

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	19-013
<b>Project Title</b>	Research to policy - building capacity for conservation through poverty alleviation
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Uganda,
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	IIED
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	CBC (now Parsons Brinckerhoff); ITFC; ACODE; JGI – Uganda.
<b>Project Leader</b>	Dilys Roe
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR3)</b>	October 2013, HYR2
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/pclg-darwin-initiative-project-research-policy-building-capacity-conservation-through-0">http://povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/pclg-darwin-initiative-project-research-policy-building-capacity-conservation-through-0</a>

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

**Finalising research into ICD effectiveness:** Over the last 6 months the project team has been predominantly occupied with completing the research phase of the project. ITFC completed 365 questionnaires to explore the social and economic profiles of people who access the national park for resources (both authorised and unauthorised) in collaboration with the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA). The research was complemented by two studies by Masters students from Imperial College, London: one focusing on motivations for resource use and the second on governance arrangements. The project team continued their collaboration with – and secured inputs from – two other related studies: one by Stephen Asuma, a member of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group from the International Gorilla Conservation Programme who examined impacts of national park gazettement, and ICD on former pit sawyers and miners. The other study was undertaken on behalf of the Bwindi and Mgahinga Conservation Trust and explored the impacts and governance of their ICD interventions. Both of these studies have fed into, and enriched, the overall research. In addition IIED hosted an internship by Andrew Kirby, a former ITFC volunteer, who provided GIS support for the research and assisted with project dissemination on the IIED website.

**Developing research capacity of Ugandan partners:** Our Uganda-based partner Michelle Wieland has been working with Julia Baker (CBC) to provide ongoing research support and capacity building to the researchers at ITFC. IIED supported the attendance of Stephen Asuma at the Student Conference on Conservation Science where he presented the results of his work, and his internship at Imperial College with a week at IIED including a lunchtime seminar.

**Organising the end of research workshop:** The research phase culminated in September 2013 with a two day workshop in Kampala, which received national media attention. All the project partners were actively involved in organising and presenting at the workshop, which was hosted by Uganda Poverty and Conservation Learning Group. A wide range of participants attended including local government officials from the districts around Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, staff and board members of the UWA and local and international NGOs. The workshop revealed an opportunity for the research findings to directly contribute to the final version of the new 10 year Bwindi Management Plan – an opportunity that was quickly seized by Uganda-PCLG and a follow up meeting with UWA quickly organised.

**Developing the capacity building component:** While some capacity building and advocacy training activities have taken place – as reported in our annual report – the workshop provided a great opportunity to reflect on future needs. Based on the research findings, participants identified key outcomes and indicators of improved ICD and the pathways and actions for change. These actions will be taken forward in a programme of advocacy and skills development that will be delivered to U-PCLG members by ACODE.

**2a. 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.**

No problems but staffing on the project will change from October. Andrew Gordon-Maclean was on a fixed term contract with IIED which has now expired. His role in the project will be taken on by Phil Franks – a new recruit to IIED from November 2013, but an excellent addition to the project team having spent many years working for CARE in Bwindi, setting up the original ICD programme. Michelle Wieland our consultant coordinator in Uganda has moved on, but we anticipate that this will not present a problem since the research phase is now largely complete and the need for on-the-ground technical support is therefore minimal.

**2b. 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

Formal change request submitted: No, we will submit a change request to reflect the change in staffing once Phil Franks is in post.

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A

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

Yes  No

**3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible through the formal Change Request process.** However, it would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication now of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: N/A

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

Two issues were raised in the review of our annual report to be dealt with in this report. The first relates to Andrew Gordon-Maclean not being on the original project documentation. We apologise – we should have submitted a change request to notify you of his appointment. As of the end of September we have further staff changes as described above so we will submit a change request to reflect all of these.

The second issue relates to the Darwin logo not being displayed on the project website – it is now included.

**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 through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto: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**