

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(Due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No	19-019
Project Title	Integration of the Batwa cultural values in the management of the protected areas of Bwindi, Semliki and Mgahinga.
Country	Uganda
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Collaborator(s)	Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) Institute of Tropical Forest Conservation (ITFC) United Organization for Batwa Develop in Uganda (UOBDU)
Project Leader	Dr. Arthur Mugisha
Report date and number	22 nd October, 2013 HYR2
Project website	www.fauna-flora.org

1. Progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline project timetable.

Output 1. Batwa values and institutions are integrated into park governance structures, policies, plans, processes and day-to-day management actions.

Negotiations between UWA and the Batwa institutions have been going on to integrate the identified cultural values in the management of two national parks. In Semliki the Batwa under their 'King' are negotiating to establish a Batwa trail in Semliki National Park to depict and showcase their culture. The trail will also be used as training facility for the Batwa children so that the indigenous knowledge about the forest can be passed on from generation to another and is not lost. A draft understanding between UWA and the Batwa and Bamaga people has been submitted to UWA.

In Bwindi, a Batwa forest experience was designed in the southern part of the Park and is being negotiated to commence. The 'Batwa forest experience' BFE was designed to include identified cultural values such as those about the way the Batwa used to collect food such as honey, knowledge about the medicinal plants, worshipping/spirituality and how they used to bury their dead. The management of this experience is planned not only to conserve the Batwa cultural values, but also assist them improve their livelihood through income generation, respect, appreciation and meaningful participation in the Park's management puts the Batwa at the centre of the implementation. A management structure was negotiated and agreed, where the 'top management' will be comprised of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and Batwa community representatives. The middle level management will include different organisations that support the Batwa groups to enable them realise their management objectives and intentions. The day to day management level will be comprised of mostly the Batwa with support from non-Batwa that are residents of the target communities. The development of this plan was participatory and final report was discussed with all stakeholders and especially the leaders and residents of the beneficiary parishes. The plan is included in this report as **Annex I**.

Output 2. Batwa, park staff and park governance institutions represent and communicate their interests, perspectives and values effectively to each other.

During the general management planning process for Bwindi National Park, the planning unit, with project support, engaged the Batwa communities. The engagement was to ensure that the Batwa can present to the planning team their interests and values so that they can be included in the management plan. Once these aspirations are included in the approved management plan it will be easier to have them implemented by the Park's management teams. The BCVP played a key role in ensuring that the Batwa views are captured and well understood. The available literature such as the 3-D maps that were produced with support from the UOBDU indicating important cultural and scared sites of the Batwa in the Park, their needs and their indigenous knowledge were ably presented to the planning team. As a result, the draft management plan yet to be approved contains some of the elements of the Batwa, such as the Batwa Forest Experience in southern Bwindi.

In Semliki, the Project facilitated a negotiation process to enable the Batwa and the Bamaga communities to access their cultural sites in the Park. A draft MoU is in place and is about to be signed. The draft MoU is included here as **Annex II**.

Functional adult literacy classes have continued during the reporting period in the Semliki and Bwindi project areas.

Output 3. Batwa are actively engaged in park, tourism and community enterprises and initiatives drawing on their forest-related knowledge and values.

Two Batwa from each of the parishes; Kitariro, Rushaga, Sanuriro, Buhoma and Kitahurira from Bwindi, Rukeri and Musasa from Mgahinga and those from Bundimasoli in Semliki were identified, trained and engaged in a monitoring program using monitoring tools and protocols that were developed in the first year of the project.

In Kitariro (Bwindi) we monitored illegal resource access and we were interested to find out if the Batwa are the main culprits of this vice. Data from the ranger post indicate that there are reduced illegal activities during this period. Available records for July-September indicated that only two arrests connected with collection of minor timber forest products were made and these were non Batwa.

On the increased material and non-material benefits from the Parks, the monitoring data indicate that in Kitariro most Batwa have started to participate in community enterprises.

In Mgahinga, five groups comprising of both Batwa and non-Batwa have been formed under the BCVP. The project has supported the groups to lease out land for Irish potato growing, provided training in crop husbandry as well as seedlings and farm tools such as hoes. They continued to participate in village savings scheme, supported by CARE and BMCT where they pool 500 UGX per week in their respective groups. This money earns a modest interest from those that borrow from the group. However, this saving scheme has not yet translated into improved livelihood.

In Bwindi, six groups have been supported to identify and start income generating activities. In Bujengwe parish to the north of Bwindi, we supported formation and registration of two Batwa groups – Byumba and Rurangara. The groups identified bee keeping as a viable income generating activity and have been supported to set up an apiary with 20 locally made bee hives each as well as undergo training in apiary set-up and management. Another two groups in Kitariro and Mukongoro were supported to engage in vegetable growing through provision of seedlings.

Living closest to the Park entrance, the Karehe Batwa community has been supported to undergo training in handcrafts making, while another group has been supported to start a piggery through provision of training, parent stock and construction of the pig sty.

In Semliki, the group identified bee keeping and we supported them to establish an apiary in

the Park with 20 bee hives.

Output 4. Cultural values approach practitioners working in Uganda network to share experiences, help evolve good practice and contribute towards project evolution and implementation.

Working with the Cross Cultural Foundation of Uganda (CCFU), we participated in an international conference on National Trusts under the theme, "Our Heritage, Our Future: Cultural Diversity for Responsible Development". We made two presentations; on the Institutionalising cultural values and using culture as an approach to conservation. Both presentations emphasized the role and activities being implemented under the Darwin funded BVCP in the three protected areas.

Output 5. Impacts of cultural values approaches to Batwa /park relations are monitored, evaluated and findings shared locally, nationally and internationally

We finalised Development of the monitoring tools and protocols during the first year of the project. During this reporting period, we concentrated on field training and establishing of the monitoring units. With support from the Batwa communities, we established 8 park ranger-Batwa monitoring units - 5 in Bwindi, 2 in Mgahinga and 1 in Semliki. The monitoring units comprise of 8 Batwa sub-monitors and 7 Community Conservation Rangers (CCRs). In Mgahinga, one ranger works with 2 Batwa groups. Each monitoring unit is composed of 6 Batwa respondents- 3 men and 3 women, who are routinely engaged during the data collection process. During implementation, more training needs such as record keeping skills have been identified. This is important because the monitoring score sheets use secondary data such as community conservation, law enforcement and tourism records. Our experience indicates that such records are not adequately documented and/or kept. To address this concern we trained rangers in records management. On the side of the Batwa, more training is needed especially on data collection and the importance of collecting these data.

In the same reporting period, collection of the monitoring data commenced.

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.

We experienced a delay in kick starting the income generating activities due to various preparations and consultations that had to be made between the beneficiaries, service providers as well as stakeholders at different levels. However, this was to ensure increased chances of sustainability of the different projects. This may result in some of the activities not being implemented within the previously scheduled timeframe.

In Bwindi, negotiations between the park management and the Batwa about access to cultural sites visited during a planning visit in the first year of the project have been delayed, pending completion of the process to revise the general management plans. Consequently, anxiety among the Batwa has heightened and this may affect their enthusiasm in their participation in project activities.

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

Received confirmation of change acceptance	No
3a. Do you expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carry forward 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 carry forward request: £4,645	
4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?	
No	

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 . 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**

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