



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	21-003
Project Title:	Protecting Ugandan endemic cycads from biodiversity loss and trafficking
Country(ies)	Uganda, RSA, Thailand, China, Philippines
Lead Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, UK
Collaborator(s)	JERA (Uganda), SANBI (RSA), Nong Nooch Tropical Botanical Garden (Thailand), Fairylake BG (China), De La Salle Univ (Philippines).
Project Leader	Prof Hugh W. Pritchard (HWP) and Dr Jayanthi Nadarajan (JN)
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	14 Oct 2014, HRY1
Project website	NA

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).

MoU: Development of the content of the MoU has been progressed by email (only with Philippines) and through one-to-one meetings with collaborators in Uganda and RSA (July 2014) and Thailand and China (September 2014). The draft is with collaborators and we are waiting for final comments.

Project initiation meeting: In July 2014, HWP and JN hosted the first meeting of the UK Advisory Committee for the project, involving Sara Olfield (BGCI), Catherine Rutherford (Conventions and Policy Section, Kew) and Patricia Cremona (WCMC). Roles and responsibilities were agreed, including JN and HWP to: 1) distribute copies of 'CITES and cycads: a user's guide' to the project collaborators and their CITES contacts in country; 2) write an article on the project for the BGCI website by the end of Year 1.

Output 1 - Increased biodiversity knowledge for NDF on Ugandan endemic and endangered cycad:

1.1 Agreements - In July 2014, HWP and JN visited Uganda and met with local authorities to discuss the partnership. JN held meetings with local officials of Mayuge District [Natural Resources Officer and Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)], and the community / land owners. HWP and JN travelled to Kamwenge District to visit *Encephalartos whitelockii* population site and for discussions with the Natural Resources Officer (Mr. William Kasango), Chief Administrative Officer (Mr. Samuel Katehangwa) and District Local Council Chairman (Mr. Robert Kamasaka). JN and HWP met with the head of the Rwenshama Primary School (Mr. Tibananukira Eldard, assisted by Mr. Twijuike Pius), in Kamwenge District, to discuss the Cycads for Children programme (Output 5.5). Finally, JN and HWP had a meeting with 30 members of the Ntarama and Karuhuguma communities in Kamwenge, facilitated by Dennis Kamoga (JERA) and Mr. William Kasango. All meetings were successful.

In July and September 2014, JN and HWP delivered copies of, and introduced, the 'CITES and cycads: a user's guide' to the CITES and CBD officers in Kampala, Uganda and Bangkok, Thailand. There was no need to do this in RSA as John Donaldson (project collaborator) is an author of the user's guide. In September 2014, HWP gave a copy of the guide to biodiversity officer Mr LIU De-wang at the State Forestry Administration, Beijing. SFA are responsible for in situ reserves and cycads feature prominently in their list of most threatened species in China.

In July 2014, JN and HWP visited Richard Cox (Trade Policy Officer) at the British High Commission in Kampala to update him on progress. He will promote the project and support an application for funding to stage a small mid-term meeting (e.g. month 18). The grant submission has been made to the FCO.

A key milestone is to have written permission for the project granted by the local authorities. JERA has written to The Ministry of Environment, the National Environment Management Authority and the district authorities. Subsequent meetings were held and all parties have embraced the project.

1.2 Field visits - JN travelled to Mayuge District, Uganda to visit the *Encephalartos equatorialis* population site; JN and HWP travelled to Kamwenge District, Uganda to visit the *Encephalartos whitelockii* population site.

Data compilation - ongoing.

1.4 Collect phenology data - HWP and JN toured the collections at Nong Nooch and Fairylake and phenology data collection is ongoing.

Output 3 - Reduced demand for wild sourced cycads:

3.1 Market survey - The market survey has not been conducted yet but these will be undertaken in December 2014 - January 2015, i.e., before the end of Year 1.

3.2 Plot for nursery – Plots have been identified in two of the three communities close to the three species of interest to the project. Greatest progress has been made with Kanara Village, Kamwenge district; some progress with Mayuge district; and no real progress in northern Uganda. In the first two locations discussions are ongoing with community elders regarding the people who will be actively involved in the project. Clearly, progress has proved to be slower than we wished.

Output 4 - Strengthen capacity in cycad cultivation and KT:

4.1 Train two Ugandan staff - Staff for training have been identified and the RSA collaborator (P Xaba) visited Uganda with JN and HWP. He provided 5 days of training to two staff (i.e. two person weeks) on how to assess NDF, on phenological and other data collection standards, and on the theory of artificial pollination and seed germination. In effect this training is part of the KT between RSA and Uganda that is partly covered under Output 2.1. We were informed by our collaborators at Fairylake (China) that the replanting of the cycad collections meant that a two week training visit in 2014 was not possible. So we have adjusted the visit schedule so that two Ugandans will be trained for three weeks at Nong Nooch (Thailand) and three weeks in RSA, including cultivation techniques. A health problem for one Ugandan has delayed the training in Thailand until late October- early November. The training in RSA will take place early in 2015.

4.2 In house training – Knowledge gained by Dennis Kamoga (JERA) during the visit by P Xaba (SANBI) has been shared with other members of JERA. Lectures to students of Makerere University has not happened yet. However, several talks will be developed with the aim of interesting university students to participate in the project.

4.5 JERA-SANBI connections - One visit to JERA (Uganda) has been made by P Xaba (SANBI) to discuss the project, etc; the next visit will be in Feb 2015.

4.7 Present at scientific meetings and public talks – HWP outlined the ambition of the cycad project in two lectures: to 30 garden's staff and students at SANBI (July 2014); and to 30 staff, students and funders at the Univ of Guelph (Canada; June 2014).

Output 5 – Community cycad projects established in Uganda:

5.1 Community consultation – see comments above on meetings under 1.1 'Agreements'.

5.2 Agreement between JERA and communities – see comments above on meetings under 1.1 'Agreements'.

5.3 Appoint nursery project manager – see comments above under 3.2 'Nursery Plot'.

5.4 Train local people – work is in the planning phase, ready for implementation by end of Y1.

5.5 Develop and deliver a 'Cycads for Children' school programme - after discussing matters at Rwenshama Primary School, we will: a) work with Primary 3-7 pupils, who are 9

years and above and within the age bracket of studying science; b) focus on understanding simple basic biology of cycads, cover the uses of cycads, explain why we need to protect cycads and how best to do this and develop simple ways of sharing information on cycads. Finally, we are exploring how to introduce an annual school cycad campaign in the region.

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.

The main challenge has been launching this complex project that connects fieldwork, local authorities and communities, and involves six nations. This has impacted on the timing of the training of Ugandan scientists in Thailand and China due to issues of delays with visas (and illness of one of the staff). Whilst there is prior experience of collaboration between RSA (SANBI) and Kew, the tripartite relationship between JERA (Uganda), SANBI (RSA) is developing nicely. The arrangements for support at Nong Nooch (Thailand) are excellent and we now see that facility as our main training ground for cycad cultivation. Although the balance of delivery points within the project has shifted a little, we do not anticipate any major problems in delivering the overall project outputs.

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 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:

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**