

Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No	22-23034
Project Title	Edible Wild Orchid Trade: Sustaining Livelihoods and Biodiversity in Zambia
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Zambia, Sweden, UK
Lead Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Partner(s)	Nicholas Wightman (Homegarden Landscape Consultants Ltd.); Dr. Royd Vinya (Copperbelt University); Sarina Veldman (Uppsala University); Guni Mickels-Kokwe (Sanga Research & Development); Mike Bingham (Sanga Research & Development); Dr. Kazutomo Yokoya (RBG, Kew); Jonathan Kendon (RBG, Kew); Steve Bachman (RBG, Kew); Hildegard Crous (Cape Institute of Micropropagation); Philip Seaton (Orchid Seed Stores for Sustainable Use).
Project Leader	Dr. Ruth Bone (RBG, Kew)
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR1
Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	Facebook Page 'Chikanda Orchid Conservation Initiative' @chikandaorchidconservation
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).

- Uppsala University MSc student Seol-jong Kim travelled to Zambia between mid June to late July to carry out market survey research at various marketplaces in Lusaka as well as in Copperbelt Province, interviewing chikanda orchid traders, marketers, cooks and harvesters and making sample collections of chikanda orchid tubers and processed chikanda cake, which were shipped back to Sweden for identification using molecular barcoding (Output 3.7).
- Preliminary DNA extraction work on the sample collections made by Seol-jong Kim has been started at Uppsala University (Output 3.8). In addition, some of the tubers sprouted during shipping from Lusaka to Uppsala and they have been brought to the University of Uppsala Botanical Garden for culture and identification if and when they flower.
- Laboratory equipment and materials for the tissue culture unit have been ordered and delivered to the School of Natural Resources of Copperbelt University. Furthermore, Jonathan Kendon (RBG, Kew) travelled to Zambia in September to assist in the laboratory set up and training of three Copperbelt University technical staff in asymbiotic orchid seed germination and culture methods (Output 2.1) as preparatory work for the culture of Chikanda tubers later in the project.
- Established communication with the Convention on Biological Diversity contact person in Zambia, Mr. Ephraim Shitima, as well as the Access and Benefits Sharing national focal point contact, Mr. Allan Dauchi, in the Department of Environment and Natural Resource Management (Output 4.2).

- Organised and successfully completed the participatory IUCN Red List assessor training and rapid assessment workshop led by Dr. Serene Hargreaves (RBG, Kew) and bringing together participants from government institutions, academia and conservation oriented NGOs (Output 2.4 and 3.2). The workshop has helped to foster a greater sense of unity and importance among the participants for more recent observations to properly document the current state of wild chikanda orchid populations. Following the workshop, the British High Commission has expressed interest in meeting Project Manager and learning of project activities.
- Creation of Facebook page 'Chikanda Orchid Conservation Initiative' and submitted an abstract to the Association for the Taxonomic Study of the Flora of Tropical Africa (AETFAT) 2017 conference in Nairobi to promote this the project to the wider African botanical and plant conservation community. Illustrated article by the Project Leader on project origins and aims published in the *Orchid Review (Orchid hunters and orchid cake eaters, Sept issue)* to raise awareness among orchid researchers, horticulturists and conservationists.

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.

- There has been a delay in the start of the baseline study on the current wild chikanda orchid resource management (Output 1.1), household income and school attendance (Output 1.3) and the development/implementing of a communication and environmental awareness strategy in rural communities (Output 4.1) due to initial slow communications between RBG Kew and Copperbelt University. Please see section 4 for further details. The first community engagement activities have now been completed and were well received by traditional leaders and community members.

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 (Eilidh Young via email correspondence) No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance 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?

Delays described in section 2a: Delays were largely down to the slow pace of communications between RBG Kew (the Project Leader Ruth Bone) and Copperbelt University (project partner Dr Royd Vinya) while we discussed the terms and timeline of the work schedule, laid out in the Grant Agreement (GA; in advance of payment from the Head Grant to Copperbelt University).

Once agreed, the payment was delayed while the Project Leader sought authorization from senior colleagues on the GA and foreign payment - which proved difficult due to their travel commitments, and their deputy's travel commitments. Finally the SWIFT code supplied by Copperbelt University was incorrect, and could not be processed by Western Union.

This was resolved and payment made. We are pleased to report that the first community engagement activities have now been completed (and were well received by traditional leaders and community members). Dr Vinya and his team are currently preparing their report.



IUCN Red List workshop leader and participants in Lusaka, Zambia



Dr Royd Vinya (centre, right) with Chief Kanyama, Kanyama Chiefdom, Mwinilunga, Zambia

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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**