



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2018)**

Project reference	23_032
Project title	Local economic development through “pro-poor” gorilla tourism in Uganda
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Uganda
Lead organisation	IIED
Partner(s)	Responsible Tourism Partnership, Institute for Tropical Forest Conservation, International Gorilla Conservation Programme, Explore Worldwide, Exodus Travels, Lets Go Travel Kwetu Africa
Project leader	Dilys Roe
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	October 2018; HYR3
Project website/blog/social media etc.	http://www.iied.org/local-economic-development-through-gorilla-tourism

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).

Output 1 of this project (assessing demand and start of project supply) was completed in Year 1 so here we just report on latest progress against Outputs 2, 3 and 4.

Output 2 (Building capacity to produce and sell market-ready tourism products and services) was 99% completed in Year 2, as reported in our Year 2 annual report. However, horticultural training extended into year 3 as did further distribution of seeds to the market gardener groups. One of the Buhoma based groups (Community Initiatives for Biodiversity Conservation (CIBC)) has agreed contracts for supply of fresh vegetable with Mahogany Springs Lodge and Volcanoes Safaris, following recognition of dramatic improvements to the reliability of supply and the range of vegetables on offer as a result of the training delivered by the project. Another Buhoma group - the Bwindi Community Nutrition project - is sending the majority of its produce to the grocery in Buhoma and the lodges purchase from there rather than directly (during the MTR they reported that it was costing them a lot of money delivering small amounts of produce to individual lodges, so this is preferable for them).

The Bwindi Specialist Guides group has now been formally registered with Kanungu District and the guides have all received training certificates and official shirts, including Bwindi Specialist Guide badges. The walking trail that included an interaction with Batwa community has been revised following some discomfort expressed by the MTR group when we piloted the trail in March. The Batwa chief has now been employed by John Boscoe at the CIBC market garden to make new beehives. The tourist trail now runs past the beehive area and tourist encounter the chief in a much more natural setting for a story-telling experience. Sanaa Gateja (Kwetu Afrika) has designed and made bark cloth outfits for him and his wife to use when they

are talking to tourists on the trail.

BMCT have secured an additional grant for enterprise training from UNDP and are continuing to work with the carvers to continue the skills development programme.

The women-weavers continue to go from strength to strength, basket sales remain high and the group in Ruhija (Change a Life Bwindi) have now introduced their own new design to the range.

Output 3 (The Gorilla Friendly standard): The Gorilla Friendly™ standards and training materials have been translated into local dialects i.e. Rukiga and Rufumbira spoken around the BINP, inclusive of focal group testing of the translation. Plans are under way to popularise and improve understanding of GF standards and the audit and certification process within community groups involved in the project around BINP through in-depth dialogues that will link the Standards with good governance and natural resource management.

Output 4 (marketing and dissemination to tour operator, tourists and internationally): Professional looking flyers have been developed for the three new walking trails (available to download from the project website <https://www.ied.org/local-economic-development-through-gorilla-tourism>). We printed 300 copies of each, 200 of which were disseminated to lodges and to the guides at Bwindi, and the remainder of which will be distributed to Ugandan tour operators at the World Travel Market in November. Our key Ugandan tour operator partner Lets Go Travel is also advertising the new products and services on its website: <https://www.ugandaletsgotravel.com/uganda/top-experiences/responsible-tourism/>. Alfy Kanya was also interviewed about the project for an article in Safari Magazine - due to be published in November 2018 and he will also be showcasing the project to nearly 40 UK tour operators at the African Travel and Tourism Association Safari Roadshow in February 2019: <https://www.atta.travel/member-news/2018/09/zambia-and-uganda-roadshow-sells-out-within-72-hours/> Matoke Tours also noted to us in a recent email: "I think the guided trails are fantastic and it seems that you managed to solve all challenges which we as tour operators face when introducing new products to our itineraries. We are in contact with Paul and have already made a few bookings with him for the coming months. Although the deadline for our programs for 2019 had actually already passed, I did manage to still include one of the walks in one of our group trip itineraries for next year (for one of our biggest partners in Germany). Hopefully, we will be able to send 6 or 7 groups to experience the guided walk in Rubuguri."

We also learned in October that we had been shortlisted for a World Responsible Tourism Award on the basis of the impacts the project has had to date. Plans are now underway for the end of project household survey and analysis of enterprise sales in order to quantify the impacts of the project.

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.

Nothing to add here

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/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

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. 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, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No issues to raise

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R24 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**