



## Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020)

<b>Project reference</b>	25-006
<b>Project title</b>	Enhancing Equity and Effectiveness of Protected Area Conservation (EEEPAC)
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Kenya, Uganda
<b>Lead organisation</b>	International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Fauna & Flora International (FFI), Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS),
<b>Project leader</b>	Phil Franks
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	HYR3
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.iied.org/enhancing-equity-effectiveness-protected-area-conservation">https://www.iied.org/enhancing-equity-effectiveness-protected-area-conservation</a>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).**

**Assessment-based action planning and monitoring in Kenya and Uganda**

UWA and KWS, with guidance from FFI and IIED, have undertaken SAPA assessments at seven sites in Uganda and Kenya. Six sites have subsequently compiled action plans based on assessment findings. Across all sites, human-wildlife conflict (HWC) was reported as a negative social impact resulting in the planning of activities to increase the effectiveness of park boundaries as well as events to increase community awareness about HWC regulations and UWA and KWS actions to address HWC. Another social impact reported at multiple sites was a lack of community awareness and trust regarding the management of protected areas. UWA and KWS have been working to address this by organising community meetings, radio talk shows, household outreach and relevant training programmes, while observing Covid-19 restrictions. Details of actions undertaken at each site over the last six months are provided below.

At Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, UWA staff have begun facilitating the removal of invasive plant species with the assistance of community members. UWA, Water for Virunga (W4V), International Gorilla Conservation Programme (IGCP) and Kisoro district government are working together to assess and strengthen parts of the stone wall around the Park with *Erithirina abyssinica* and cement. W4V and UWA have also extended water services from Nkanka to Muramba, including the signing of MoUs, formation of water and sanitation committees, drafting of byelaws, training on water governance, operation and maintenance, and installing of water meters. To better communicate details of the Wildlife Act to communities, UWA facilitated 7 radio talk shows on revenue sharing, benefits and challenges of conservation action, and the Wildlife Act. Increased transparency regarding revenue sharing has also been prioritised with the Kisoro district government accounting for and releasing funds for this year.

At Murchison Falls National Park, work on erecting a 30km electric fence around Park boundaries in Oyam and Nwoya districts is underway. Since July, 17 meetings have been held with government and NGO partners on addressing HWC, revenue sharing and poaching. 21 emergency awareness meetings aimed at addressing HWC were also conducted. Four meetings were held in Purongo, Anaka, Kochgoma and Lii to help resolve HWC and food insecurity. Eight radio talk shows were held on Pakwach and Kitara FM addressing poaching and HWC, and promoting domestic tourism around the Park. Three skill-development trainings were conducted for project management committees and community procurement committees in Pakanyi and Kigumba. To better plan their resource use, the Bugoigo resource user group began maintaining an inventory of firewood and grass collected.

At Kibale National Park, UWA is in the process of establishing conflict resolution community committees to streamline communication between the parishes and UWA's community conservation department. To increase community sensitization on different crop raiding mitigation measures and improve relations between the Park staff and communities, UWA has conducted regular household level outreach, quarterly meetings with different community groups and radio talk shows. Cumulatively over this period, 34 radio talk shows and 15 community meetings have been conducted. Another concern from communities was the location of ranger outposts. As a temporary measure, UWA has introduced weekly mobile outposts closer to the communities. UWA has entered into four resource harvesting MoUs with community groups and intends to sign 15 more MoUs in the coming months to help improve resource management. To address human and animal health concerns, UWA has secured funding to run community mobile clinics and animal vaccination programmes. These efforts have been temporarily suspended due to the pandemic.

At Ruma National Park, KWS has reinforced the electric fence around the Park with baboon-proof wires and tight-lock meshes in areas where the electric fence had breakages to reduce HWC. Using GPS devices, KWS is collecting data to determine HWC hotspots and produce relevant maps. Through community meetings, KWS has also disseminated information on procedures for applying for HWC compensation. In addition to addressing HWC, KWS has planned actions to support community development projects. KWS completed a water project in Nyadenda village where the assessment identified water access as a challenge. The village now has access to piped water, pumped from the KWS rangers' camp and stored in the village. Information on KWS CSR policy and community development fund have also been disseminated through community meetings.

At Marsabit National Park, KWS has prioritised activities that can be achieved in the short-term without additional funding. These include improving their response to community reports of HWC and illegal activities by sharing their dedicated office hotline and reporting procedures with communities in Gabbra village, Badassa and Huluhula during community meetings. KWS also organised community meetings to raise awareness on the Wildlife Act and eligibility under the compensation scheme for instances of HWC.

At Kisite Marine Park, to help improve relations with communities and resolve the issue of harassment by law enforcement officers, KWS has introduced many new activities. KWS has conducted training on Marine Monitoring, Control and Surveillance for community members so they can better understand how patrols are done and ways to help co-manage the area. During the training, KWS conducted field visits to show community members the location of Park boundaries. Community scouts have since joined coastal water policing teams. KWS is also enhancing trust with communities through joint activities like coastal clean-ups and meetings to evaluate law enforcement practices. To reduce HWC caused by monkeys, KWS have identified the issues and are in discussions with Colobus Trust on how best to manage the situation. KWS is also partnering with Kenya Snake Research and Intervention Centre (KSRIC) to respond to snake-related conflict; an awareness-raising workshop is scheduled for November 2020. KSRIC has pledged to donate 15-20 vials of anti-venom to Msambweni Hospital.

#### **Extension of SAPA assessments**

Our experience from implementing SAPA in Uganda and Kenya have enabled us to conduct SAPA assessments in other African countries. So far, FFI has led an assessment in Mozambique, and GIZ has led three SAPA assessments in a transboundary protected area system in Cameroon and Chad. UWA and KWS are both interested in extending SAPA to other sites in Uganda and Kenya, for which we hope to secure funding in the coming months through the EU BIPAMA programme.

#### **Development and testing of a semi-automated analysis and reporting tool**

FFI and IIED are currently finalising agreements with EU JRC to support the development of the SAPA analytical tool. The development of the software to beta stage is scheduled to be completed by February 2021. Testing will then be conducted with facilitation teams at UWA and KWS sites where SAPA household survey data was collected in Y1 and Y2 of the project. Briefing presentations on the tool with UWA and KWS site staff are being planned for end 2020 and March 2021. Additional field testing will also take place at Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Kenya which conducted its second SAPA in 2019-20 following the first piloting in 2015.

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

During the last six months, challenges with implementing the project have directly or indirectly been related to Covid-19 restrictions and priorities and are therefore detailed in 2b.

**2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

Work on the social equity assessment was initiated at Amboseli National Park in January 2020, but has not progressed during this period due to Covid-19 restrictions. We are preparing a change request that proposes to use the savings to provide further support for follow-up at Marsabit NP. At Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, our partner IGCP has been unable to conduct stakeholder meetings to validate their data analysis due to Covid-19 restrictions, which has further delayed action planning; however, they plan to resume the validation process in November 2020.

Similarly, some action planning activities that require people to come together have been postponed due to Covid-19. For example, at Mgahinga Gorilla National Park, some community-based programmes and trench digging training for UWA staff have been postponed. In order to cope with such challenges at Kisite Marine Park, KWS has begun using social media platforms, including WhatsApp, to raise community awareness about HWC regulations.

Due to the prioritising of Covid-19, KWS and UWA funds intended for implementing SAPA action plans were reallocated, and so low-cost activities have been the focus for this period. The pandemic has also made it difficult to institutionalise SAPA at KWS and UWA, but we are exploring other ways forward e.g. country-wide online seminars introducing SAPA to KWS and UWA staff.

**2c. 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: To be submitted by end November

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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

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

None at this stage.

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 DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto: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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**