



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	19-022
Project Title	Ecosystem conservation for climate change adaptation in East Africa
Country(ies)	UK, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda
Lead Organisation	BirdLife International (BL)
Collaborator(s)	Association Burundaise pour la Protection de la Nature (ABN) (formerly 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 and number (eg HYR3)	<i>31 October 2014 HYR3</i>
Project website	http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/project/19022/

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 to end September).

Progress for Y3Q1-Q2 (April-September 2014) is outlined below against the project activities scheduled for the period. Project activities that are not referred to below were scheduled for and completed during Y1-Y2, and have been reported against in previous reports.

1.2 Formalise project national stakeholder groups:

Multi-stakeholder groups continue to be used by Partners as a medium to exchange experience and information on ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA). For example, ABN convened a multi-stakeholder working group on 21 June, attended by CBD and UNFCCC focal points. Agenda items included presentation of the National EbA Workshop report and its recommendations, dissemination and discussion of ecosystem services assessment results, and costs of inaction on adaptation. NK convened a meeting of the Important Bird Area-National Liaison Committee (IBA-NLC) on 10 July, where the outcomes of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) and implications of UNEA Decision 7 on EbA were discussed. NU convened two meetings of the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (U-PCLG), with strategic discussions on strengthening collaboration and effectiveness of the group, and agreement to jointly develop relevant material on EbA.

1.4 Review examples of good practice EbA in each country

Partners saw value in continuing this Y1 activity, collecting and tracking examples of climate change (CC) adaptation in their respective countries to identify key actors, good practices and opportunities for collaboration. Additional government and CSO examples have been identified and recorded using the template provided in Y1 during this period in all four countries. The activity is facilitated in Rwanda by the recent establishment of a CC portal by the Rwandan Environmental Management Authority (REMA) to collate CSO information and experiences. ACNR attended training in Y3Q2 on using this portal.

1.7 Produce and disseminate workshop reports nationally and internationally

- ACNR submitted report to the CC portal (see Activity 1.4).
- ABN uploaded report on their website, and presented findings to working group (Activity 1.2).
- NU uploaded workshop report on the working group website and shared it at Muko Sub County (project site) stakeholder consultation meeting.
- Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda workshop reports uploaded on the BL website.
- NK continues to update their report, which will cover all the SSG and IBA-NLC meetings conducted during the project. The report will be submitted in Y3Q3.

1.8 Regular dialogue with national and local government leads on adaptation.

Presentations at national and international meetings, preparation and presentation of briefings ahead of key meetings

Partners organised and attended a number of bilateral and multilateral meetings, promoting integration of ecosystem considerations into adaptation policies and building relationships with local and national government. For example:

- All four partners met with local administration authorities at the project site to discuss project progress and build capacity to implement EbA. ABN and NU also involved local CSOs in the vulnerability assessment and community planning process.
- ABN contributed to the inception workshop of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process and a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) implementation workshop convened by INCEN, and discussed integrating EbA within policies with several stakeholders including the Director of Environment at MEEATU, and CBD and UNFCCC focal points.
- ACNR met with the UNFCCC focal point at REMA, discussing plans for the development of NAP, NBSAP updates and opportunities for collaboration
- ABN and ACNR presented on the Darwin Initiative and EbA at a national stakeholder consultation workshop on a BL project entitled “Enhancing Climate Change Resilience in Great Lakes Regional Watershed”, which was attended by CSOs, government institutions and local communities.
- NK had informal discussions with, among others, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, National Environmental Management Authority, and the Acting Coordinator of Climate Change Secretariat, MWENR.
- NU reviewed the ecosystem and climate change components of the National Development Plan II in a consultative study, and contributed to a National Conference organised by World Vision on re-greening landscapes.

BL discussed the project with national stakeholders during international meetings (e.g. Burundi’s Ramsar Focal Point during Ramsar Working Group Meeting; national delegates from Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda during CBD capacity building workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa).

2.1 Build and regularly review government-civil society partnerships

Government-civil society partnerships established earlier in the project continue to be used effectively to raise awareness of and build capacity for EbA, and for partners to gain access to policy processes. The project working groups (Activity 1.2) and other multi-stakeholder groups (e.g. Uganda Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas) are being used as a vehicle for capacitating key civil society and government staff to deliver EbA. Partnerships continue to be established and strengthened locally and nationally. In addition to examples under Activity 1.8:

- ABN invited by MEEATU to participate in a workshop on vulnerability analysis in Burundi, under GIZ-funded project.
- ACNR successfully applied for and received training on CC, food security and trade linkages in context of Rwandan National Policies, where the project and role of EbA was discussed.
- ACNR invited by REMA to input to an inception workshop on a LDCF-funded EbA project.
- NU convened meeting in June of the national focal points of relevant biodiversity conventions to promote better coordination, and locally, integrated priorities from the community adaptation planning process into draft Muko Sub Country bye laws.

2.2 Complete 4 BL-government national reviews of adaptation policies

This activity was completed in Y1 and Y2. However, partners are continuing to review policies as opportunities for influence arise. For example, NK reviewed the latest version of the National Climate Change Policy, which reflects some but not all of recommendations made by NK and BirdLife in Y2, and is tracking opportunities to further influence the policy. NU reviewed and made final inputs to the latest NBSAP through the thematic working group on climate change. The final document will be available at the end of 2014.

3.2 Engage with LCGs at each case study site and other members of the associated communities and undertake a participatory vulnerability assessment

Partners addressed remaining knowledge gaps from the vulnerability assessments conducted in Y2, through consultations with the community, to finalise the vulnerability assessment reports. This activity has been merged with the development of community adaptation plans, which are being developed based on the results of the vulnerability assessment (see Activity 4.2).

3.3 Assess training needs of LCGs and deliver as part of, and in addition to, vulnerability assessment process

The training needs of LCGs at all four project sites were assessed during the vulnerability assessment and community planning – a process designed to facilitate reflection, discussion and learning. In addition, a capacity assessment was conducted for LCGs at the Burundi, Kenyan and Rwandan sites. Training was provided at the Kenyan site for the LCG on leadership and management, developing a strategy for the LCG, and understanding ecosystem services and their assessment. The ACNR project coordinator supported the community during a mandatory community service day, and used this opportunity to speak to the entire community about CC and the roles and needs of ecosystems.

3.4 Measure and quantify adaptation benefits provided by ecosystems

As part of the community adaptation planning process, ABN, NK and NU have developed draft indicators to measure the benefits of EbA. Outputs from the ecosystem service evaluation by NU and ABN have been analysed and presented to relevant government and civil society staff. NK is conducting ecosystem service assessments at Yala Swamp as part of another Darwin Initiative-supported project. The results will support communication and advocacy of EbA at the project site.

3.5 Produce national EbA guidance informed by experience from case studies and government-civil society partnerships

Initial discussions of the guidance needs and form were discussed during a multi-partner workshop in Nairobi in July*. Partners consulted with relevant stakeholders and continue to collect relevant case studies (Activity 1.4) in order to deliver on this activity in Y3Q3. For example, in Uganda, a taskforce under the U-PCLG Group was established to work on the national guidance. BL has also been providing input into the development of a tool to support the integration of ecosystems into National Adaptation Plans. The lead organisation has invited BL to trial this tool (Y3Q4) once it is finalised.

3.6 Present case studies, national and regional guidance to audiences

ABN was invited to the evaluation of the 2nd year of the implementation of the CSLPII (poverty reduction strategy), where they shared the project case study as a contribution to the implementation of the strategy. ACNR presented the project during a workshop on the national implementation of the UNCCD, and it was included within Rwanda's UNCCD 5th Report. NU provided inputs into a UNDP survey on EbA experiences, and BL provided inputs to a similar survey led by UNEP. BL presented the project at a workshop on ecosystem services hosted by RSPB, attended by international project staff, to promote uptake of the EbA concept.

3.7 Develop indicator for relevant Aichi-Nagoya Targets

The NBSAP process in Kenya was reinitiated in May and NK has secured a key role in this process, positioning themselves to support the development of the Aichi targets at the national level. All other partners have also been engaged in the NBSAP process over this reporting period (see e.g. Activity 2.2). ACNR reviewed the proposed Aichi Targets for Rwanda, and ABN will be informed when INCEN has secured a consultant to develop the indicators, and will engage at this point.

3.8 Dialogue with governments and other potential donors to secure future resources for EBA activities at case study sites

All partners have developed fundraising strategies for securing future resources for the case study sites. Dialogue with governments and donors has taken place at a global, regional and national level, and there are a several proposals being developed or awaiting response. The capacity built within the partners and the profile the project has given partners has better positioned them to secure funding for CC work. For example, ACNR was selected as the Rwandan representative for the Adaptation Fund NGO Network project funded by IKI, and was invited to partner on a proposal led by a Canadian-based consultancy. A post-project proposal was submitted unsuccessfully to Darwin Initiative. A similar concept is being developed, taking into account the feedback from the unsuccessful application. In addition to securing funds for case study sites to ensure sustainability, BL is developing a strategy to roll-out EbA across the partnership, building on the experience of the Darwin Initiative project.**

4.1 Produce and regularly review global, regional, national and local advocacy and communication plans to disseminate training and best practice guidance and examples from the project

All four partners have local and national advocacy plans, which they revise on a quarterly basis.

They have also developed communication plans, and have reviewed these for Y3Q3-Q4. BL also has advocacy plans at the regional and global level.

4.2 Together with LCGs, develop local experience-based guides on EbA

Draft community plans guiding implementation of EbA have been developed by ABN, NK, NU and will be finalised in Y3Q3, helping build resilience of these four communities to climate change. Community plans have been informed by the participatory vulnerability assessment. NK finalised their SSG Strategy on CC, developed as part of the project, which will be presented to the SSGs from across Kenya for validation at a workshop in November. This will scale-up considerably the adoption of EbA and the potential socio-economic benefits of the project. Generic guidance in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda will also be developed, based on the vulnerability assessment and community plan and shared with local stakeholders in Y3Q3-Q4.

4.3 Produce and distribute policy analysis/issue awareness briefs in English and French

A brief was developed on the AMCEN EbA Flagship programme and disseminated to BirdLife Africa Partners. The brief provides background to the programme and is guiding Partners on how they can engage nationally. Another brief analyses the UNEA decision on EbA, outlining the implications of the decision at national level and opportunities for BirdLife African Partners to engage in this.

4.4 Case studies and guidance displayed

- National workshop reports and recommendations displayed (refer to Activity 1.7)
- Project profiled in the AAKNet newsletter <http://aaknet.org/index.php/component/k2/item/150-aaknet-newsletter-issue-6>

4.5 Project and materials presented at CBD, UNFCCC, AMCEN and other national and local events

- Project presented at CBD capacity building workshop for Eastern and Southern Africa in May on ecosystem conservation and restoration to support achievement of Aichi Targets.
- BL sent a submission to the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme on good practices and lessons learned for national adaptation planning, which profiles the Darwin Initiative project and will be included in summary document for discussion at COP20 (December 2014)
- BL submitted the project case study to World Parks Congress (November 2014) and was awarded a speaking and panel position.

* In addition to the activities planned for this period, a **Project Review, Planning, and Knowledge Sharing Workshop** was held in July, in Nairobi, with the four project partners. The workshop was organised in response to MTR recommendations and requests from partners for additional opportunities for experience sharing and joint planning. It was a 3-day workshop organised and facilitated by BL and included project review and planning, policy, advocacy and communications training, and EbA experience sharing. It also offered an opportunity to raise the profile of the Darwin Initiative and EbA among the regional office, and build capacity, as it was attended by 4 individuals from the regional office, who are not on the project.

** The project has triggered interest in EbA across the BirdLife Partnership and is seen as an effective pilot project. To support the roll-out of this concept, the project lead and manager hosted a Cambridge MPhil student, who developed a roadmap for rolling out EbA across the Partnership, building on the experiences of this project.

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.

- 1 Two significant staff changes: i) Egide Ntakirutimana, project coordinator at ACNR, left ACNR early June. He was replaced by Annet Akeza in mid-July. The Executive Director, Serge Nsengimana has been involved in the project since the beginning and provided additional support during the transition. The project manager and regional coordinator also had more frequent contact with the new project coordinator to ensure a smooth transition. The most significant impact has been the delay of the community planning process by 2 months, which is now planned for October. However, the new coordinator has worked hard to catch up on activities and has delivered a high standard of work. The change is not expected to have implications on the budget or the final delivery of any of the project

activities. ii) Paul Muoria, project coordinator at NK, left NK at the end of August. NK has conducted interviews but has not yet identified a suitable replacement. In the meantime, Paul Muoria continues to work part-time for NK, and Fred Barasa and Joan Gichuki have taken on additional responsibilities to ensure delivery of activities. While this situation requires close attention and monitoring, at this stage, it is not expected to impact on the final delivery of project activities.

2 Changes based on the recommendations from the MTR were incorporated into workplans, and monitoring and reporting.

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: Yes – recommendations for the project were discussed during MTR process

Formal change request submitted: Yes – please see attached formal request to modify logframe, based on MTR discussion and recommendations.

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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?

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 can be discussed in this report but **should also** be 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 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**