

Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2017)

Project Ref No	22-011
Project Title	Conserving biodiversity by improving farming practices and livelihoods in Hoima
Country(ies)	Uganda
Lead Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society
Collaborator(s)	The Chimpanzee Trust (CT), Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), CLUSA
Project Leader	Miguel Leal
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	31 October 2017; HYR3
Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc	n/a
Funder (DFID/Defra)	DFID

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 to end September).

During the last six months, WCS and partners implemented project activities planned under *Outputs 1, 2, 3 and 4* across all 13 parishes.

Output 1: Project benefits in return for forest and wetland conservation clearly understood and agreed upon by the PFOs and formalized in a conservation contract

Carried out activities were:

1.4. WCS, CT and JGI organise annual verification mission to measure and monitor farmers' compliance

To date, WCS has recorded land use data and georeferenced pictures from 531 PFOs. JGI shared tree cover loss alerts from the Global Forest Watcher App with WCS, which WCS then overlapped in GIS with the georeferenced locations of the PFOs. The alerts were verified by the Forest Monitors in the field. From this analysis, WCS was able to conclude that 98% of the PFOs complied with conserving their forest. WCS informed Business Savings Groups of members who did not comply and urged them to take disciplinary measures. WCS also informed the Business Savings Groups that if these members did not get penalized, WCS would exclude their Business Savings Group from future project opportunities. One of these opportunities is receiving offset donations from a Dutch tour operator based in Kampala.

1.5 WCS carries out a biodiversity base and endline survey to measure species occurrences and updates its existing land use maps

In September, WCS prepared for both the grey crested crane and chimpanzee survey. The grey crested crane survey is currently (October) being carried out across the 13 parishes. The chimpanzee survey is planned for early November.

Output 2: Rural financial services established in all the 13 parishes providing capital for sustainable forest friendly and agricultural enterprises

Carried out activities were:

2.4 Trained CT and JGI staff to supervise the management and operation of the micro-financing institutes and measure and monitor capital flows with backstopping from Village Enterprise

Forest Monitors supervised by WCS followed up on the 59 Business Savings Groups and attended their weekly meetings. Over these six months Business Savings Groups have in total saved 81.2 million Ugandan shillings or £16,600. This is on average 1.4 million Ugandan shillings or £281 per Business Savings Group. So far Business Savings Group in total have approved 437 loans. Loans have been on average 2.1 million Uganda shillings or £410. Loan recovery has been 100%.

Output 3: PFO households linked to profitable markets and agribusinesses to sell their farming surplus and increase their income

Carried out activities were:

3.1 WCS identifies potential agribusiness partners in the region and other opportunities in Kampala

On August 24th WCS met with the World Food Program (WFP) in Kampala. The WFP has its own Small-holder Market Support Program. The aim of this program is to build the local capacity of small holder farmers in order to supply the WFP with staple foods to be used for emergencies elsewhere. WFP provided WCS with the criteria to become a WFP producer group and is currently working with PFOs on creating bulking centres. On September 20th WCS met with International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC) to pursue the opportunity to participate in their REACH program. The REACH program aims to build Resilient Efficient Agrobusiness Chains, specifically targeting small-holder farmers and taking a “Making Markets Work for the Poor” (M4P) approach. Unfortunately, the geographical project areas did not overlap.

Output 4: Agricultural intensification through conservation farming to stop the need to clear new forests and wetlands

Carried out activities were:

4.2. CT and JGI trained staff to train the PFO-HHs in conservation farming in their parish;

The Forest Monitors supervised by WCS trained 311 new PFOs and 294 new non-PFO adopters in conservation farming. The total number of PFOs practising conservation farming is now 875 and the total of non-PFO adopters is 549. This is an increase of 55 % compared to the 564 PFO households mentioned in the year 2 annual report; similarly, this is a 115 % increase for non-PFO adopters compared to the 255 households mentioned in the year 2 annual report.

4.4. CT and JGI trained staff to collect data on yields from PFO-HHs

The Forest Monitors collected yield data for season 2017 A (March-May) from a representative sample of 227 PFOs. The 2017A growing season was the first “normal” season after the two abnormal seasons during the 2016 El Nino year. On average PFOs harvested 2,423 kg of maize; the total volume of maize produced by all the PFOs was 2,120 tonnes. This is an increase of 400 % compared to the previous 2016 season of 400 tonnes.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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.

N/A

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	N/A

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., 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?

N/A

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 e.g., Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**

From the evaluation feedback report of the annual report for year 2 the following request for clarification was put in to be answered in the half year report of year 2:

Query 4: In year 1 there was a 44% underspend on capital items but in AR2, addressing this question, the project states that all funding available for capital items was expended. Please clarify in next half year report

In the annual report of year 2 WCS already responded to this query:

In year 2 WCS spent all the funding available on capital items, these included the purchase to laptops, conservation hoes and spray pumps.