

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	14-032
Project Title	Conserving biodiversity in the modernising farmed landscapes of Uganda
Country(ies)	Uganda
UK Organisation	British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
Collaborator(s)	Nature Uganda (NU); Makerere University Institute of Environment & Natural Resources (MUIENR); Makerere University Department of Forest Biology and Ecosystems Management; Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS); Ugandan Wildlife Society (UWS); Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA); National Agricultural Advisory Development Service (NAADS); National Environment Management Authority (NEMA); Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Bournemouth University
Report date	31 th October 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
Project website	http://www.bto.org/research/projects/farmland/uganda.htm

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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).

- Project started as planned in June 2005.
- Project management systems and structure have been established and the roles and responsibilities of each participating organisation/partner formalised through MOUs.
- Project web site: this is currently hosted on the BTO website and will be transferred to MUIENR's official website in Uganda, once a mechanism is in place to make frequent updates.
- Interviews for new project staff were undertaken in July 2005. Two PhD students (Dianah Nalwanga Wabwire & Theodore Munyuli) and their 2 research assistants (based at MUIENR), the Project Coordinator (David Mushabe, based at NU) and the Biodiversity Working Group coordinator (David Mutekanga, based at UWS) were appointed in August 2005.
- The first project Steering Committee Meeting was held in Kampala on 26 September 2005. The scope of this initial meeting was widened to include not only the participants and major stakeholders but also other interested parties. The project and the management structures (management committee, steering committee etc), work plan, proposed research methods were presented and mechanisms/strategies for improved stakeholder participation in the implementation of the project, including dissemination and application of research results, were discussed.
- Site identification began in September 2005 during a visit by Dr Philip Atkinson. Five areas in the banana/coffee arc were identified based on the type of agriculture, climatic conditions and degree of intervention by agricultural extension workers.
- NU/UWS staff have visited and held various informal discussions with several local farmers, NGOs and others implementing agricultural programmes in different locations of the project target area. Discussions have focused mainly on farmer participation in various agricultural programmes and the changing biological resources in the farmlands

(September/October 2005)

- Dr Phil Atkinson made a training visit in September 2005. Training and guidance were given to the 2 PhD students and NU project staff by Dr Phil Atkinson and Dr Juliet Vickery (BTO) and experts at MUIENR (Prof. Derek Pomeroy) and Makerere University Department of Forest Biology and Ecosystems Management (Dr. Philip Nyeko) in study site selection and design of research methods (September /October 2005). This will continue in November and December with two more visits to Uganda to finalise study site and data collection methods prior to the start of the first field season.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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.

The exercise of study site selection has proved difficult as observations made during the preliminary field visits indicated that each area that was visited had slightly different types of farming as well as models of agricultural 'modernisation'. Site selection is crucial to the success of this project, as the ways in which agriculture will change in over the next 20 years needs to be captured within the study sites. Further potential sites will be visited in October and November 2005 and two more visits will be made to Uganda by Dr Paul Donald (RSPB, November 2005) and Dr Simon Bolwig (DIIS, December 2005) to finalise sites and data collection methods. This is unlikely to have a major effect on the overall timetable as we allowed several months for selection of suitable study sites. However, the completion of the first field season, scheduled for the end of February 2006, is likely to slip until March 2006.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

No

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

None

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 or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**