



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

Project reference	24 025
Project title	Community reforestation for biodiversity, livelihood diversification and culture
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	East Timor
Lead organisation	Charles Sturt University
Partner(s)	Group Training Northern Territory, World Vision, RAEBIA, Conservation International, Australian Landcare International
Project leader	<i>Dr Joanne Millar</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>HYR2</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	<i>https://wordpress.com/posts/communityreforestationtimorleste.wordpress.com</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).

Output 1. Expansion of tree plantations and agroforestry development

Activity 1.3 and 1.5 Ten new families across three villages have established new nurseries this year to increase seedling production. The target in 2018/2019 is 50,000 seedlings. These families are not already involved in tree planting. The field team carried out an assessment of suitable nursery sites and capacity of the household to manage the nurseries in July. Mahogany and white teak seeds are being sourced from outside the area but remains a challenge to get good quality seed at this time of year. A brochure was distributed to all villages in Soibada and Laclubar inviting farmers to join the project. A dozen households expressed interest and an assessment is being carried out on site suitability and capacity to manage trees.

Activity 1.4 On 27th September 2018, 36 project farmers attended a tree management field day organised by Jorge Ramos and the five field staff at the farm of Mr. Peregrino da Cruz. A large project map based on satellite imagery showing their tree plantation sites created great interest. Farmers were then divided into small groups and asked to identify eroded areas and where forest fires were more frequent using laminated maps. They also identified remnants of native trees and communal areas that could be planted with trees. Farmers were asked to rank forest products and tree species that were most important. They identified Ai-Ru (*Eucalyptus urophylla*) as key for firewood, construction, processing of palm wine, honey and fencing with potential for planting and habitat. Bamboo was mentioned as one of the species they would like to increase. The second activity was an exercise in farm planning (land use mapping) as a key component of the carbon certification process. Farmers were given an example of how to sketch their sites (based on printed digital maps the project has produced) and asked how they would like to manage their farms in the present and in the future. The third activity was reinforcing tree planting techniques, composting and mulching. Farmers were shown the use of "A" frames to improve contour planting in steep slopes. This activity also included a basic exercise on soil Ph tests to improve matching of sites and species for tree survival. See photos at <https://wordpress.com/post/communityreforestationtimorleste.wordpress.com/255>

Output 2 Establishment of farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR) in degraded areas

Activity 2.4 Following the FMNR training and visit to Aileu in December 2017, four farmers have allocated trial areas to FMNR. The areas were mapped by the field team in June 2018, ranging from 0.4 ha to 3 ha, and totalling 5ha. The sites are different in tree composition with one located in a drier, windier part of the project area where the dominant species is *Eucalyptus alba* (local name is Ai-Bubur). The other 3 sites are located in more humid areas where the dominant species is *Eucalyptus urophylla*

(local name is Ai-Ru). Farmers typically harvest the most defective stems (i.e. less straight) for firewood with the remaining stem left standing to be used in the future for construction. One of the farmers (Mr. Martins) mentioned that he allocates at least 1 day per week to managing the site. Other farmers have been less active for lack of time. An issue identified by both farmers is that some neighbours enter their areas to cut some their trees and others let animals to roam their sites freely. They suggested that the local authority (Chef de Suco – Chief of Village) should inform the community of the need to “respect their work and sites”. Tara -Bandu was also mentioned by them as a strategy for protection of these sites. They pointed out that awareness of FMNR within the community is still needed, although they also mentioned that lack of land, time and interest were limiting factors for not having more farmers practicing FMNR in the project area at present. See photos at

<https://wordpress.com/post/communityreforestationtimorleste.wordpress.com/243>

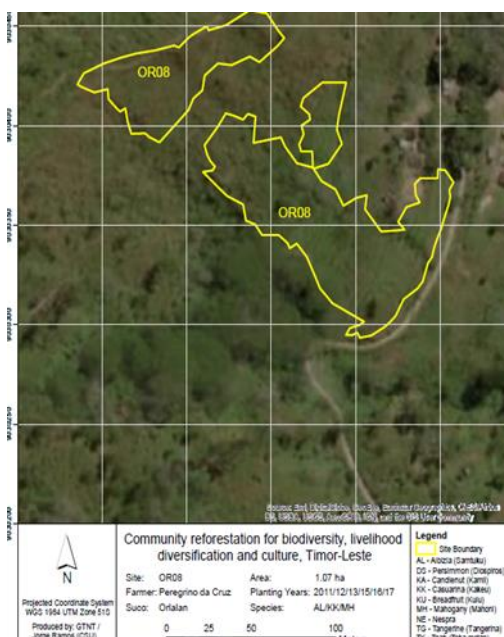
Output 3. Forest carbon certification

Activity 3.1/3.2/3.3/3.9 In April/May 2018, Jorge Ramos conducted a site audit with the field team with further training in forest inventory, measuring growth rates and mapping. All 85 sites are now mapped enable preliminary carbon calculations (see sample maps below). Sacred sites and protected areas were also mapped. A project baseline carbon scenario has been established. The field team also collected information on previous land use in each site. Farmers have been trained in developing land use maps.

Activity 3.4/3.5 Changes to the Gold Standard Carbon Standards in May 2018 around retrospective plantings has created the need to find an alternative scheme (see change request forms). We are now applying to the Plan Vivo standard which is geared more to smallholder contexts in developing countries such as East Timor. We have been in discussions with Eva Schoof from Plan Vivo who is guiding us in developing the Project Idea Note (to be submitted in November 2018) and Project Design Document (to be submitted by June 2019). All the work we have done to date on stakeholder consultation, land mapping, tree growth measurements, social research, farmer agreements and baseline carbon scenario calculations is relevant to the Plan Vivo process.



All tree sites (green), cultural sites (pink), FMNR (orange)



Example of farmer site.

Output 4. Biodiversity information that informs forest management, education and policy

Activity 4.3 The first biodiversity survey was conducted from May 29th to 4th June 2018 as part of a training program organised by Conservation International for staff of the Department of Protected Areas and our field staff. Three of the tree plantation sites were surveyed for small mammals, reptiles and birds.

Methods used included mesh trap, Sherman trap, pitfall traps, visual and bird calls. Four reptile species, 2 mouse species including one not previously described and 24 bird species were identified. All birds found in the survey are classified as of Least Concern (IUCN Red List Categories) except the Black-banded Flycatcher (*Ficedula timorensis*) classified as Near Threatened and found in Antonio Marubi's farm. This site contains some large remnants of native vegetation.

Activity 4.5 Drs Jennifer Bond and Joanne Millar visited the Laclubar Junior High School to show photos of some of the birds and reptiles found in the tree plantations to Class 3 students. We showed them most of the birds found in the survey and all were recognised by the students. The near threatened Black-banded Flycatcher was seen by students but not often. They also identified occasionally seeing the Timor Green Pidgeon which is Endangered species in Timor Leste but not found in the survey. A data-projector was donated to the school (non-Darwin funds) with several nature documentaries to encourage interest in biodiversity conservation. See blog story at <https://wordpress.com/post/communityreforestationtimorleste.wordpress.com/263>

Output 5. Livelihoods impacts determined

Activity 5.2 The baseline household survey report was distributed in June 2018 (see attached).

Activity 5.5/5.6. From 27th September to 1st October 2018, Drs Jennifer Bond and Joanne Millar with the help of two female translators conducted in-depth interviews with 6 women involved in the tree project and 8 women not in the project. We also interviewed 4 village heads and 5 people involved in community groups. The aim was to understand more about their everyday tasks and priorities, their perspectives on the tree project, involvement in other income generating or community groups and future aspirations. The findings will assist us to track project impacts over time, develop case studies (what works, does not work), add value to existing initiatives or start new activities. See blog story at <https://wordpress.com/posts/drafts/communityreforestationtimorleste.wordpress.com>

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.

See change request forms (financial and other)

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

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 . 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**