

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No:	19-023
Project Title:	NBSAPS 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development
Country(ies)	Botswana, Namibia, The Seychelles, Uganda,
UK Organisation	IIED
Collaborator(s)	UNEP-WCMC, CBD Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, PEI
Project Leader	Steve Bass
Report date	October 2012
Report No.	HYR 1
Project website	http://povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/pclg-nbsaps

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).

Project Inception and Planning: A project inception meeting was held in April between IIED and UNEP-WCMC, the two implementing partners, to agree division of responsibilities between the team members, start developing our theory of change and M&E plans, and confirm the commitment of our partner countries.

Establishment of International Advisory Group: Key representatives from each of the collaborating organisations (CBD, UNEP, UNDP, PEI) were invited to join an International Advisory Group, chaired by Steve Bass at IIED. Two (telephone) meetings of the IAG have been held focussing on 1) arrangements for the first project workshop in Botswana; and 2) promoting wide uptake of project outputs – exploring the different dissemination channels of each organisation.

Confirmation of country partners: Contracts have now been agreed with Botswana, Uganda, Namibia and The Seychelles – an extended process but one which has helped to clarify mutual expectations. However, despite initial commitment, all communication with Malawi ceased following the change of leadership in our partner department and as of end of September we have concluded that they no longer wish to be part of the project and have communicated this to our counterparts in the Ministry and the PEI office

Establishment of African Leadership Group: In addition to the country partners we invited independent experts to participate in a wider African Leadership Group, to provide additional technical support and advice to the partner countries. The response of these African colleagues was very enthusiastic and most ALG members will participate in the first project workshop in Botswana.

Raising awareness about the project: A brief project Prospectus was produced to give an overview of the key objectives, outputs and approach of the project. This was disseminated via the IAG members' networks, IIED's Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG), at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in South Korea in September 2012, and at CBD COP 11 in October.

Development of mainstreaming tools: Based on a desk review of available tools for biodiversity mainstreaming we developed a diagnostic tool developed for biodiversity mainstreaming. This was circulated to the IAG members, the PCLG and partner countries for comment then revised and distributed to the partner countries for field testing. A final version for use by all countries was launched at COP11.

State of knowledge report: An initial scoping was conducted on the state of knowledge on biodiversity mainstreaming. An annotated outline for a state of knowledge report was developed and widely disseminated including via the PCLG and at the CBD CoP. Feedback has been requested and the full report will be developed over the next 6 months.

Organising the first multi-national workshop: Botswana will host the first multi-national workshop and the dates have been set for 14-16 November, with two days of preparation beforehand with the hosts. The workshop will focus on developing, promoting and delivering business cases for biodiversity in development, using the entry point of the NBSAP revision process.

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.

The only unexpected development is the lack of communication from Malawi and hence our decision at the end of September to halt efforts in trying to move the contract forward. This will not have a major impact on the project – it means we have four country partners instead of five, but the four partners we do have are very committed. It also means that we can offer more support to each country.

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

The original agreement was already changed in April to include The Seychelles in the place of Rwanda. The decision to drop Malawi from the group of partners was only made at the end of September so we have not yet had an opportunity to discuss with LTS. A change request has been sent with this report.

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?

Not at this stage