

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2012)

Project Ref No	18-012
Project Title	Paying Local Communities for Ecosystem Services. The Chimpanzee Conservation Corridor
Country(ies)	Uganda
UK Organisation	IIED
Collaborator(s)	Chimpanzee Sanctuary & Wildlife Conservation Trust
Project Leader	<i>Maryanne Grieg-Gran</i>
Report date	31-10-2012
Report No. HYR	April 2012-September 2012
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Project website	http://www.iied.org/paying-local-communities-for-ecosystem-services-chimpanzee-conservation-corridor

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).

(0.3) Partners reviewed progress and discussed post-project arrangements at a meeting held in Kampala in September 2012 in conjunction with the steering committee meeting of the GEF project on randomised evaluation of PES. Maryanne Grieg-Gran of IIED attended the meeting.

Output 1 PES scheme designed and piloted in participatory process

(1.9) The last six months have been dedicated to implementing the payment scheme. Some more private forest owners (PFOs) were contracted into the scheme in April and May. This brought the total number of PFOs who had signed contracts to conserve and restore natural forest to 340 and the area covered to 1,590.6 ha. Further distribution of seedlings took place bringing the total allocated to 44,000 and the number of PFOs receiving seedlings to 253. Monitoring of compliance with contracts began in July in accordance with the framework developed in the previous year. Monitoring information was fed into a project database. The first annual payments were made in August to 32 PFOs, followed by payments to 49 in September. The amount of payment depended on the level of compliance as reported by the community monitors and recorded in the database.

(1.10) Follow up technical support and training for landholders on natural forest management, reforestation and enrichment planting has been integrated in the monitoring framework. 233 PFOs were visited and advised on a case by case basis depending on the forest management issues identified.

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

CSWCT (Paul Hatanga) and NAHI (Byamukama Biryahwaho) have continued to participate in the discussions of the Northern Albertine Rift Conservation Group (NARCG) on the development of a REDD+ pilot and preparation of a Project Design Document for the Murchison-Semliki landscape, a large area covering over 90,000 ha of forest which includes amongst others the area incorporated in the PES scheme. Development of the REDD+ pilot is being led by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

Output 3 Secure finance

The NARCG REDD+ pilot scheme is progressing well and has good prospects of funding from the Norwegian Embassy in Uganda for an intermediate implementation stage which will eventually lead to long-term carbon finance. While this is promising for the PES scheme as it represents a long-term source of finance, there are concerns about short-term financing of the scheme after the GEF funds allocated for the payments come to an end. Options were discussed in the partners' review meeting and in bilateral discussions between IIED and CSWCT. It was agreed that rather than prepare a project prospectus aimed at the voluntary carbon market, we will prepare more targeted proposals for transitional finance to enable a seamless progression from the current PES scheme to its scaling up and tapping of long-term carbon finance as part of the large landscape level NARCG REDD+ pilot. These proposals will be targeted at both public and private organisations including philanthropic organisations and will focus on multiple ecosystem service benefits.

Further discussions have been held with Tullow Oil and a concept note is under discussion.

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

Project lessons in the last six months have been mainly communicated nationally, helping to inform the design of national REDD+ pilot projects in particular that of the NARCG. . Specific contributions have been made on the free prior and informed consent process, forest mapping, monitoring and management planning.

The project also featured in NEMA's biannual newsletter in June.

Members of the project team made presentations and participated in the following events in Uganda:

- Paul Hatanga-Conservation Conference in Kampala, 24th May 2012. Theme on Biodiversity Conservation and management in Uganda.
- Byamukama Biryahwaho, PES project monitoring framework. Presentation at Tropical Biology Association field training course in Kibaale National Park, 23rd June 2012.
- IIED-JGI workshop at Makerere University for the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group on 12th-13th July 2012 to launch a new project entitled, "From research to policy". CSWCT shared lessons from the PES scheme to tackle biodiversity conservation.
- REDD+ sub-working group meeting on 2nd August 2012 to review the interim guidance on implementation of demonstration and or sub-national activities for REDD+. CSWCT provided in-put

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.

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

Discussed with LTS:	no/yes, in..... (month/yr)
Formal change request submitted:	no/yes, in.....(month/yr)
Received confirmation of change acceptance	no/yes in.....(month/yr)

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

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

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 LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**