



Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

CITES Tree Species Programme (CTSP)

Report by National Museums of Kenya (CITES Scientific Authority of Kenya)

Interim Technical Activity Report

Project Title

Conservation and Sustainable Management of *Osyris lanceolata*, for Economic Development in East Africa

AGREEMENT ON FINANCING

UMOJA Parent Grant: SI-32QTL-000018
Budget line: SB-005458.22.01.92: USD 250,000
Total cost to CITES: USD 250,000
POW activity for 2017-2019: B-10
Project No.: S-545
Duration: 24 months
Starting date: 22/02/2019
Reporting period: 22/02/2019 to 31/07/2021

- 1. Project Title:**
Conservation and Sustainable Management of *Osyris lanceolata*, for Economic Development in East Africa
- 2. Project Goal:**
The goal is to ensure that international trade in *Osyris lanceolata* is consistent with its sustainable management and conservation.
- 3. Project Objective(s):**
Specific Objective: To assist the participating states (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda) make relevant assessments for formulating NDFs of *Osyris lanceolata*

Output 1: Establishment of coordination team and relevant Committees of the Project;

Output 2: Status (research, management, ecological, and exploitable, control and monitoring, including ABS) of *Osyris lanceolata* in each country well established

Output 3: Research relevant to management such as standing stock and quota setting for some selected sites well defined

Output 4: Mechanisms for Identification/verification and, traceability established

Output 5: Silviculture and domestication of *O. lanceolata* well known

Output 6: NDF report and realistic action plan well developed and implemented

4. **Period Covered by this Report:**

22/02/2019-31/07/2021

5. **Work Implemented in the Reporting Period**

(i) Description of the activities implemented

a. Completed activities

Uganda

Following the project launch, activities listed below have been undertaken and completed

Output 1. Establishment of coordination team and relevant Committees of the project

- Activity 1.1: Establishment of Regional and National Technical Committees (NTCs)
- Activity 1.2: Reviewing the project work plan;
- Activity 1.3: Drafting and Validation of the ToRs of experts;
- Activity 1.4: Establishment of ad-hoc Scientific Committee
- Activity 1.5: Identifying discipline specific experts;
- Activity 1.6: Launch *O. lanceolata* project in each country

Output 2: Status (research, management, ecological, and exploitable, control and monitoring, including ABS) of *Osyris lanceolata* in each country well established

Activity 2.1. Conducting a detailed account on the research activities and relevant topics related to the biology and ecology of *O. lanceolata* in each country.

Activity 2.2 Account on conservation, Management-Control and traceability of *O. lanceolata*.

Activity 2.6: Account on awareness creation and sensitization about value and access and benefit sharing of *Osyris lanceolata*.

Activity 2.9. Subcontract; 2 forest officers monitoring and evaluation of management parameters. This particular activity was combined with activity 3.1 and 3.2

Activity 3.1: Conducting forest inventories, management measures, production with a view of establishing harvesting quota;

Activity 3.2: Conducting a detailed study on production, harvesting, processing, transport, trade, control and monitoring of *O. lanceolata* with a view of establishing a fair tracking/control system

Activity 5.1. Awareness creation and sensitization about the value and ABS amongst stakeholders including rural communities

Tanzania

Following the project launch, activities listed below have been undertaken and completed

Output 1. Establishment of coordination team and relevant Committees of the project

- Activity 1.1: Establishment of Regional and National Technical Committees (NTCs)
- Activity 1.2: Reviewing the project work plan;
- Activity 1.3: Drafting and Validation of the ToRs of experts;
- Activity 1.4: Establishment of ad-hoc Scientific Committee
- Activity 1.5: Identifying discipline specific experts;
- Activity 1.6: Launch *O. lanceolata* project

Output 2: Status (research, management, ecological, and exploitable, control and monitoring, including ABS) of *Osyris lanceolata* in each country well established

- Activity 2.1. Conducting a detailed account on the research activities and relevant topics related to the biology and ecology of *O. lanceolata* in each country.
- Activity 2.2. Conducting a detailed account on conservation, management, harvesting regimes, transport, and trade regulation (control and traceability) of *O. lanceolata*.
- Activity 2.3: Development of Strategy to Improve Management of *Osyris lanceolata*.
- Activity 2.5: Account on document- based tracking system of *Osyris lanceolata*.
- Activity 2.6: Account on awareness creation and sensitization about value and access and benefit sharing of *Osyris lanceolata*.
- Activity 2.7: Silviculture and domestication of *Osyris lanceolata*

- Activity 3.1: Conducting forest inventories, management measures, production with a view of proposing harvesting quota

Kenya

Following the project launch, activities listed below have been undertaken and completed

Output 1: Establishment of coordination team and relevant committees of the project.

- Activity 1.1: Establishment of Regional and National Technical Committees (NTCs)
- Activity 1.2: Reviewing the project work plan;
- Activity 1.3: Drafting and Validation of the ToRs of experts;
- Activity 1.4: Establishment of ad-hoc Scientific Committee
- Activity 1.5: Identifying discipline specific experts;
- Activity 1.6: Launch *O. lanceolata* project

Output 2: Status (research, management, ecological, and exploitable, control and monitoring, including ABS) of *Osyris lanceolata* in each country well established

- Activity 2.1: Conducting a detailed account on the research activities and relevant topics related to the biology and ecology of *Osyris lanceolata*.
- Activity 2.2. Conducting a detailed account on conservation, management, harvesting regimes, transport, and trade regulation (control and traceability) of *O. lanceolata*.
- Activity 2.3: Development of Strategy to Improve Management of *Osyris lanceolata*.
- Activity 2.5: Account on document- based tracking system of *Osyris lanceolata*.
- Activity 2.6: Account on awareness creation and sensitization about value and access and benefit sharing of *Osyris lanceolata*.
- Activity 2.7: Silviculture and domestication of *Osyris lanceolata*.
- Activity 2.8: Promote community Participatory forest

management.

b. Ongoing activities

Uganda

Activities

- Activity 2.3. Developing a strategy to improve management of the species
- Activity 2.5: Account on document- based tracking system of *Osyris lanceolata*.

- Activity 2.7: Silviculture and domestication of *Osyris lanceolata*.
- Activity 2.9. Each country 2 forest officers monitoring and evaluation of management parameters
- Activity 5.2. Identification and selection of pilot production sites
- Activity 5.3. Training or trainer's in Silviculture of *O. lanceolata* including - seedling production and planting

Tanzania

- 2.7: Silviculture and domestication of *Osyris lanceolata*.
- 3.1: Conducting forest inventories, management measures, production with a view of proposing harvesting quota 2.7 and 3.1

Kenya

1: Conducting forest inventories, management measures, production with a view of proposing harvesting quota.

Sites for conducting forest inventories have been proposed. These are in Kitui County, Narok County (Loita forest) and Samburu County (Leroghi-Kirisia forest). This is based on the quantities of harvested amounts arrested and also known occurrences. The team to undertake the inventory has been identified which comprises of staff from Kenya Forest Service, National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Forestry Research Institute and Kenya Wildlife Service. This activity will immediately be implemented once the funds are received.

- (ii) Inputs applied (financial resources, human resources, equipment, in-kind contributions, etc.)

For the period from April 2019-March 2021, the project coordinator and project assistant were paid USD 7200 and USD 4800 respectively from the project for 30% staff time spent on the project activities. NMK the project host institution and the respective country host institutions (TZ, UG, KE) continued to meet the staff and administrative costs including office space, with limited support from the project for internet services (cumulative USD 3600) for the three country offices. NMK the host institution provided this service to the project.

- (iii) Outputs achieved

The outputs achieved include the following:

Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya

- Project inception for partner countries
- National Project launch in each partner country
- Coordination and relevant committees established
- Terms of Reference drafted for Committees
- Terms of Reference for experts drafted and validated

- Discipline specific experts identified and subcontracted
- Final expert reports received and submitted
- Complete and Partial field inventories undertaken and reports validated or awaiting validation respectively

6. Analysis of Activities Progress

(i) Main implementation challenges

Uganda

- Just like in the previous year, the global outbreak of Corona Virus and its associated lock downs has hindered the fast tracking of the project activities. Restrictions on movement have hindered access to project districts thereby leading to slow progress of project activities during the months of February to July. Further still, the high prevalence of the infections in border districts such as Moroto (project district) limited ground research work and community interactions to be conducted in time. This implies that 5 months were redundant with no tangible work done as part of the project activities.
- Budget limited diversity of experts to compete for consultancy services on project activities.
- Short period duration limiting more detailed studies and experiments

Tanzania

- Delayed responses to request for authorization from districts and village offices during implementation of inventory and community awareness on *Osyris lanceolata* benefits and propagation strategy

Kenya

The onset of the Corona Virus (COVID 19) in Kenya and the subsequent imposition of restrictions including the current lockdown and curfews, has greatly affected the timely implementation of project activities. There are restrictions on physical meetings/interactions and movement hindering fieldwork. The frequent closure of the NMK for sanitization to control the virus and biological collection fumigation, where the project secretariat is domiciled, has contributed to the slow pace of funds disbursement and overall project implementation. The restrictions also impeded any field activities to be undertaken and gatherings such as scheduled project workshops.

In addition to the above, the unavailability of funds limited implementation of certain activities and in particular the forest inventory. The forest inventory has had to await the disbursement of the next tranche

(ii) Lessons learned towards achieving the project objectives

Uganda

There have been noticeable limitations in time frames set aside to deliver on some rigorous activities such as inventories and domestication. The planned time frames are so limiting to allow for sufficient and satisfactorily work outputs.

The project was so ambitious compared to the available budget and could therefore not afford to secure the services of individual experts that meet the academic qualifications and experience described in the Terms of Reference. The workaround this was to align as much as possible the project work with already ongoing activities in the same project areas by the participating institutions save costs as the best possible way to secure the services of such institutional experts. The project scope can be maintained as it stands but funds available can be prioritized for what they can cover, especially the software activities without spreading so thin by trying to implement a bit of everything.

Tanzania

The inventory for *Osyris lanceolata* covered a very small area (only Northern Ecozone) due to the limited fund, it could be better to cover other Ecozones to understand ecological wealth of *Osyris lanceolata* in the country.

Kenya

The studies undertaken provided the information on the E. A Sandalwood available so far from which gaps would easily be identified for future work. The number of experts on E. A. Sandalwood are relatively few. It is clear that there is still quite some work needing to be undertaken on E. A. Sandalwood clearly indicating that more resources are required for comprehensive information generation of its population, propagation and management. Due to the limitation of funds that may be available, prioritization (hotspots and key sites) has been made on the areas where forest inventory will be undertaken to three Counties. Depending on the prevailing circumstances at the time of field inventory, further prioritization may have to be undertaken in order to do a comprehensive job. Efforts will be made to do cost-saving such as use of government vehicles instead of hire, among other strategies for synergy creation.

- (iii) Others (please specify)
Project Office

The project office encountered some challenges related to COVID 19 containment measures in Kenya. Specifically, periodic closures and restricted movement of some staff directly charged with project accounts management and poor internet connectivity throughout this

period. Restricted movement and also led to minimal physical consultation among staff of different institutions that are in charge of *Osyris lanceolata* management leading to mostly virtual consultations. Project timelines were therefore not strictly adhered to. In addition, realizing that the species of interest is so widely spread in the partner countries and following guidance from the Africa coordinator, each country is guided to target the field activities to fit the budget allocated.

7. Conclusions

Uganda

The outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic, political uncertainties, limited time frames to deliver on key outputs (inventories) have majorly impacted negatively on project progress. However, the Forestry Sector Support Department intends to fast track all the pending activities and ensure that they are implemented.

Tanzania

The project implementation is in good pace. It is recommended that deliverables should come on time, to enable continuous execution as planned

Kenya

The global COVID pandemic has affected the implementation of activities slowing it way behind the agreed timeline. It is anticipated that the pace of activity implementation will pick up with the easing of restrictions and with enhanced utilization of alternative means of undertaking activities, as well as experiences gained in managing activities under the prevailing circumstances and thus find ways of maneuver.

Delays in disbursement of funds from CITES has halted most field activities, in particular Kenya and Tanzania.

8. Annexes

- (i) Final progress report brief
- (ii) Annex D: Final Report - Activity delivery status (taken from SSFA)

Signature:



Name of signing officer: Dr. Beatrice Khayota

Title of signing officer: Principal Research Scientist/Project Coordinator

Date: 24/08/2021

Annex 1 – Interim/ Progress Report

1. Identification:

Partners Name: National Museums of Kenya (NMK)
Budget line: SB-005458.22.01.92 [USD 250,000]
Relevant Decision: Decision 16.153 & 16.154 (Rev. CoP17)
SSFA starting date: 22/02/2019
Reporting period: from 22/02/2019 to 31/07/2021
Cumulative amount already transferred from CITES to the Partner as of this reporting date: USD 150,000.

2. Summary of Status:

Brief description of the main achievements;

Uganda and Tanzania, two of the partner countries have completed/embarked on output 3-field studies. Both are conducting forest inventories, management measures, and production with a view of establishing harvesting quotas. Uganda has in addition conducted a detailed study on production, harvesting, processing, transport, trade, control and monitoring of *O. lanceolata* with a view of establishing a fair tracking/control system. Uganda has submitted four interim reports on and review of the same is ongoing. Tanzania too has submitted two field inventory reports of *Osyris*. However, due to shortage of funds, Kenya is yet to initiate any field activities for this output. Besides, Tanzania is awaiting the same to start on activity 3.2.

Main implementation challenges

The onset of COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns, restricted movements and restrictions on gatherings, particularly in Kenya and Uganda impacted the timely implementation of the outlined activities. Further for Kenya, requirements to work from home for most government institutions and unscheduled government-directed shutdowns in lieu of the on-going fourth wave of infections, has delayed planning for project activities particularly those associated with training. Also, delay in disbursement of 2nd tranche has delayed Kenya's field work and some activities that the project secretariat ought to carry out, particularly the training.

Lessons learned towards achieving SSFA's objective

Uncertainties have continued to affect the timely implementation of the work plan, under the prevailing COVID-19 circumstances. These necessitate a further no-cost extension of the project. Inadequate internet access poses challenges to the working from home strategy that the governments are urging. Additional tasks including video-production, require other cadres of personnel and need country coordination offices must realign activities within relevant institutional work programmes, stretch the available financial resources and scale this down to a training project.

Annex D. Activity delivery status [The activities would normally correspond to what has been indicated in Annex A or B]

Activity	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity (Completed or not completed)	If Activity not completed, please describe the reason why and indicate mitigation actions that were taken
Activity 1.1: Planning	Project launch and planning workshop	Inception workshop and report	June 2019	Completed and teams are operational Completed	
Activity 1.2: Launch of <i>O. lanceolata</i> project in each country	National launches	Completed and reports submitted	TZ-November 2019, UG-February 2020, KE-July 2020	Individual country launches completed	
Activity 2: Subcontracts	2.1. Subcontract; Biology and ecology of <i>O. lanceolata</i> 2.2. Subcontract; Account on conservation, Management control and traceability of <i>O. lanceolata</i> 2.3. Subcontract; Developing a strategy to improve management of <i>O. lanceolata</i> 2.4. 2.5. Subcontract; Document-based tracking system. 2.6. Subcontract; Awareness creation and sensitization about value and ABS 2.7. Subcontract; Silviculture and domestication of <i>O. lanceolata</i> 2.9. Subcontract; Each 2 forest officers Monitoring and evaluation of management parameters	Reports from consultants/experts duly validated	2019-2021	KE all subcontracts completed and reported by April 2021. UG completed 2.1, 2.2, 2.8 TZ completed 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7	Subcontracts associated with NDF training (2.4, 2.10) are project office activities yet to be delivered. On-going subcontracts Uganda 2.3, 2.5 combined with activity 3.2 On-going Subcontracts-Tanzania; 2.7, 2.9 combined with activity 3.1

<p>Activity 3.; Research Relevant to management</p>	<p>Activity 3.1: Conducting Forest inventories, management measures, Production with a view of establishing harvesting quota</p> <p>Activity 3.2: Conducting a detailed study on production, harvesting, processing, transport, trade, control and monitoring of <i>O. lanceolata</i> with a view of establishing a fair tracking/control system</p>	<p>3.1; Interim field inventory report received, under review for Uganda, Tanzania</p> <p>For 3.2; Interim field report for Uganda rendered</p>	<p>Post subcontracts 2.1, 2.2</p> <p>Post subcontracts 2.3, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, and 2.9.</p>	<p>Activity 3.1 completed in Ug, Tz. Kenya is yet to start.</p> <p>Activity 3.2 completed for Ug, KE and TZ yet to start.</p>	<p>The funding outlay for these activities is quite high and funds available could only cover Ug, and Tz partially.</p> <p>Pending request for 2nd CTSP disbursement.</p>
<p>Activity 4.: Mechanisms For Identificatio n/verification and, traceability established</p>	<p>4.1. Identification of trainees for basic systematics from participating countries of chain of custody for <i>O. lanceolata</i> for traceability</p> <p>4.2. Training for voucher collection, conventional identification and DNA analysis</p> <p>4.3. Facilitate development of document-based tracking system in establishment</p>	<p>Training report Trainers identified, preparation of Training materials initiated</p>	<p>Supported by subcontracts 2.4, 2.10, and data from output 3, 5</p>		<p>Project office activity, recruitment delayed by COVID 19 containment measures. Recruitment ongoing and awaiting funds. Development of training materials</p>
<p>Activity 5. ; Silviculture and domestication of <i>O. lanceolata</i> well known</p>	<p>5.1. Awareness creation and sensitization about the value and ABS amongst stakeholders including rural communities</p> <p>5.2. Identification and selection of pilot production sites</p> <p>5.3. Training of trainers in silviculture of <i>O.</i> <i>lanceolata</i> including seedling production and planting</p> <p>5.4. Develop and promote sustainable harvesting methods- Publication of</p>	<p>5.1; Workshop report, concordant with subcontract 2.2</p> <p>5.2; Field report, supported by subcontract 2.7</p> <p>5.3; Country workshop/Train ing reports</p> <p>5.4: A joint</p>		<p>Activity 5.1 UG, TZ completed, Kenya scheduled.</p> <p>Activity 5.2 TZ completed setting up nurseries, UG On-going, Kenya not completed</p> <p>Activities 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, KE, UG, TZ not completed</p>	<p>These activities require inputs from activities 2,3, 4 which are at different stages for each country, also affected by COVID situation and funding delays.</p>

	dissemination materials 5.5. Promote/empower rural community participatory forest resource management	publication 5.5; Workshop report, supported by subcontract 2.8			
Activity 6.;	6.1. Training of trainers to undertake NDFs plan/roadmap 6.2. Based on outputs 2, 3, 4, 5; draft preliminary NDFs and draft a realistic action 6.3. End of project Workshop	Training report Preliminary NDF reports for Osyris lanceolata in TZ, UG, KE End of project report		Activity 6.1, 6.2, 6.3 not completed	These activities to await inputs from 3, 4, 5 and funding disbursement.

3. List of attached documents *(For example, publications, meeting reports, participants list, workshop reports, etc.)*

Six draft reports have been received from Uganda and Tanzania.

Uganda

- (i) Production, Trade, Processing, Monitoring and Control of the East African Sandalwood, *Osyris lanceolata* in Uganda
- (ii) Document-based tracking system
- (iii) *Osyris lanceolata* (East African Sandalwood) in Uganda: Standing Stock and Utilization Practices
- (iv) Strategy for improving management of *Osyris lanceolata* in Uganda

Tanzania

- (iv) Assessment of Standing Stock, Distribution, Harvesting, Processing, Trade, Control and Monitoring of *Osyris lanceolata* in Selected Sites in Tanzania
- (v) Adoption of Appropriate Silviculture Practices in Management and Domestication of *Osyris lanceolata*