

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2011)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	18-012
<b>Project Title</b>	Paying Local Communities for Ecosystem Services. The Chimpanzee Conservation Corridor
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Uganda
<b>UK Organisation</b>	IIED
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Chimpanzee Sanctuary & Wildlife Conservation Trust
<b>Project Leader</b>	<i>Maryanne Grieg-Gran</i>
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<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.iied.org/sustainable-markets/key-issues/environmentaleconomics/paying-local-communities-for-ecosystem-servic">http://www.iied.org/sustainable-markets/key-issues/environmentaleconomics/paying-local-communities-for-ecosystem-servic</a>

## **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).**

(0.2) Partners reviewed progress at a meeting held in Kampala in July 2011 in conjunction with the steering committee meeting of the GEF project on randomized evaluation of PES. Maryanne Grieg-Gran of IIED attended the meeting.

### **Output 1 PES scheme designed and piloted in participatory process**

(1.4) A total of 256 forest owners from 20 villages have been consulted in village focus groups specifically about the current status of forest, reasons for forest conservation or degradation and associated interventions. Community monitors (see 1.6-1.7 below) and the Chairmen of village level local councils played a key role in the consultations. Posters depicting the current state of the forests and the landowners' desired state of the forest were an important tool in the consultation. NAHI drew on some of these consultations as well as desk review to draw up voluntary guidelines on recommended land management interventions for degraded and intact forest patches in the area of the scheme. These complement the small set of prescribed conditions in the contract.

(1.5) CSWCT, NEMA, IPA and NAHI held meetings in April 2011 to review the simplified version of draft PES contract that had been produced with IIED's input at the end of year 1. The senior legal counsel of NEMA provided legal expertise. The voluntary guidelines on forest management are included as annexes to the contract. The CSWCT partnered with the local cultural institution's Yolam Nsamba to do preliminary translation of the contract into the local language, Runyoro. The complete translation was finalized in the course of the consultations with private forest owners (PFOs). The basic design features and rules of the scheme were set out by CSWCT and IIED in a Frequently Asked Questions format in April 2011. This drew on the consultations that had been completed by that date. It is being adjusted as further questions and issues arise from the consultations.

(1.6 -1.7) CSWCT recruited 11 community monitors (field staff) drawn from Parishes in which the PES scheme will operate. In addition, 14 community monitors that had been taken on and trained in 2009 and early 2010 to do chimpanzee monitoring will now add forest monitoring to their duties. The community monitors will map forest boundaries of each forest owner that applies to join the scheme, carry out initial forest stock assessments, advise on reforestation and monitor compliance with the contracts. Between April and June all monitors were trained in

partnership with NAHI and with input from Patrick Byakagaba from Makerere University. The focus was on taking measurements for forest stock, using the GPS to map forest areas and step by step engagement of forest owners in the PES process. Follow-up training in field was held in August 2011, after review of lessons learned from the pilot phase. In addition, one of the community monitors (Moses Aganyira) together with Philip Kihimuro of CSWCT, benefited from an intensive one week training course on GIS, organized by the Jane Goodall Institute.

(1.8) The contract signing process was piloted in villages in Kyabigambere subcounty. Consultations held with villages prior to signing the contract revealed that PFOs were anxious to know how long the current contract was for and whether there was probability for review and or extension after the experimental phase. The Darwin support was particularly important in enabling the conduction of forest assessments by community monitors to determine the milestones for each participating forest owner before they are enrolled in the scheme. By the end of September, 109 forest land owners had signed contracts to conserve 306ha of existing natural forest and to reforest 65ha. In the next half of this year it is aimed to have all contracts signed for a targeted 600-800 forest owners in Hoima and Kibaale Districts.

### **Output 2: Systems for valuing and monitoring ecosystem services and livelihood benefits**

(2.2-2.8) In May 2011, the project team received the REDD feasibility study undertaken for WWF by WCS. As a result of the Darwin support for background socioeconomic and biodiversity research this study was able to include the area covered by the PES scheme to complete the whole Northern Albertine rift (Murchison-Semliki). One of the key findings is that carbon stocks in the forests in the Northern Albertine rift are low relative to tropical forests in other countries in Africa.

(2.9). NAHI is preparing a report on monitoring programmes for carbon and biodiversity that most appropriate for the PES scheme. It has compiled information about forest carbon measurement protocols but has yet to examine other ecosystem services.

(2.10) NAHI has made comments on the Project Design Document that is being prepared by WCS for the Northern Albertine Rift (Murchison-Semliki Landscape), NAHI's comments raise the need to target both the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) as well as the Carbon, Community and Biodiversity standards (CCBS) for greater credibility in the carbon market. They also suggested ways of improving community representation for decision making and ownership by the community.

### **Output 3: Finance secured from ecosystem service markets/buyers to cover payments in pilot phase and to ensure continuity of payments**

(3.1) Preparation of the prospectus has been put on hold until the process of enrolment of private forest landowners has been completed and clear figures on the number of landowners and area of forest in the scheme are available. But in the meantime potential financiers have been approached with tailored information about the scheme.

(3.2) NEMA and CSWCT made presentations about the project to private companies invited by the Albertine Rift Carbon Group in May 2011. CSWCT made a separate presentation to Tullow Uganda at their invitation. In September CSWCT participated in a meeting with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation at the Norwegian Embassy in Kampala where WCS presented the REDD feasibility study and REDD pilot project proposal for the whole landscape. We are yet to hear the outcome of the earlier submitted joint concept note with WCS to Cambridge Programme on Sustainability Leadership, which formed part of their feasibility study for Barclays Bank on opportunities for mitigation activities in smallholder agriculture.

### **Output 4 Project lessons in using PES to deliver multiple benefits communicated nationally and internationally**

(4.5) As landowner enrolment is still ongoing, it is too early to communicate lessons. However, a newsletter presenting early developments on the PES scheme was prepared in June 2011 and shared with national, regional and international stakeholders.

