthly updating of Project' progress on social media

No progress and to be started on December 2022

4.3 Monthly broadcasting on local radio

No progress and to be started on November 2022

**2. 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.**

Three main difficulties were encountered during the period and these caused a delay in the implementation of some activities:

-At the beginning of the project, we had to recruit the Project Manager and this took time and delayed activity implementation.

- With fairly substantial amount for the purchase of transport equipment (four motorcycles), MBG's manual of procedure had to be applied consisting of making a call for tender process. This has partly delayed the acquisition of materials. Without these materials (motorcycle), movement for field work is very difficult.

- Finding a place of training for efficient charcoal production has taken several months. However, without this training, we cannot start activities related to charcoal production as well as for all related activities around marketing.

**3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS-LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: Yes

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

Change request reference if known:

**4a. 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: £

**4b. 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 re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget 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.**

**5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

No

**If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response 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 NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com). The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**