

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

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
Project Leader	<i>Dr Juliet Vickery</i>
Report date	31 st October 2006
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Project website	www.uganda-agrobiodiversity.org

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).

April 2007 Third discussion forum held between NU/UWS and local farming communities

In May and September 2007, we held two more discussion groups with farmers, the first in Jinja and the second in Mukono. The second meeting was attended by 60 farmers and the aims were twofold. The first was to highlight issues relating to trees, agro-forestry and the relationship with biodiversity. During previous meetings of the Agro-biodiversity Working Group, the merits of various species were discussed in terms of their benefit to both biodiversity and farmers and a short-list of species were drawn up. The list included species such as *Markhamia* which are multi-purpose and are used for medicinal purposes and as timber and fodder and single purpose trees such as Mvule *Chlorophora excelsa* which is an excellent hardwood timber tree and Mango that are prized by farmers for their fruit. These species are all insect rich and the use of these very different trees will provide a diverse structure in the farming landscape. In the bird-habitat models that are being developed, this diverse structure is an important factor determining the number of species present in farmland. A small number of trees of the various species were taken to the meeting and were sold (at a subsidised price) to farmers at the end of the discussion. The second aim of the meeting was to identify demonstration farms in the area (see below)

August 2007 Fourth three month field season completed and annual newsletter for farmers drafted

As discussed with Darwin previously, the majority of the fieldwork was undertaken in the first 12 months of the project, and smaller discrete programmes of fieldwork are planned during the rest of the project. These include pollination experiments (carried out in July and August) at several sites. Initial results suggest that the pollination services provided by invertebrates in coffee are considerable. These pollination experiments will be repeated in November 2007 on a wider scale, including the Kaweri coffee plantation.

September 2007 Demonstration farms novel land management approaches identified and plots established

The initial selection of a short list of potential demonstration farms has been carried out. The

Agro-biodiversity Working Group together with project staff are determining the final criteria and the decision on which farms to include will be made in the second half of the 2007/2008 financial year. Some of these farms will be where some of the key practices already exist. For example, diverse vegetation structure and tall trees are emerging as being important in influencing levels of biodiversity and these can not be established rapidly on demonstration on farms.

September 2007 Second exchange visit of Ugandan staff (to present work at British Ecological Society autumn meeting)

During October, Dianah Nalwanga (PhD Student working on birds) made a second visit to the BTO for 10 days to have further statistical training and advice on analysis and reporting. In particular she received training in the use of Distance sampling and also agreement on thesis structure. This visit was extremely useful as it allowed her to spend a concentrated period of time working on analyses in an environment where she could interact with a number of different scientists working in related fields.

Theodore Munyuli did not come to the UK as the main delaying factor in progressing his work is the identification of his bee specimens. There is not the facility in Uganda for him to identify all of his specimens. He therefore visited Dr Connal Eardley at the Biosystematics division of Plant Protection Research Institute in Pretoria, South Africa. Dr Eardley is an acknowledged expert in African bees and Theo managed to identify most of his specimens. Several were new to Dr Eardley and so these were left in Pretoria to be identified at a later date.

We plan to bring both students back to the UK in spring 2008 to attend the Student Conference on Conservation Science (25 - 27 March 2008).

Other events

A discussion was also undertaken between a few members of the working group and NAADS coordinators from Masaka, Mubende, Nakaseke, and Kamuli. Also present during this discussion were representatives from VI agro-forestry project and Kulika. This discussion was to get extension advisors input on the handbook being developed and consequently to find ways of integrating NAADS activity guidelines into the handbook.

During July 2008 Simon Potts of the University of Reading visited the project and instructed Theodore Munyuli in pollination experiment techniques. Phil Atkinson and Juliet Vickery also visited the project at this time and held detailed discussions with the ABWG in relation to demonstration farms, farmer discussion groups and the handbook. PA and JV also spent time with David, Theo and Dianah discussing analysis and reporting.

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.

There have been no major problems during this last 6 months. The handbook production and demonstration farms are later than planned and this has been due to delays earlier in the project.

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/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

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

No.

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 email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**