



Darwin Initiative Main Project
Half Year Report
(due 31 October 2015)

Project Ref No	22-019
Project Title	Supporting community conserved areas in Uganda for biodiversity and livelihoods
Country(ies)	Uganda
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Collaborator(s)	ECO Uganda, Nature Uganda
Project Leader	<i>Alison Mollon (acting PL until new Project Lead recruited)</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR1 October 2015
Project website/Twitter/Blog /Instagram etc	www.fauna-flora.org
Funder (DFID/Defra)	DFID

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).

The project began with the recruitment of a project manager and two project site co-ordinators. All staff started work on the project in July. As a result, delivery of project activities planned for Year 1 was delayed slightly, and some activities are currently behind schedule, although not expected to delay beyond the end of year 1. Project planning was also carried out between April – July. Progress towards activities timetabled for delivery in Q1 and Q2 is detailed below.

Output 1

1.1 Carry out ecosystem services assessments at 3 sites using TESSA and GRACE and other tools

Ecosystem Services Assessments have been carried out in Makanaga, Sango Bay and Musambwa Island project sites. Assessments were carried out using the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment (TESSA) tool, and steps were adapted to the context of the project sites to ensure that they were relevant to the local communities taking part. Results are currently being analysed and reports written up.

Output 2

2.1 Undertake baseline surveys of target species at 3 sites

Forest cover analysis has been completed using survey data from 2014, and forest change analysis carried out using forest watch census data.

Equipment has been purchased for water quality testing and staff are currently receiving training in skills required to carry this out.

Baseline surveys of target species are to be carried out, an MoU and sub grant agreements are currently being finalised with project partner Nature Uganda.

2.2 Document ES assessments and link to stakeholder learning

Stakeholder assessments have been carried out for all project sites. We have produced a comprehensive stakeholder analysis outlining who the stakeholders and beneficiaries are which will be used to guide project activities and linked to findings from ES assessments.

2.4 Support monitoring of Critically Endangered bird species and diversity of fish assemblages at breeding sites (data collection reporting and management)

To be carried out once MoU and sub-grant agreement in place with Nature Uganda.

Output 3

3.1 Organise training sessions on sustainable fisheries, agriculture, land use, agroforestry and biodiversity conservation

This activity is to be carried out by project partner ECO Uganda. Project work was delayed due to need for an MoU and sub-grant agreement to be put in place between FFI and ECO Uganda before funds could be transferred; this has now been achieved and work will commence in Q3.

3.2 Support local capacity to conduct patrols to protect fishing sites and fish breeding zones - As 3.1

3.3 Support monitoring of fisheries activities (fisheries data collection, reporting and management - keeping track of landings and size of fish)

Project staff visited National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NAFIRRI) at Kajjansi and the Fisheries Training Centre in Entebbe, in order to gain insights on best practice for conserving and monitoring fish breeding sites. Staff met with the Executive Director for NAFIRRI, who confirmed that there are fish breeding areas in Rakai, especially Kagera River, but minimal research has been carried out here yet due to resource constraints.

A suitable boat has been purchased for use in project activities and the terms of Reference for a Fisheries Expert to carry out this work are currently being developed.

Output 4 - as 3.1; all below activities to be implemented by ECO Uganda in Q3 and Q4

4.2 Support Fisher to Fisher community sensitizations

4.3 Facilitate community efforts on tree nursery development and tree planting

4.4 Support farmer group members with revolving credit for agricultural inputs

Output 5

5.1 Conduct project inception and planning meetings with communities, local governments and cultural institutions to clarify roles and responsibilities, participation during project implementation.

To begin the project, a 2 day inception meeting was held, to share the project with relevant stakeholders and lead implementers, ensure stakeholder buy-in and discuss and agree on key terms, conditions and understandings of the project. The meetings drew participants from the lead implementers and partners including the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), the Ecological Christian Organisation (ECO) and Nature Uganda (NU), District Council officers, cultural institutions and CBOs from the three project sites.

Community based inception meetings were held at project sites to introduce the project, help communities to appreciate the aims and objectives and to clarify their role in project delivery. Further meetings were held to determine current economic activities being carried out by communities, and to assess current Community Based Organisations for suitability to be involved in the project.

A meeting was also organised with the Buganda government and attended by 17 members of Buganda central government. This meeting gave an introduction to the project and detailed planned activities and objectives. The project's cultural values approach was upheld by the Minister of Culture for Buganda government who noted that culture is a good connector of people and nature.

5.2 Design and disseminate information through public awareness campaign based on ecosystem services assessment reports

Ecosystem Services Assessments have been carried out, and reports are currently being developed. Information collected will be disseminated in Q3 and Q4.

5.3 Convene multi-stakeholder CCA design workshops

5.4 Organize community mobilization to select CCA committees and determine roles and responsibilities

5.5 Undertake cultural institutional analysis

5.6 Organize governance and resource use policy seminars

Activities 5.3-5.6 to be carried out in Q3 and Q4.

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.

In September, it was decided that the current Project Leader, Edison Nuwamanye would leave the project but will remain working until mid-November whilst a replacement is sourced. In addition, the appointed project manager, Henry Segua, left the role at the end of September 2015 after being offered a PhD with full scholarship. Interviews have been held to find a new project manager and it is anticipated that the new employee will commence work in November. CV's of all new employees will be submitted formally as appropriate.

The change of two key staff members has caused a delay, especially with regards to project administration such as establishing sub-grant agreements with partners, which has had a knock on effect on activities but the current team and partners are working hard to ensure that delays do not carry forward into year 2 of the project.

In terms of project activities, the original work plan for Output 3 included facilitating energy saving groups to construct eco-stoves. However, following initial engagement with communities we believe the time planned to spend with beneficiaries this year will better define the appropriate intervention and determine whether eco-stoves, or alternative activities, are most appropriate to their needs and the situation.

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:	Yes (notification of EN departure)
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes (new appointee CVs to be sent asap)

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?

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**