



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

Project reference	25-020
Project title	Supply and Demand: Restoration in Uganda for people and biodiversity
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Uganda
Lead organisation	Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
Partner(s)	Tooro Botanic Garden (TBG), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Project leader	<i>Kirsty Shaw</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	<i>HYR2</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	www.bgci.org

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).

Key activities in Year 1 of this project included nursery establishment and training seed collectors and nursery workers. Building on Year 1 activities, in the last six months, good progress continues to be made on project 25-020.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the District Local Government in Ibanda for the Kirimire nursery and restoration plot. An MoU still needs to be signed with the National Forestry Authority to cover the nurseries and restoration plots in Lwamunda, Mbale and Kagadi. This is expected to be finalised in November 2019 (but this has not delayed activities at these sites).

60 contracts have been signed by seed monitors and collectors, including 24 women. They do not have set days to work each week. They are paid 120,000 Ugandan Shillings per month as a basic rate. Evidence of phenology monitoring, contracts and payments will be provided in the Year 2 annual report. In the remainder of Year 2, seed monitoring and collection activities will expand to cover new areas. Further mapping and monitoring training will be provided to them by December 2019, incorporating the use of newly provisioned GPS units (Activities 2.4 and 4.4).

So far, collectors have collected 58 target species including 7 threatened species (*Prunus africana*-VU, *Milicia excelsa*-EN in Uganda, *Khaya anthotheca*-VU, *Khaya senegalensis*-VU, *Beilschmiedia ugandensis*-VU, *Olea welwitschii*-VU in Uganda and *Fagaropsis angolensis*-VU in Uganda) (Activity 2.5).

40 nursery staff, including 21 women, have signed contracts to work Monday to Friday at the nurseries, carrying out activities including sowing seeds and maintaining seedlings. The nursery staff are currently paid Ugandan Shillings per month, and incomes will be supplemented through seedling sales in future (Activities 2.3 and 4.7).

Information on propagation protocols of target native tree species was collated in Year 1. This information was provided to nursery workers to support their work in Year 2. Nurseries are recording propagation methods and success rate to develop new and improved propagation protocols in future (Activity 1.5). Initially, there were difficulties in completing these forms, but

further training was carried out and forms were adjusted based on the nursery operators' feedback.

Of the 58 target species collected so far, 35 have germinated in the community nurseries, with 21 additional species recently planted in seedbeds that are expected to be pricked out within the next month. A total of 74,261 seedlings have been propagated across the four community nurseries (Activity 2.6). Two of the propagated species have unknown scientific and local names. TBG will identify these with support from the project partners (BGCI, the National Forestry Authority and Makerere University).

Four demonstration restoration plots have been identified and demarcated and will be planted in March - April 2020 (Activity 3.4). The site sizes are: Mbale Namatale - 2 ha; Ibanda - 5 ha; Lwamunda - 5 ha; Kagadi - 10 ha. The project will plant 2ha of each plot and matched funding will be required to plant the remaining areas of Ibanda, Lwamunda and Kagadi.

TBG has trained 4 nursery managers in nursery management, record management, and business and marketing skills. These skills will help to improve the propagation protocols through good monitoring and data recording. Nursery managers and restoration plot managers will also have marketing and sales training in November 2019.

Some species in nurseries are ready to be planted (fast growing species like *Maesopsis eminii*, *Spathodea campanulata* and *Markhamia lutea*), so these will be planted in nurseries as hedges and to provide shade over seedlings, and to demarcate the restoration plots by December 2019.

A draft marketing tool has been developed to help in the sale of native tree seedlings from all nursery sites (Activity 3.3). Different institutions and communities have been contacted to promote the native species and some have already started to demand seedlings. The majority of seedlings will be ready for planting after the January / February dry season, to be planted from March 2019 onwards. TBG is working with the Ministry of Water and Environment to prepare for the national Water and Environment week in March 2019, which will be an important opportunity to promote awareness of the native tree species' value and availability of seedlings from nurseries. Planning and development of marketing materials (e.g. training materials on how to plant and care for native seedlings, posters, ideas for radio promotion) has commenced, and will be further supported by BGCI, our network and local partners in 2020.

Nurseries have not sold any seedlings yet because the seedlings are not ready for sale. When sales do begin, TBG and nurseries will monitor the number of customers, number of enquiries and sales of seedlings before and after the project outreach campaign to assess its effectiveness.

To help plan for the year ahead and report on progress in Year 1, the second project steering committee meeting was held on 21st July 2019 in Kampala (Activity 1.1). It was attended by the project team from TBG, BGCI, IUCN, representatives from District Local Governments, Makerere University, the Forestry department of the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the National Forestry Authority (NFA) and the project's local marketing consultant (Alex Kaahwa). The meeting demonstrated the continued strong support from MWE, NEMA and NFA for the overall project aim of increasing the number of indigenous tree species being planted in Uganda, and ideas were collated from all representatives for the marketing components of the project.

Over the next six months, the project will bring additional species into the nurseries to expand the mix of native species offered, additional training will be provided to nursery groups, and the marketing campaign will be fully launched.

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.

Some of the trees that were monitored this year did not produce fruits or seeds after flowering so seed collections could not be made. The cause of this is not known. Monitoring of these

species will continue into Year 3 of the project so hopefully seeds can be collected from these species before the end of the project.	
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:	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 <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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?
In response to the Year 1 annual report, the project team were requested to adjust their seedling production targets for Year 2. The targets included in the initial proposal were to have 300,000 seedlings of 100 species available from nurseries by the end of Year 2. Based on the collection and production numbers so far (58 species collected, and 74,261 seedlings produced of 35 species with an additional 21 species currently sown in germination beds), the project team anticipates 200,000 seedlings of 80 species to be available from nurseries by the end of Year 2.

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**