



Darwin Initiative/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2019)

Project reference	25-008
Project title	Integrating Natural Capital into Sustainable Development Decision-Making in Uganda
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Uganda
Lead organisation	WCMC
Partner(s)	International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), National Planning Authority, Uganda (NPA), National Environment Management Authority, Uganda (NEMA), Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBoS), Institute for Development of Environmental Economic Accounting (IDEEA Group)
Project leader	John Tayleur
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	April 2019 – September 2019 HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc.	Webpage: https://www.unep-wcmc.org/featured-projects/nca-in-uganda Blog: https://www.iied.org/environment-or-economy-how-uganda-uses-natural-capital-accounts-policy-making

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).

Activity 1.2: Communication strategy drafted by NEMA with IIED support; subsequent review inputs completed and shared with NEMA in June 2019 by IIED; currently being finalised by NEMA. This will be treated as a live document and will evolve with the project.

Action plan (to accompany the Communications Strategy) is currently being finalised by NEMA.

Activity 1.4: Indicative accounting outputs for the Biodiversity and Tourism theme presented at the 10th Ecosystem Services Partnership World Conference in Hannover, Germany (October 2019) – see session programme here:

<https://www.aanmelder.nl/i/doc/f03ad2df0e52a4d9f4d526fd0d4c0efc?forcedownload=True>

Activity 2.3: Significant methodological refinements for producing selected natural capital accounts have been carried out following consultation with project partners and national stakeholders (please see attached method notes v.0.1). Recruitment process by NEMA of Ugandan thematic experts for the three accounting themes completed pending contractual finalisation. These consultants will finalise the methodological notes for each accounting theme over the remainder of year 2 to ensure methodological robustness. The work of the national consultants will also realise the required meta-data databases of national data holdings, which will provide the data foundation for regular production of all three accounts (i.e. as per Activity 2.2, due for completion by end of year 2).

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.

General lack of engagement by Ugandan partners – extending to not finalising the communications plan, resulting in the lack of possibility to begin its implementation. In addition, the Ugandan partners are still yet to recruit their national consultants who are an integral component to progressing the accounts in-country (i.e. they are to be tasked with compiling data, ensuring stakeholder buy in etc.).

The impact of this lack of engagement and progress on the part of the Ugandan project partners is that the producer workshop which is currently planned for Y2 Q3, the user workshop that is currently planned for Y2 Q4, and a sector working mission which is currently planned for Y2 Q4, will now not realistically be possible, and will all need to be pushed back to Y3 Q1.

If the request is not approved, then the workshops and mission will need to go ahead in Y2 Q4 when the accounts will likely still be in development and will not have been validated by the statistical authority. This will mean that training will be delivered to both producers and users on the basis of unapproved and incomplete accounts data and methodology. This in turn jeopardises the strength of the messaging for awareness raising. There is significant risk that methodologies and data items in the accounts will be modified as part of the data quality assurance activities undertaken by UBoS for national statistics production. This also means that UBoS will not be able to endorse the accounts, and will detract from the importance and relevance accorded to the workshops, and therefore their success in stimulating widespread use of the accounts across ministries and sectors. In particular, Output three (building communities of practice) and Output Four (the institutionalisation of accounts) will be affected by this.

As a result of the delays that have been realised in the project, and the need to push back the workshops and missions set out above, the respective project funds have yet to be committed and will now be done so later in the project, as set out in line below:

- Producer workshop, currently planned for Y2 Q3: moved to Y3 Q1.
- User workshop, currently planned for Y2 Q4: moved to Y3 Q1.
- Mission to work directly with a sector (to be identified), currently planned for Y2 Q4: moved to Y3 Q1.

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

Formal change request submitted: Yes

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.

- Change request was submitted on 11/10/2019 – please see the change request document attached to the accompanying email. This sets out the specifics of the likely underspend.

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R25 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 DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to 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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**