

## Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus

### Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a maximum of 2-3 pages in length.

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 2024**

Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

Submit to: [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com) including your project ref in the subject line.

<b>Project reference</b>	<i>31-019</i>
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Sustainable Shea: Supporting communities, ecosystems restoration, and livelihoods in Gambella</b>
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Tree Aid
<b>Partner(s)</b>	NA
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Fazal Mabood</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	<i>HYR1 (31 Oct 2024)</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://treeaid.org/projects/ethiopia/sustainable-shea">https://treeaid.org/projects/ethiopia/sustainable-shea</a>

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

The project was started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2024. This report, therefore, only covers the one-month progress. During the initial month of the project, the project team mainly engaged in establishing a field office at Gambella (the regional town) and conducting the recruitment of project staff.

- Renting of aregional project field office was completed and officially opened in Gambella Town.
- 4 project staff: 1 coordinator, 1 Finance & Administration Assistant, and 2 community facilitators were recruited.
- Computers, a printer, and a projector were purchased for the field office.
- Office furniture was purchased.
- 2 motorcycles were purchased.

Field level project activities:

- Below in the table are the two districts and four communes where the project activities will be implemented.

Country	Region	Districts	Kebele	

Ethiopia	Gambella	Itang Special woreda	Elia	
			Ebago	
		Abobo Woreda	Perpengo	
			Terkudi	

- A project MOU/agreement was signed with local government which is a requirement to allow Tree Aid to work in the area.
- Seed collection for seedling production in nurseries has started.
- Induction to the project coordinator on the project documents and its implementation is completed. It also included an introduction for the project coordinator to the country office team in Addis.
- The Tree Aid country team participated in a reception to discuss nature and biodiversity in Ethiopia organized by British Embassy here in Addis Ababa. We used the opportunity to explain about the project for participants

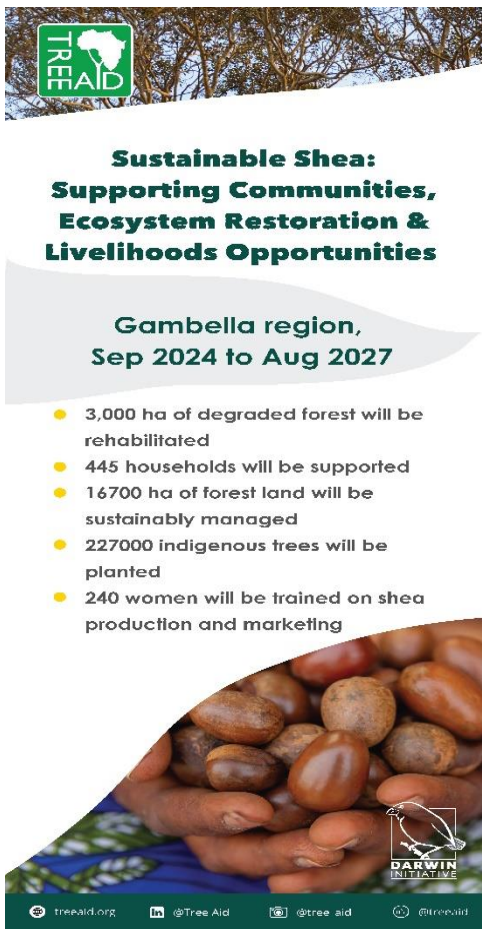


Figure 1: Roll up used in the reception

**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.**

As agreed with Darwin, the project start date was aligned to after the planting season (July to September) so that 3 full planting seasons could be completed. The team are busy trying to prepare shea seeds for producing seedlings for 2025.

<b>3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</b>	
Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes
Change Request reference if known: <i>If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome - DIR30S21074 Change Request May 2024</i>	

<b>4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)</b> Actual spend: £ <span style="background-color: black; color: black;">██████████</span>
<b>4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2025)?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £
<b>4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully.</b> Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year. <b>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 to your project if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.</b> <b>NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.</b>
<b>5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</b> No

<b>6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report.</b>
There is nothing to respond to the feedback during this half-year report.

## Checklist for submission

<b>For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	
Have you responded to any additional feedback (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	No
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register?	Yes
<b>For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	

Have you responded to <b>feedback from your latest Annual Report Review</b> ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	N/A
<b>For All Projects</b>	
Include your <b>project reference</b> in the subject line of submission email.	Yes
Submit to <a href="mailto:BCFs-Report@niras.com">BCFs-Report@niras.com</a> .	OK
Have you <b>clearly highlighted any confidential information</b> within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	N/A
Have you reported against the most <b>up to date information for your project</b> ?	Yes
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	Yes