

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2012)

Project Ref No	19-022
Project Title	Ecosystem conservation for climate change adaptation in East Africa
Country(ies)	UK, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda
UK Organisation	BirdLife International (BL)
Collaborator(s)	Association Burundaise pour la Protection des Oiseaux (ABO), Nature Kenya (NK), Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda (ACNR), Nature Uganda (NU)
Project Leader	<i>Melanie Heath</i>
Report date	<i>31 October 2012</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website	http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/project/19022/

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).

Progress is outlined below based on the key milestones during this period (April-October) as in the project implementation timetable. **Bold** denotes activities that we aimed to undertake during this period. **Bold*** denotes activities to be completed in a future quarter. Other activities mentioned are those due to be undertaken at a later stage in the project but where progress has already been made.

0.1 Establish project management, monitoring and reporting framework

1.1 Prepare workshop materials and hold project inception workshop

A project inception workshop was held on 28th June in Nairobi, Kenya and was attended by 12 participants from each of the project partners. This workshop was organised by the BirdLife (BL) Africa Office and Global (Cambridge) Secretariats in collaboration with another BL project – Spanish Government-funded policy and advocacy training workshop for BL African Partners. The policy and advocacy workshop served as an excellent opportunity to build understanding of policy mechanisms and enhance advocacy skills amongst the 4 Darwin project partners. At the inception workshop, steps needed to achieve the project activities were discussed and key next steps collectively identified, updates on national contexts were provided, including on national stakeholder needs on ecosystems and adaptation, and a CD of reference material was provided to each attendee (available on request). Individual partner workplans and a project monitoring and reporting framework (used to capture information included in this report) were developed. The partners found the workshop report (see attachment list below, no.1) useful when further planning individual partner activities. A global press release <http://tinyurl.com/9eye4ya> (which has been adapted by partners for national context, e.g. <http://tinyurl.com/8rne85x> and NU newsletter, see attachment list, no.2), project factsheet <http://tinyurl.com/8sycagx>, summary of Darwin Initiative, and PowerPoint presentation project summary, were all produced immediately after the workshop to meet partners' needs.

1.2 Formalise project national stakeholder group (x4)

These multi-stakeholder groups will steer a number of project activities to ensure their relevance in the national context (e.g. share information on examples of EbA, identify training needs, facilitate joint BL-government national review of current policies, and review national guidance). Draft group terms of reference were provided to the four host-country partners to facilitate discussions with stakeholders. ACNR has established a group containing United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Focal Points, various ministries, conservation and development NGOs and development agencies (including UK Department for International Development country office).

NK has expanded the National Liaison Committee that it coordinates (originally 24 government departments, NGOs, and community-based organisations (CBOs) are represented) to include government departments, NGOs, CBOs, Site Support Groups (SSGs) and private sector representatives that work on climate change. SSGs are community-based organisations that work with BL Partner organisations to help promote conservation and sustainable development at the places where they live and work. ABO has negotiated with government to establish a sub-group of the group mandated with climate change responsibility to serve as the project national stakeholder group. This group will contain UNFCCC and CBD focal points, adaptation, reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and mitigation experts, and sectoral (including respective ministries) and civil society representatives. NU will use the National Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Change (government, local government and NGO representatives) as the national stakeholder working group (to gain maximum government buy-in to the project, and to avoid the duplication that would be created if a parallel working group purely for this project was established).

1.4 Review examples of good practice EbA in each country*

Partners have started to collate examples of 'good practice' ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation to climate change (EbA) (defined by a guidance document provided, see attachment list, no.3) in their countries into a spreadsheet. This has helped to inform who to include in the national stakeholder group, initial thinking on case study sites, and training workshop locations and invitees. We have been able to find examples in all partner countries except Burundi.

1.5 Prepare training materials for national training workshops (x4)*

A 'Frequently Asked Questions' on EbA document (see attachment list, no.4) has been prepared and has received positive feedback from stakeholders. The guidance document on reviewing EbA 'good practice' contains principles of 'effective' EbA. Both documents will be used at the workshops. Robert Munroe (Project Manager) has been providing inputs into United Nations Environment Programme's 'Ecosystem-based Adaptation Guidance: Moving from Principles to Practice' Decision Support Framework. Components of this guidance will be trialled at the national training workshops. Project Manager has also been collating relevant training materials from adaptation events (see 4.5 below).

1.8 Regular dialogue with national and local government*

Partners have attended many meetings to facilitate project awareness, provide introductions to the concept of using ecosystem services to help people adapt, and to build relationships with members of the national governments. ABO has held meetings on the project with UNFCCC, CBD and Adaptation Focal Points. NK have participated in National Validation Workshops for the Kenya National Climate Change Adaptation Plan. ACNR have shared the project factsheet with national and local government representatives at several meetings including Environment and Natural Resources Joint Sector Review workshop (26 September 2012). ACNR have also presented on the project at the multi-stakeholder Rwanda Conservation Forum on 27 September at the Rwanda Development Board (all government agencies responsible for development). Individual meetings have been held on the project with UNFCCC and CBD Focal Points, senior officials at Ministry of Natural Resources, and others. NU have held meetings with the CBD Focal Point to discuss the project in the context of the current National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) review.

2.1 Build and regularly review government-civil society partnerships*

The intention is that this will be facilitated by activity 1.2. See also answer to 1.8. In addition, ABO have included the 350 Campaign and other civil society organisations in the national stakeholder working group. NU have had meetings with International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to note their engagement on EbA in Uganda and interest in engaging in the national stakeholder group. NK have hosted a day-long session (25 September) on adaptation at their National Site Support Groups (SSGs) workshop (19 SSGs and the National Environmental Management Authority were present). Topics covered at this workshop included 'Climate change adaptation in Kenya: the role of government and civil society' and 'Methods of engaging with County Governments on issues of climate change (including EbA)' – a write-up of this workshop will be provided in the annual project report.

2.2 Complete 4 BL-government national reviews of adaptation policies*

Guidance has been provided on how to review policies/strategies (see attachment list, no.5) for their consideration of the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to climate change. ABO have used this guidance to actively engage in Burundi's NBSAP review.

ACNR are currently reviewing the National Biodiversity policy and the Green Growth and Climate Resilience National Strategy for Climate Change and Low Carbon Development. NK are participating in the national process reviewing and developing the National Climate Change Response Strategy. NU have identified the National Adaptation Programme of Action, national Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation strategy and national guidelines on biofuels, as policies/strategies to review to complement their work on NBSAP review.

3.7 Develop indicator for relevant Aichi-Nagoya Targets*

A briefing note was provided on the links between the project and the NBSAP process (see attachment list, no.6), including on indicators. This has been used by all partners to engage with their CBD Focal Point and in meetings in the run-up to and at CBD Conference of the Parties 11, 8-19 October (NK and NU had representatives at COP11).

1.3 Consult national stakeholders to assess EbA training needs

NK consulted SSGs on their training needs at the National SSG workshop (see 2.1). NU has discussed this with CBD Focal Point, WWF and IUCN and noted the use of geographic information systems for adaptation, mainstreaming adaptation into development planning, community-based adaptation, climate change impact assessments and integrated solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation, as areas where further training is needed. ACNR discussed training needs at the Conservation Forum session (mentioned in 1.8) and those mentioned included understanding different adaptation measures and the scale at which those measures can work. ABO have appreciated through various meetings that the biophysical mechanics of ecosystems helping people to adapt, and how EbA can help various sectors (agriculture, water, health, etc.) adapt, are training needs. All of this input will inform the preparation of training materials for national training workshops (1.5).

3.1 With host country Partners select case study sites

Guidance (informed by inception workshop discussion) has been provided on what to consider when selecting a case study site (see attachment list, no.3). ACNR have used their knowledge of the vulnerability of communities to inform a short-list of sites including Gishwati Forests. ABO have provisionally chosen Murehe/mountain chains of Ruyigi and Cankuzo as this site was included in Burundi's NAPA (priority project 2) – however, they will wait for guidance from the national stakeholder group. NK have five options including Tana River Delta, Nandi Hills, and Kikuyu Escarpment. NU are working with local government and other stakeholders to discuss the suitability of the Echuya Forest landscape.

4.5 Project and materials presented at international and national conferences

BL Africa Office (and ABO, not using Darwin Project budget) attended the 14th African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN), Arusha, Tanzania, 10-14 September. All partners were provided with a briefing note on the relationship between the project and the conference agenda items (see attachment list, no.7) in order to assist discussions with government in the run-up to the conference. AMCEN agreed on a 2013-14 work programme that includes an EbA Programme for Africa facilitated by UNEP, United Nations Development Programme and Africa Climate Policy Centre. This project will try to engage with this programme.

Project Manager and NK attended UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme Expert Roundtable on EbA, 3 October, and “Integrating Community-based and Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation in Practice: A two-day ‘think-tank’ workshop reviewing key issues and outlining solutions”, 4-5 October, both in Nairobi, Kenya, in order to raise awareness of the project and identify tools and guidance that would be useful for the national training workshops.

Project Leader attended CBD COP11, Hyderabad, India (not using Darwin Project budget) and presented the project on a panel discussing ‘Piloting the Development and Implementation of National-Level Joint Activities Between the Rio Conventions’ (see p.28 of summary of Rio Conventions Pavilion sessions <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/ymbvol200num19e.pdf>, and photographs at <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop11/pavilion/18oct.html>).

Attachment list:

1. Filename: 'BL 19-022 inception workshop report'
2. 'BL 19-022 Nature Uganda newsletter'
3. 'BL 19-022 Guidance – What to look for in EbA good practice and case study sites'
4. 'BL 19-022 EbA Q&A' – EbA Frequently Asked Questions'
5. 'BL 19-022 Guidance – National policy review'
6. 'BL 19-022 Guidance – NBSAP indicators'
7. 'BL 19-022 AMCEN briefing paper'

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.

Name change of one host-country coordinator due to staffing change. Alex Ngari left Nature Kenya before the start of the project and has been replaced as host-country coordinator in Kenya by Paul Muoria. Given that the change took place at the start of the project, that Paul was able to attend the project inception workshop, that he is an experienced staff member of Nature Kenya, and that he has a good understanding of conservation, climate change and politics in Kenya, we have not seen any negative impacts on the project of this change to date and do not envisage any in the future. This change will not impact the budget or 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?

Yes, a change request form was submitted together with the CV of the individual concerned. It was deemed not necessary to make changes to the original agreement.

Discussed with LTS: Yes

Formal change request submitted: Yes, 24 August 2012

Received confirmation of change acceptance: Yes, 31 August 2012

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?

None

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**