Darwin Initiative Main and Post Project Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Writing a Darwin Report" guidance: (http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2020

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	26-019
Project title	Secure Wetland Ecosystems to improve livelihoods through Community Conservation Agreements
Country/ies	Uganda
Lead organisation	NatureUganda
Partner institution(s)	BirdLife International Wetland Management Department (WMD) Kabale and Rubanda District Local Governments Ramsar Committee of East Africa (RAMCEA Community Rural Development (CRD)
Darwin grant value	£299,939.00
Start/end dates of project	01 April 2019 - 31 March 2022
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2019 – Mar 2020) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	01 April 2019 - 31 March 2020 Annual report 1
Project Leader name	Mr. Achilles Byaruhanga
Project website/blog/social media	www.natureuganda.org https://twitter.com/NatureUganda https://www.facebook.com/NatureUganda
Report author(s) and date	

1. Project summary

The project is addressing threats to three hydrologically-linked high-altitude wetlands in Rubanda and Kabale districts located in the Kigezi region in western Uganda: Nyamuriro swamp (5,100ha), Kiruruma valley (4,500ha) and Lake Bunyonyi (12,500ha) collectively covering approximately 60% of all wetlands in Kigezi region.

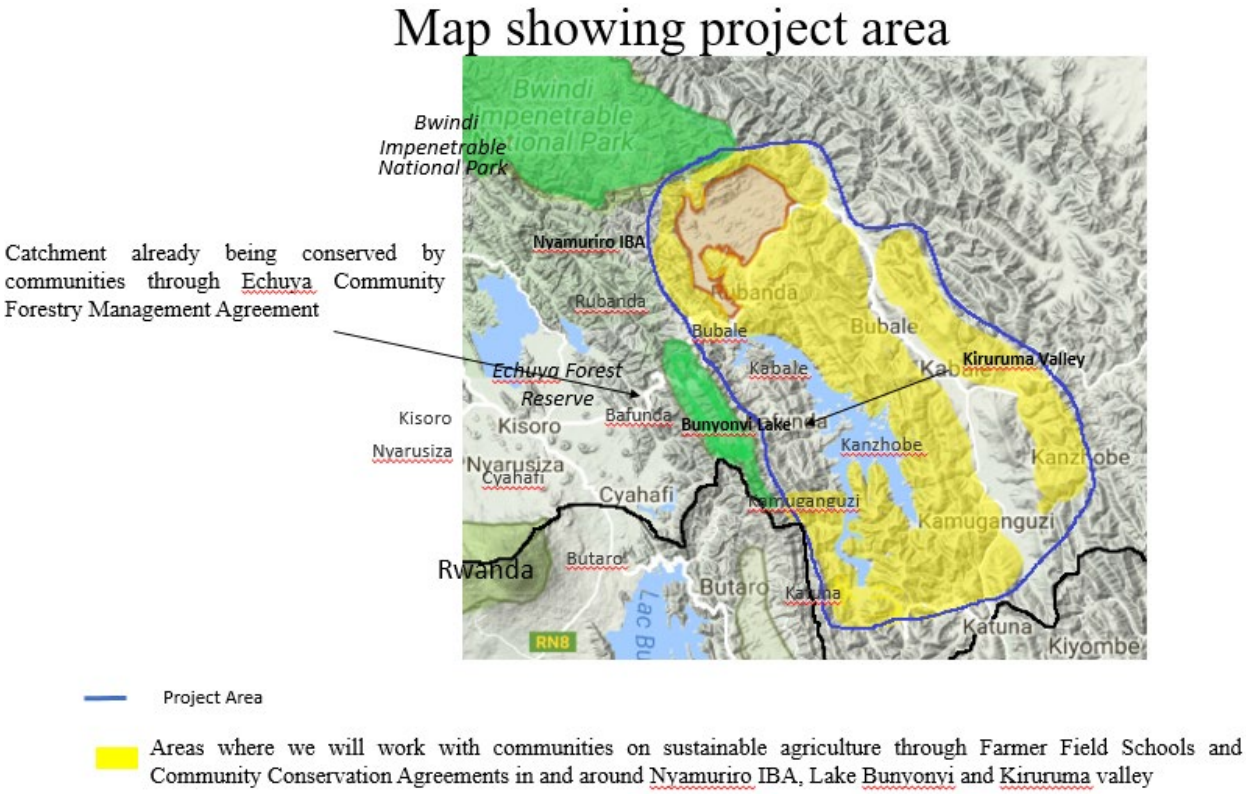
NatureUganda monitoring for 2017 shows, that together these wetlands support the highest number of breeding Grey Crowned-Cranes (>100 pairs) in Uganda, Papyrus Gonolek, and other globally-threatened birds such as Papyrus Yellow-Warbler, wetland endemic mammals e.g. the Sitatunga and amphibians especially endemic Xenopus frogs (a local delicacy).

Ugandan wetlands are considered 'Freeland' or wastelands with no incentive to manage them sustainably. Until recently the main threats were unsustainable harvesting of wetland resources such as unregulated drainage for agriculture. These wetlands are dominated by peat, one of

the richest reservoirs of sequestered carbon. In the long-term, exposing peat to oxidation reduces productivity and food security, accelerating land drainage and climate change impact.

In addition, the Uganda Wetlands Atlas and Uganda Wetlands Assessment Report 2017 indicate that wetland encroachment changes water regime, water quality, and the macro-climate with negative impacts on the availability of wetlands resources, safe water, and public health. NatureUganda has worked with communities living in/around the wetland complex for over 5 years: raising awareness of the value of wetland biodiversity, encouraging cattle farmers in the Kiruruma valley to set-aside habitat for breeding cranes, and supporting farmers in the catchment of Lake Bunyonyi and Nyamuriro to co-exist with feeding cranes and avoid soil erosion and encroachment on peatland.

However, in 2017 the government proposed mining the wetlands for peat. Local communities with support from NatureUganda (backed by a scientific study) protested and petitioned the government to show that mining would be uneconomic, displace people and contribute to climate change.



2. Project partnerships

NatureUganda (NU) is the BirdLife International partner in Uganda and is the leading institution on this project. NU coordinates all partners and ensures effective delivery of project outcomes. NU liaises with Birdlife International who a global Partnership of NGOs working together to conserve birds, their habitats and biodiversity, working with people. The project implementation is benefiting from extensive experience in nature conservation and the empowerment activities of local communities.

NU is working with Wetland Management Department (WMD), a government department in wetland restoration and enforcement of laws and regulations with the focus of designating the Lake Bunyonyi and the surrounding wetlands as a Ramsar site.

NU has worked with Kabale and Rubanda districts technical officers since the process of proposal development and they continue to provide District support in mainstreaming biodiversity conservation into the district development plans and government targets for wetlands conservation and restoration in the Kigezi region.

NU is further working with the Ramsar Committee of East Africa (RAMCEA) is providing technical support on Ramsar designation by guiding the compilation of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) for Lake Bunyonyi.

NU is working with Community Rural Development (CRD) who provides technical support on experiences towards the implementation of Farmer Field Schools in the region. CRD has been engaged in the collection of baseline data that will inform the setting up of demonstration sites and the monitoring of the progress of the project.

Further to that, NU is working with a team of experts who conducted the baseline assessments on biodiversity, Ecosystem services, Peat soils and Farming practices. These experts will also provide advice on the indicators of project impacts. Most of these specialists are based at Universities (Makerere University) and research institutions (Uganda Fisheries Research Institute) in Uganda and we hope to get mote technical support from these institutions in the course of the project implementation

Ten community groups in the area have been engaged as potential partners in the conservation of the target wetlands. Empowerment of these community groups has commenced and we hope Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs) will be signed by all the groups to ensure sustainability of project interventions.

3. Project progress

The project implementation has progressed according to the planned activities. The project kick-started with an inception meeting to mobilise and introduce the project goals and planned activities to all stakeholders (Appendix 1). The last two months of first year (February and March 2020) have slowed down because of the Coronavirus pandemic, which interrupted some of the planned community activities. These activities will commence immediately after the pandemic has been brought under control. All the baseline studies had been completed and Covid-19 lockdown has been utilised in finalising the reports from this completed year and workplans for the next quarter/ year.

Output: 1. Wetland ecosystem values known and availed to local and national decision-makers

Progress in undertaking activities in output 1: Activities 1.1, 1.4 and 1.5 have been successfully completed**.** Activities 1.2 and 1.3 are planned for the next reporting period.

Under activity 1.1 we undertook a baseline study of the ecosystem valuation of the three targeted wetlands with support from Kabale and Rubanda District local governments' technical teams. Draft reports under revision and will be shared in the next quarter report and the results of the baseline studies will guide the selection of community livelihood interventions and completion of documentation required for the designation of Lake Bunyonyi and the surrounding wetlands a Ramsar site.

In addition a baseline study to determine the quantity of peat carbon stocks in the project operational areas (Activity 1.4) was conducted and a draft report completed and results from this study will guide NatureUganda and governments technical teams and local communities to

develop mechanisms to conserve and restore wetlands to reduce peat oxidation and carbon emission. NatureUganda is particularly interested in the peat stock documentation due to previous government interest in exploiting the peat for electricity generation. Exploitation of peat for electricity would be a disaster to biodiversity conservation, community livelihoods especially access to water and a renegade of government commitment to climate change mitigation. Complementary to Activity 1.1 and 1.4, a baseline assessment of impact of different farming practices and conservation activities on emissions (Activity 1.5) in the project operational areas was undertaken. The project targets improving wellbeing of 40% of 10,000 households in terms of access to water, better health, and benefits from wetlands ecosystem survives and the three studies provide needed data to work on innovations that increase sustainable farming and reduce emissions from the peatlands. In the next reporting period, the results of the studies will be presented to the local governments and the National Ramsar Committee to support government in implementation of government policies and development plans.

Output: 2. Wetlands biodiversity assessed, indicator species monitored and data obtained and used to evaluate the Ramsar status of the sites to enable designation.

Progress in undertaking activities in output 2: Activities 2.1 and 2.3 have been successfully completed and Activity 2.2 will be completed in the next reporting period. During the development of the proposal for this project, there were no information detailing biodiversity richness of the targeted areas including Lake Bunyonyi, the second deepest lake in Africa and a popular tourist destination. Degradation of the wetlands has accelerated increasing siltation of the lakes and rivers and loss of soil through soil erosion. However, NatureUganda had opportunist records of some species such as the Grey Crowned Crane which prompted the efforts to save the remaining wetlands. Therefore in the first year of the project, we undertook baseline biodiversity assessments (Activity 2.1) for selected taxa including the following; Mammals, Birds, Plants, Insects, Herpetiles (amphibians and reptiles), Fish and water quality that included other water invertebrates (microphytes and zooplankton) and reports have been finalised (Appendix 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8). In the next reporting period, the reports will be published and shared with local governments and other line Ministries to support evidence-based decision making in conservation of the priority species, sites and habitats.

To support implementation of Activity 2.2, the data required for compilation of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) was obtained from the baseline assessments that were conducted (Activity 1.1. 2.1). The National Ramsar Focal point has been informed of the needs for improving the conservation status of Lake Bunyonyi and associated wetlands. Together with the National Ramsar Focal person, we have commenced the compilation of the RIS and will be presented to the National Ramsar committee and the local governments before final submission to Ramsar secretariat. The National Ramsar Focal person will guide the pace of this process going forward.

However, together with District local government partners from both districts of Kabale and Rubanda participated and supported the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the project based on Activity 1.1, 2.1 (Activity 2.3). Report has been finalised and shared with partners who will be involved in the monitoring activities especially local government technical teams in environment related sectors. Indicator species were selected and an M&E tool developed and implementation of the tool will provide data and information to evaluate the impact of the project on biodiversity conservation.

Output: 3. Community stakeholders engaged in the implementation of Community Conservation Agreements to sustainably manage and wisely use wetlands

Progress in undertaking activities in output 3: Activity 3.1 has been successfully completed**.** Activities 3.3 and 3.4 commenced but were affected by Covid-19 pandemic and together with 3.2 are now planned for the next reporting periods.

Having completed baseline studies under activities in Output 1 and 2, we commenced on identifying and assessing the targeted and identified 10 community groups in development, management and governance of Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs) (Activity 3.1). The assessment also included the feasibility and needs assessment, the proposed Theory of Change and Action Planning; then drafting of CCA agreements (Activity 3.3). This process is continuing into the next year when baseline socio-economic conditions of the communities will be established. The project team are engaging local governments and community leaders to complete all plans and negotiations have started and will be completed in the next reporting period. The process was however interrupted by the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic in the last quarter of the year but plans to resume as soon as the country-wide lockdown is lifted are underway.

Output: 4. Wise use/sustainable use strategies and plans developed, demonstrated and adopted to improve community livelihoods.

Progress in undertaking activities in output 4: Activity 4.1 has been successfully completed**.** Activities 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7 is planned for completion in the next reporting periods.

The project location covers hilly landscapes with picturesque v-shaped valleys (Photo 1). Whereas the region has beautiful landscapes but overpopulation and soil erosion coupled with loss of soil fertility has devastated community livelihoods. The region is one of the most densely populated regions of rural Africa with over 400 persons per sq km and most families survive on less than a meal a day. Soil fertility has reduced and increased use of pesticides and herbicides due to increased crop pests. Therefore, the hills have been over cultivated, lost fertility and consequently the population descended to cultivate on wetlands (Photo 2). The project therefore set out to assess the baseline of upland soil quality in the study area (Activity 4.1), prior to the establishment of the farmer field school trainings, which has been completed (Appendix 9). The assessment will provide baseline data to evaluate the impact of Farmer Field schools (FFS) based on measures undertaken by FFS on soil and water conservation (SWC) (Activity 4.4) and soil improvement activities (Activity 4.5). This output is a key factor in improving the wellbeing of the people in the project area and lessons from the project will help in tackling similar challenges in the region and elsewhere.

Output: 5. Lessons from management of wetlands in Kabale shared at national, regional and international levels for future replication to protect high altitude wetlands

Progress in undertaking activities in output 3: 5.1, 5.2, have been completed successfully but although Activities 5.3, 5.5 and 5.6 were implemented, more work will be done across the project period. Activity 5.4 is planned for the next reporting period.

Together with project partners, a communication plan (Appendix 11) for the project has been developed (Activity 5.1) through a participatory process. Local governments' technical teams for districts of Kabale and Rubanda were involved. This tool will guide the project implementation staff to effectively communicate the results, lessons and best practices of the project to stakeholders and partners.

During their first learning visit (Activity 5.2), community group members participated in the Crane festival celebrations which happened on 2nd March 2020 in Kabale Town as part of the National celebrations for the International World Wildlife Day. The festival attracted various stakeholders and partners at various levels including the central government, local governments and partner NGOs as well as communities. Community groups showcased some of their products including crafts and the photograph shows Minister of Tourism (in blue) with Project Leader inspecting the community stall (Photo 3), music dance and drama, and demonstrations on restoration of wetlands. More learning trips are planned in the next reporting periods prioritising successful project in wetland restoration and climate smart agricultural production.

In addition, NatureUganda held a stakeholders' and partners' workshop (Activity 5.3) to share results/findings from the baseline assessments conducted as part of this project. This workshop attracted project partners and stakeholders from the academic institutions, Ministries of water and environment, Wildlife and tourism. A newsletter and a year planner were developed and distributed widely across the country and within the NatureUganda membership (Activity 5.5). In addition to the inception meeting, several radio talk shows involving the NU project team and local partners were held on Voice of Kigezi (a local radio FM station) to increase awareness of the project work (Activity 5.6). The Crane Festival event and participation in the World Wildlife Day 2020 provided the project with national outlook since it was featured in national media including TVs and radios. Most importantly, the Minister of Tourism was the guest of honour at the event, which provided confidence for the political support to the programme.

3.1 Progress towards project Outputs

All the planned activities for year one have been completed except those that were interrupted and those that are continuing into the next year such as trainings, public awareness and education as well as livelihood activities for community groups. Therefore, the Covid-19 pandemic has interrupted the flow of the first-year momentum but with all baseline studies completed and some few activities flowing into the second year. However, Uganda seems to still be in the lucky side of the pandemic with less than 100 cases and no fatalities. If this situation continues and the situation normalizes, then the impact of Coronavirus on the project progress will be minimal for years two and three. So far, the project progress is still within the planned period and outputs will be achieved as planned if the infection will not accelerate further. For now, the measurable indicators and the assumptions remain unchanged.

Output: 1. Wetland ecosystem values known and availed to local and national decision-makers

Output 1 reflected consolidation of baseline information and full understanding of the ecosystem to guide the local and national decision makers on the implementation of the project to achieve the overall goal of conservation of the selected wetlands supporting threatened species, providing ecosystem services to communities and mitigating against cause of climate change. In this regard Wetland ecosystem service evaluation has been finished (Indicator 1.1), the peat stocks assessment completed (Indicator 1.4) and the assessment of farming practices on wetlands conducted (Indicator 1.5). Detailed reports on ecosystem valuation, the quantity of peat carbon stocks and the impact of different farming practices and conservation actions on emissions will be available in the next quarter reports. So far, the reports were presented and shared with national stakeholders for validation including representatives from line ministries and the RAMSEA focal point for Uganda. In the next year, the reports will be synthesised for presentation to local and national stakeholders (Indicators 1.2, 1.3).

Output: 2. Wetlands biodiversity assessed, indicator species monitored and data obtained and used to evaluate Ramsar status of the sites and enable designation

Output 2 considers the understanding of the biological system and biodiversity richness of the selected wetlands, establish a monitoring plan with a view of generating data that would support raising the conservation status of the sites into Ramsar designation for Lake Bunyonyi. In this regard, all major biodiversity taxa groups have been surveyed (indicator 2.1) and detailed reports on status of Plants, Birds, mammals, Insects, Herptiles, Fish and water quality measurements are available (Appendix 2-8) and indicator species selected for monitoring (Indicator 2.3)

The mammal survey indicates that there is not very much historical documentation of the mammal fauna in the Lake Bunyonyi and associated wetland systems. It was the first survey for mammals in the area. All-together 21 species of small mammals (rodents and shrews) were recorded from the trapping that was conducted in the three wetland systems. At the landscape level the results however suggest that even though the wetland vegetation has largely been converted through a variety of anthropogenic activities – mostly agricultural, that a good level of species richness is still present. A restoration campaign that would allow a good amount of wetland vegetation to recover and as well recover some connectivity would have a positive influence for encouraging survival of good populations of the different species (Appendix 2).

A total of 130 species of birds were recorded including endangers species such as the Grey Crowned Cranes and Papyrus Yellow Warbler. A total of 312 plant species belonging to 75 families was recorded and 10 of the aquatic species recorded more than 20 years ago as present on L. Bunyonyi were not encountered in this survey (Appendix 3).

Due to high diversity of insects, butterflies and dragonflies were considered in this survey as good potential indicators of ecosystem health. A total of 37 species of butterflies and 19 species of dragonflies were encountered within the sampled landscape (Appendix 4)

A total of 265 individuals comprising of 21 amphibian species and total of eight reptilian species recorded (Appendix 6). A total of 12 fish species from nine (9) genera and 5 families were recovered (Appendix 7).

The benthic macroinvertebrates community of the wetland systems of Lake Bunyonyi and Nyamuriro and Kiruruma was poor in diversity constituted by Diptera (Chironomus sp. and Chaoborus sp.) and Oligochaeta indicating poor water quality (Appendix 8).

Indicator species have selected for monitoring and detailed in the reports including the global and national conservation status. In the next reporting period, the Ramsar Information Sheet will be finalised based on the biodiversity data, wetlands ecosystem services reports and presented to the National Ramsar Committee for consideration. The process will be guided by the National Ramsar focal person, who is a government officer responsible for implementation of Ramsar Convention

The biodiversity assessment reports are the first of their kind for the area and although they show high biodiversity richness and abundance of globally threatened species, such as the Grey crowned Cranes, the low numbers of Xenopus frogs (a local delicacy) and increased numbers of invasive species (crayfish) are a matter of concern (Appendix 6). All the targeted wetlands were highly encroached with community gardens and heavy siltation from the catchment. The reports have been shared (Indicator 2.2) with representatives from line ministries, academic institutions such as Makerere University and the RAMSEA focal point for Uganda. In the next reporting period, the RIS will be finalised and presented to the National Ramsar Committee for consideration. The National Ramsar Focal person is already engaged and supportive.

Output: 3. Community stakeholders engaged in the implementation of community conservation agreements to sustainably manage use of wetlands

Output 1 and 2 established the information base to allow evidence-based decision making for local and national stakeholders and the decision makers for project implementation. Output 3 seeks to bring the local partners and the 'custodians' of the resources into ownership of the resources and the process for sustainability. It is the local communities who loose livelihoods when the wetlands are degraded and it is the same communities who benefit from ecosystem services when the wetlands are restored. The approach is using the Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs). In this regard, ten community groups were selected, assessed and trained (Indicator 3.1) in development, management and governance of Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs). Training and awareness in laws and regulations regarding protection and wise use of wetlands will continue in the next reporting period (Indicator 3.2) and this will culminate into the CCA agreements (3.3) and agreed Conservation Action Plan (3.4) that will specify agreed targets.

Output 4. Wise use/sustainable use strategies and plans developed, demonstrated and adopted to improve community livelihoods

Output 4 is the core of community engagement to develop sustainable strategies for livelihood improvement. The demonstration of these strategies would be achieved through organised community groups called Farmer Field Schools (FFS). In this reporting period, a baseline study was conducted (Indicator 4.1) to determine the state of soils in the catchment hills in terms of carbon contained and organic nutrients to inform the planning for the community enterprises development.

This report set out to address a number of key questions related to the condition of upland soils around three wetland areas in Kabale and Rubanda Districts, and activities which could be implemented to address these issues. With the understanding that upland soil degradation has led to encroachment into wetland areas, addressing wetland encroachment requires addressing the cause of productivity declines, i.e. upland soil degradation. This study aims to gain insight into the soil condition on these slopes and explore ideas around soil conservation and restoration to maintain upland soil productivity, thus reducing the need for wetland encroachment for agriculture. The report results show high degradation of soils. The report concludes that unless sustainable land use management is deployed across all sites, it can be expected that the soils will reach a point of becoming unproductive, and with this the ability to restore them becomes harder, if not impossible.

The report also recommends the need for Nature Uganda to urgently engage the established farmer groups in upland soil restoration and conservation, to serve as successful pilot projects from which other farmers can learn and feel incentivised to act upon. Using the existing network of farmer groups to share the findings of this work will also galvanise energy from farmers to adopt appropriate actions.

Three community groups to engage have been identified (Indicator 4.2) and a tourism association with a membership of 20 guides identified and engaged (Indicator 4.6). Tourism will be based on charismatic species such as the Grey Crowned Crane, Uganda's national symbol (Photos 4) often persecuted by communities when they destroy their crops (Photo 5) and therefore establishing tourism as an income generation activity would reduce hostility. In the next reporting period, demonstration of soil and water conservation will be established

(Indicator 4.3) and training of communities to establish sustainable enterprises (Indicator 4.4, 4.5)

Output 5. Lessons from management of wetlands in Kabale shared at national, regional and international levels for future replication to protect peat wetlands

In the first year of the project we have collated and conducted studies on the wetlands associated with Lake Bunyonyi and we have detailed documention about their biodiversity, wetland ecosystem services, peat stocks and associated agricultural practices (see Activity 1 and 2). A project communication plan (Appendix 10) has been developed and will be reviewed with stakeholder where opportunities become available (Indicator 5.1), one learning visit has been undertaken during the Crane Festival (Indicator 5.2) and the biodiversity reports were shared with the national policy and academic stakeholders (Indicator 5.3) during a validation workshop. Further to this, the project shared information through radio/ TV talk shows, and a newsletter article on the World Wildlife Day celebrations (Indicator 5.3, 5.5). Despite that this has been the first year of project implementation, progress has been made in reaching all stakeholders at local and national levels. In the coming reporting periods, the project will progress with the Lake Bunyonyi Ramsar designation process and accelerated community enterprises implementation where more lessons will be generated and shared. Reports and baseline studies will be posted on the NatureUganda website for increased national and international access.

3.2 Progress towards the project Outcome

Outcome: 10,000 households benefit from the wise use of wetlands and ecosystem services, mainly water, biodiversity, and secure long-term conservation of the three wetlands in Kabale.

Progress towards achieving the project Outcome. All indicators 0.1, 0.2 and 0.3 have been initiated and reports available of activities undertaken. All baselines studies as described in Outputs 1, 2 and 4, a monitoring tool for biodiversity monitoring has been developed and monitoring of indicator species commenced (Indicator 0.2) and the Ramsar designation process of Lake Bunyonyi commenced with initiating the RIS with the National Ramsar Focal person. In the next reporting period, emphasis will be made on the development and implementation of community Conservation Agreements and enterprises, wetland restoration and national advocacy to complete the Ramsar designation process.

3.3 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome assumptions:

1. The stable political environment is maintained.

Comment. The assumption still holds true and there are no changes expected in the foreseeable future. Although there will be Presidential elections in February 2021, no major changes are expected.

2. Project interventions in sustainable farming practices, alternative incomes and CCAs will reduce the impact on wetlands.

Comment. The assumption still holds true. The support exhibited by local governments and communities during the baseline studies shows commitment and interest from partners and project expectations are still on target.

3. Coronavirus infection will be controlled

Comment: This is a new assumption which has emerged in the course of the project as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. We think his will hold true because the national infection rate has been one of the lowest in the world with less than 100 cases and the project area has not registered any case and there has been massive public awareness about the disease.

Output 1. Wetland ecosystem values known and availed to local and national decision-makers

Cooperation with local stakeholders, communities and local governments maintained

Comment: This will hold true because we have had long working relationships with all these stakeholders in the landscape and we still think they will continue.

Output 2. Wetlands biodiversity assessed, indicator species monitored, and data obtained and used to evaluate the Ramsar status of the sites to enable designation.

1. The national government remains committed to wetlands conservation

Comment. The national government is in process of establishing a wetlands specific law and NatureUganda has a MOU with Department of Wetlands management and continue to provide support exhibited by the Minister who graced Crane Festival as Guest of Honour. .

Output 3. Community stakeholders engaged in the implementation of Community Conservation Agreements to sustainably manage and wisely use wetlands

1. Local politics remain conducive

Comments. This still holds true. So far local governments have provided maximum support in baseline studies, identification of community groups and public awareness events such as the Crane Festival and World Wildlife Day.

Output 4. Wise use/sustainable use strategies and plans developed, demonstrated, and adopted to improve community livelihoods.

1. The rainfall patterns remain conducive for farming

Comment. There are no unusual changes or patterns in rainfall patterns

2. Political stability allows foreign tourists to visit the region

Comment. Tourism remains a primary sector for income generation and government remains committed to security and safety of visitors. Although Coronavirus pandemic may impact on the foreign tourist (probably in the short term), Lake Bunyonyi has become highly attractive for domestic tourists and visitors, and therefore we don't expect big impact in the long-term.

3. With the improved status of wetlands as Ramsar site, increased publicity, sufficient tourists visit the area and provide employment opportunities for the tourism operators.

Comment. This still holds true with support from the National Ramsar Focal person and from the centre, RAMCEA.

Output 5. Lessons from management of wetlands in Kabale shared at national, regional and international levels for future replication to protect high altitude wetlands

Lessons learned from the project inspire wetlands conservation in the region

Comment: this assumption still holds true because government has started a process to cancel all land certificates in wetlands and have provided ultimatum for those with investments in wetlands to vacate. This is a clear signal of commitment from government.

3.4 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

The impact this project is expecting to achieve is “Conserved wetlands with restored habitats for threatened species sustainably provide ecosystem services to improve the livelihoods of communities and mitigate against the causes of climate change”. Whereas it is early it may be early to measure our contribution in the first year of the project, the biodiversity assessments clearly show that Lake Bunyonyi and associated wetlands are critically important for biodiversity conservation. This data provides project managers with good ammunition to lobby and advocate for the conservation of the species. Also the wetlands ecosystem services survey state the importance of the wetlands to the community especially aces to water for domestic and urban centres. Lastly the assessment of peat stock also shows that the wetlands around Lake Bunyonyi have deep deposits of peat and therefore critical to conserve the wetlands to reduce or minimise carbon emission.

So far, biodiversity assessments in the project operational areas have been successfully done; Birds, Plants, Reptiles, Insects, Mammals, Fish, Soil Quality, Peat (Carbon) stock, Ecosystem Services, and Water quality assessments. Reports have been shared with some stakeholders and will be further synthesised to share information widely and continue the process of designating Lake Bunyonyi and the surrounding wetlands a Ramsar site.

Further project work will make clearer rights, roles, and responsibilities for communities, articulated through a community conservation agreements (CCA) and FFS and with oversight from local government to ensure its enforcement coupled with improved agricultural methods outside the wetlands and better methods to wise-use of wetlands will achieve better wetland management and improve community livelihoods

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

The project aims to contribute to the SDG 2 (zero hunger): through improving livelihoods and agricultural productivity for wetland adjacent communities in Kabale and Rubanda districts, SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), through protecting rivers and restoration of the wetland, allowing wetland vegetation to grow and help reduce pollution, siltation and sedimentation, and SDG 15 (life on land) through restoring and protecting habitat for many globally threatened species that are dependent on wetlands as described in the biodiversity assessment reports.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

Convention on Biological Diversity.
Decision XIII/5 of COP13 encouraged Parties to consider Ecosystem restoration when developing the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). NBSAP for Uganda 2016 identifies the main causes of biodiversity loss inter alia as habitat destruction and conversion, impacts of climate change, unsustainable land management practices, and illegal wildlife trade. The strategic objective 3 of NBSAP aims at restoration of wetlands “to reduce and manage negative impacts while enhancing positive impacts on biodiversity”. We will contribute to reducing and managing negative impacts on biodiversity especially in unique high-altitude wetlands in Kabale and Rubanda districts.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.
The Grey Crowned-Crane is listed in Appendix II of CITES and the wetlands in western Uganda in particular Kabale and Rubanda constitute the biggest breeding population (>100 pairs). The global and national species action plans identify wetlands degradation and global trade in the species as the main threats and we will address these root causes of population collapse.

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
Resolution XII.11 and 12 calls on Parties “as appropriate to designate as Wetlands of International Importance at least one peatland area, suitable for communication, education, and awareness-raising about the conservation, restoration and wise use of peatlands and the

services they provide, such as their role in relation to climate change, protection of habitats for rare and threatened species and provision of water supplies”

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The project aims at securing existing wetlands of Nyamuriro, Kiruruma valley, and those around Lake Bunyonyi, and secure the breeding habitats of the Grey-crowned crane, and Improve the quality of wetland habitats and reduce pressure on biodiversity through habitat loss and wildlife trade. The wetlands in Kabale and Rubanda are critically important for biodiversity conservation and a source of livelihood for the communities.

Empower wetland adjacent communities to manage wetlands with an expanded source of incomes from wise-use of wetlands. The communities will restore the degraded sections of the wetlands based on signed CCAs, they will commit to the long-term protection and wise use of the wetlands, improve soil fertility, and reduction in soil erosion.

Farmer Field Schools will be critical in the restoration of fertility of uplands, providing alternatives to wetland use. In the short-term, we will provide communities with the training, resources, and empowerment to become the protectors of the wetland for long term environmental and social outcomes.

Community Conservation Agreements will also provide legally protected rights of communities to manage wetlands and empower the communities to a) Improve the quality of wetland habitats and reduce pressure on biodiversity through habitat loss and wildlife trade and b) to take responsibility and an active role in wetland management now and in the future. This will make it much harder for outside interests to develop unsustainable projects within the wetland areas.

Designation of the wetlands a Ramsar site will provide long term sustainability of the wetland resources, protection of the ecosystem services, conservation and protection of endangered biodiversity and protect the peatlands from exposure to oxidation and or change of land use.

Restoration of wetland areas will raise water table levels and restoration of natural habitats leading to avoided losses of soil carbon through oxidation. The avoided losses of carbon from the peat soils and the increased carbon sequestered in the upland hill slopes will have long term positive impact on climate change taking responsibility and an active role in wetland management now and in the future.

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

The project is working with community groups adjacent to the selected wetlands in the Kigezi region who are actively involved in wetland restoration and upland soil management. These community groups are composed of both males and females and the majority of the group members’ land is owned by males as traditional cultural bottlenecks in the region. This creates a gap during soil management but NU together with the local governments are working very hard to sort out these issues to ensure soil management and that degraded wetlands are restored.

The project will quantify the contribution towards gender equity by relying on the collected gender-disaggregated data on the ratio of males to female farmers affected by the project. The measures will be restricted on the livelihood improvement and poverty elevation in the face of wetland restoration and upland soils management (wetland values)

The project set target of 40% of households show improved wellbeing (for example access to water, better health, and benefits from wetlands) due to project intervention by end of the project, Improve biodiversity scores as determined by IBA monitoring showing no further loss on baseline levels and Lake Bunyonyi and surrounding wetlands designated as Ramsar site (BEOP). Since the project is in its preliminary stages, gender equity impacts cannot be measured.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation play a central role in project implementation since it is a core activity in assessing the effectiveness of the project activities in the project operation areas. The project started with baseline data collection on the biodiversity and final reports are in place.

Project monitoring and evaluation will continue in the second year of the project since most of the project activities or interventions are in the subsequent years according to poverty alleviation, biodiversity scores, wetland restoration, and upland soil management, gender equity among others through the M&E plan developed (Indicator 2.3).

Project outputs and activities are monitored onsite through visits by the project teams and regular planning meetings (weekly, monthly, and quarterly) are considered. The meetings involve each project team reporting for the progress of the project activities through discussions and learning lessons are shared as seen in reports.

Regular supervisory visits are made by the senior management and the Science and Technical committee of NatureUganda has scheduled for regular monitoring. There are no notable challenges to the project.

9. Lessons learnt

NatureUganda project implementation teams had an inception workshop at the secretariate to launch the project as the first activity, whereby project staff were exposed to project activities and outputs. This gave project staff a direction and preparation of project work plans on how the project will be implemented in the project operational area and orientation followed. This activity was useful and very successful

Biodiversity assessments in the project operational areas were undertaken and results show that wetlands associated with Lake Bunyonyi are critical for conservation of biodiversity especially the globally threatened species such as the Grey Crowned Crane and wetlands ecosystem services important for over one million people.

Community groups were selected and training initiated in governance, leadership, and development of community conservation agreements. The community and the local government welcomed the initiatives and pledged to give necessary support during the project implementation. The proposed livelihood enterprises for the project directly compliment the implementation of District Development Plans and a national strategy for wealth creation.

The community members under this project participated in the World Wildlife Day celebrations in Kabale municipality under the theme “Sustaining all wildlife for the benefit of the present and future generations” and provided inspiration to other community members as part of a national process. The themes “bend the curve” for the crane conservation in the Crane festival 2020 showed the urgency required to protect the species. Community group members shared lessons and experience in cultural dance and drama, homemade materials from wetlands, and forest raw materials such as baskets, mats, etc with other community members and national participants.

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Not relevant since this is the first year review report

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The project implementation has progressed and there were no major challenges in the first year. The Covid-19 has not significantly affected first year activities but the lockdown may impact on the first months of the second year. Uganda has so far had few cases and the trend seems to indicate that responsible government agencies are in control. If this continues, then

the impact of the pandemic on the project will be understood by end of the first quarter of second year.

12. Sustainability and legacy

The project proposal was supported by local and central governments through their letters of support. The Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities officiated at the Crane Festival. The event was hosted by the Kabale District local government. These are signals of commitment from government to the project work. Minister of Water and Environment through Wetlands Management Department has agreed to support the process to designate Lake Bunyonyi as a Ramsar site and the national Ramsar Focal person is already engaged.
Biodiversity studies reports have been shared with line ministries and departments including academic institutions and the data generated will be shared with the National Biodiversity databank (NBDB) so that the information is integrated into the national dataset. The data will also be entered into the World Bird Database (BTO in UK). This ensures that the data is widely shared and used.
During the next reporting periods, emphasis will focus on enterprise development for communities to improve their livelihoods and more capacity building through FFS and CCAs. These established community groups is a local mechanism to sustain project work (e.g. social, economic, ecological, technical etc.). The exit plan and strategy has not changed from the original proposal despite the more recent coronavirus interruption which we believe will be short-lived since Uganda seem to have avoided a major disruption.

13. Darwin identity

It is a standard procedure that Darwin Initiative and UK government are recognised at every project meeting and broadcast. It is also standard procedure that Darwin initiative logo will appear on every publication that recognise project whether singly and or in partnership (Photos 6 & 7) and given visibility in all project publicity materials like flyers, reports, newsletters, NU website, year planners, calendars, T-shirts, public talk shows, and workshop presentations. See **Photos 6 & 7:** Crane festival 2020 and Group leadership training workshop in Kabale Town

Since Darwin Initiative project (as commonly rfered to) is probably the best projects being implemented in this region of Uganda by NatureUganda, the Darwin logo and support Is well appreciated by partners in Local and national Governments departments and the community groups or partner NGOs.

14. Safeguarding

Safeguarding has become a common considered responsibility of organisations to make sure their staff (employees and volunteers), operations and programmes do no harm to children and vulnerable adults or expose them to abuse or exploitation. It is indeed the best practice to think about how we always safeguard everyone in our organisations, including protecting staff from inappropriate behaviour such as bullying and harassment arising from coming into contact with our staff or programmes

NatureUganda has a comprehensive Operations Manual that describes the code of conduct of staff and descipline, we are however in the process of developing an independent safeguarding policy for the orgnisation. In this project, we ensure prior informed consent before a community is engaged and our activities in the community are clearly defined. Our staff are guided by our operations manual that have stringent desciplinary procudres with respect to bullying, harassment, bribery or any other abuse. Whereas NatureUganda does not have a specific whistle blowing policy, our staff have full access to management or board members if necessary.

For all the baseline studies, a reconaissance was conducted for the purpose of introducing the activities to the partners. Where necessary letters of introduction are made to the local councils

(leadership) and the local leadership also provide a representative or focal person in the village to provide contact or receive complaints. So far there has not been any incidence that required resolution or a compliant against staff or other partners. We shall continue to observe high levels of integrity, maintain good relations with patners including communities and work to complete the safeguading policy.

15. Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	**2019/20 Grant (£)**	**2019/20 Total Darwin Costs (£)**	**Variance %**	**Comments (please explain significant variances)**
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and **fully** explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by Darwin?

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2019-2020

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Conserved wetlands with restored habitats for threatened species sustainably provide ecosystem services to improve the livelihoods of communities and mitigate against the causes of climate change			
Outcome: 10,000 households benefit from the wise use of wetlands and ecosystem services, mainly water, biodiversity, and secure long-term conservation of the three wetlands in Kabale**.**	0.1. 40% of 10,000 households show improved wellbeing (eg. access to water, better health, and benefits from wetlands, etc) due to project intervention by end of a project. 0.2. Improved biodiversity scores as determined by IBA monitoring showing no further loss on baseline levels. 0.3. Lake Bunyonyi and surrounding wetlands designated as Ramsar site BEOP.	It is very early to estimate the outcome indicators. However, all baselines studies have been conducted and these provide the needed data to work on innovations that increase sustainable farming and reduce emissions from the peatlands.	In the next reporting period, the results of the studies will be presented to the local governments and the National Ramsar Committee. Also, the process of designating Lake Bunyonyi and the surrounding wetlands a Ramsar site will be initiated.
Output 1. Wetland ecosystem values are known and availed to local and national decision-makers	1.1. Comprehensive ecosystem valuation report available and shared with national lead agencies and Conventions Focal points to inform national policy implementation and reporting by end of yr1 1.2. Synthesis and summary reports and graphics on the value of wetland services and 10,000 leaflets in local language distributed to residents by the end of yr2. 1.3. Local district council members discuss the valuation report to integrate results into local government development plans by end of yr2. 1.4. The quantity of peat carbon stocks in the project area assessed by end of yr 1	Wetland ecosystem service evaluation, peat stocks assessment and the assessment of the impact of different farming practices and conservation actions on emissions have been completed. The reports were presented and shared with national stakeholders for validation including representatives from line ministries and the RAMSEA focal point for Uganda. In the next year, the reports will be synthesised for presentation to local and national stakeholders (Indicators 1.2, 1.3) to inform decision making at local and national level. The reports will also contribute information to the Ramsar designation process of Lake Bunyonyi. There was steady progress in the implementation of planned activities for quarters one to four (Q1-4) and a regional conservation forum is planned in the quarter to inform all regional leaders and partners of the results of the studies.	

	1.5. The relative impact of different farming practices and conservation activities on emissions assessed by end of yr 1.		
Activity 1.1 Conduct ecosystem valuation of the three targeted wetlands; Kiruruma valley, Nyamuriro, Bunyonyi		Ecosystem valuation assessment completed and a report produced	Results from here will guide the selection of community livelihood interventions
Activity 1.4 Assess the quantity of peat carbon stocks in the project area		Peat carbon stocks assessment completed and a report produced	Results from here will be used to work on innovations that reduce emissions from the peatlands
Activity 1.5. Assess the impact of different farming practices and conservation activities on emissions		Assessment of farming practices completed and a report produced	Results from here will be used to work on innovations that promote sustainable farming practices
Output 2. Wetlands biodiversity assessed, indicator species monitored and data Ramsar designation	2.1. Biodiversity assessment reports available and indicator species identified by end of Yr2 2.2. Synthesis and analysis of the data against Ramsar criteria and support the Govt with completion and submission of the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) to the Ramsar Secretariat 2.3. A monitoring framework for biodiversity developed and administered throughout the project period to provide information on the impact of the project on biodiversity.	Baseline assessments of all major biodiversity taxa groups have been completed and detailed reports on status of Plants, Birds, mammals, Insects, Herptiles, Fish and water quality measurements are available (Appendix 2-8). The mammal survey indicates that there is not very much historical documentation of the mammal fauna in the Lake Bunyonyi and associated wetland systems. It was the first survey for mammals in the area. All-together 21 species of small mammals (rodents and shrews) were recorded from the trapping that was conducted in the three wetland systems. At the landscape level the results however suggest that even though the wetland vegetation has largely been converted through a variety of anthropogenic activities – mostly agricultural, that a good level of species richness is still present. A restoration campaign that would allow a good amount of wetland vegetation to recover and as well recover some connectivity would have a positive influence for encouraging survival of good populations of the different species. A total of 130 species of birds were recorded including endangers species such as the Grey Crowned Cranes and Papyrus Yellow Warbler. A total of 312 plant species belonging to 75 families was recorded and 10 of the aquatic species recorded more than 20 years ago as present on L. Bunyonyi were not encountered in this survey.	

		Due to high diversity of insects, butterflies and dragonflies were considered in this survey as good potential indicators of ecosystem health. A total of 37 species of butterflies and 19 species of dragonflies were encountered within the sampled landscape A total of 265 individuals comprising of 21 amphibian species and total of eight reptilian species recorded. A total of 12 fish species from nine (9) genera and 5 families were recovered. The benthic macroinvertebrates community of the wetland systems of Lake Bunyonyi and Nyamuriro and Kiruruma was poor in diversity constituted by Diptera (Chironomus sp. and Chaoborus sp.) and Oligochaeta indicating poor water quality. Indicator species have selected for monitoring and detailed in the reports including the global and national conservation status. In the next reporting period, the Ramsar Information Sheet will be finalised based on the biodiversity data, wetlands ecosystem services reports and presented to the National Ramsar Committee for consideration. The process will be guided by the National Ramsar focal person, who is a government officer responsible for implementation of Ramsar Convention	
Activity 2.1. Conduct biodiversity assessments of the three targeted wetlands; Kiruruma, Nyamuriro, Bunyonyi		Biodiversity assessments completed and reports produced (See output 2, section 3.1)	Data to be used in finalising the Ramsar Information Sheet
Activity 2.2. Synthesize and analyse data against Ramsar criteria and complete the Ramsar Information Sheets (RIS) for the National Ramsar Committee		Data compilation has been done in preparation for synthesis	Synthesis and analysis of data against Ramsar criteria is planned in 1&2 Q of year 2
Activity 2.3. Develop a monitoring framework for indicator species to provide information on the impact of the project on biodiversity throughout the project period		A Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for the project developed based on activity 1.1 and 1.2	Implementation of the framework will commence to provide information to evaluate the project impact
Output3. Community stakeholders engaged in the implementation of community conservation agreements	3.1 Ten community groups trained in the setup, management, and governance of Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs) by end of Yr1 3.2 At least 500 community group members	Ten community groups were selected, assessed and trained in development, management and governance of Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs). Training and awareness in laws and regulations regarding protection and wise use of wetlands will continue in the next reporting period	

	have a good understanding of the laws and regulations regarding the protection and wise use of wetlands by end of yr 2 3.3 Ten CCAs representing ten community groups signed between communities and district government authorities by EOP 3.4 Ten community groups implementing conservation activities and biodiversity monitoring guided by Conservation Action Plans by end of yr 2	(Indicator 3.2) and this will culminate into the CCA agreements (3.3) and agreed Conservation Action Plan (3.4) that will specify agreed targets on wetlands conservation, water and soil conservation and other capacity building needs to community and local government levels in long-term sustainability of project achievements. The process was however interrupted by the outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic in the quarter (March 2020) when the lockdown started but plans to resume as soon as the country-wide lockdown is lifted are underway. Negotiations had started and will be completed in the next reporting period	
Activity 3.1. Train ten community groups in the setup, management, and governance of community Conservation Agreements (CCAs) by end of Yr1		Ten (10) community groups were selected and trained in development, management and governance of Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs)	Knowledge gained to support the development and management of CCAs
Activity 3.2. Organise workshop for every community group covering at least 500 community group members to promote understanding of the laws and regulations regarding the protection and wise use of wetlands by end of Yr2		The ten community groups were trained in feasibility and needs assessment, the proposed Theory of Change, Action Planning; and drafting of CCA agreements	Capacity of community groups to be developed based on needs assessment results
Activity 3.3. Facilitate the development of CCAs and ten MoUs signed between communities and district authorities by end of Yr2		Negotiations to set up CCAs were initiated but were later interrupted by the country-wide lockdown following the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic	The process of setting up CCAs will continue as soon as the countrywide lockdown is lifted.
Activity 3.4. Facilitate and support ten community groups (ten workshops) to develop and implement Conservation action plans (also see 2.3) by end of Yr2		See Activity 3.3 above	See Activity 3.3 above
Output 4. Wise use/sustainable use strategies and plans developed, demonstrated and adopted to improve community livelihoods	4.1 A baseline report on upland soil quality in the study area assessed to inform the establishment of FFSs by end of Yr1 4.2. Three farmer field schools established and demonstrating the benefits of soil and water conservation (SWC) and soil	A baseline study on upland soil quality was conducted (see section 3.2 output 4) to determine the state of soils in the catchment hills in terms of carbon contained and organic nutrients to inform the planning for the community enterprises development. This report set out to address a number of key questions related to the condition of upland soils around three wetland areas in Kabale and Rubanda Districts, and activities which could be implemented to	

	improvement activities by end of yr2. 4.3 Ten community groups (1000 HH) trained in and using appropriate SWC methods 4.4. 1500 farmers adopt soil fertility improvement practices, establish fodder banks in the uplands to reduce their dependence on wetland-based livelihoods BEOP 4.5 1,000 HH (5,000 people) trained and practicing sustainable farming practices that do not expose peat wetlands to oxidation and excessive drying. BEOP 4.6 At least 20% community group members establish sustainable enterprises, in particular, ten 'zero-grazing' goat rearing units and fourteen modern beekeeping units by end of yr2. 4.7 At least 10 tourism guides trained and a tourism development association registered to support tourism services BEOP	address these issues. With the understanding that upland soil degradation has led to encroachment into wetland areas, addressing wetland encroachment requires addressing the cause of productivity declines, i.e. upland soil degradation. This study aims to gain insight into the soil condition on these slopes and explore ideas around soil conservation and restoration to maintain upland soil productivity, thus reducing the need for wetland encroachment for agriculture. The report also recommends the need for Nature Uganda to urgently engage the established farmer groups in upland soil restoration and conservation, to serve as successful pilot projects from which other farmers can learn and feel incentivised to act upon. Using the existing network of farmer groups to share the findings of this work will also galvanise energy from farmers to adopt appropriate actions. Communities already make attempts to stop runoff (Photo 8) and project will complement existing efforts with more capacity and training. Three community groups to engage have been identified (Activity 4.2) and a tourism association identified and engaged (Activity 4.6). In the next reporting period, demonstration of soil and water conservation will be established and training of communities to establish sustainable enterprises will be conducted	
Activity 4.1. Assess the baseline of upland soil quality in the study area, prior to the establishment of the farmer field school training by end of year 1		Baseline assessment study was completed	Results will be used to set up FFS
Activity 4.2. Establish three farmer field schools and demonstrating benefits of soil and water conservation (SWC) and soil improvement by end of Yr2		Three groups to engage in FFS have been identified	Three farmer field schools demonstrating benefits of SWC will be set up in Yr2
Activity 4.3. Ten community groups (1,000HH) trained in and using appropriate SWC methods on their own land by end of Yr2		See activity 4.1 above	Training of community groups in SWC methods planned year 2
Activity 4.4. Support 1,500 HH to adopt soil fertility improvement practices and establish fodder banks in the uplands to reduce their dependence on wetlands-based livelihoods BEOP		Baseline on upland soils done and will inform the decision sustainable soil improvement plans	Innovative soil improvement practices will be demonstrated in uplands for improved yields and livelihoods
Activity 4.5. Train 1,000 HH (5,000 people) in sustainable farming practices that do not expose peat wetlands to oxidation and excessive		As in 4.4	Train group members in sustainable farming practices

drying BEOP			that do not expose peat
Activity 4.6. Support at least 20% community group members to establish sustainable enterprises, in particular, ten zero-grazing goat rearing units and ten modern beekeeping units by end of Yr2		The community groups have been assessed in output 3	The ten communities will be trained in sustainable enterprises
Activity 4.7. Support the establishment of tour guiding operations and train guides around lake Bunyonyi to increase awareness of tourism opportunities available BEOP		A tourism association on Lake Bunyonyi has been identified and engaged	Training of guides will commence in the next reporting period
Output 5. Lessons from management of wetlands in Kabale shared at national, regional and international levels for future replication to protect peat wetlands	5.1 Project communications plan in place end of yr1. 5.2. At least 2 Learning visits annually to/from other communities outside the project area to share expertise and experiences throughout the project 5.3 Project outcomes and lessons shared in at least 5 forums, local radio/TV programmes in local language and print media BEOP 5.4 At least one paper on wetlands management through Community Conservation Agreements published in a refereed journal 5.5. Publicity materials on the project results including newsletters, posters and policy briefs circulated BEOP	A project communication plan has been developed (Activity 5.1). One learning visit has been undertaken during the Crane Festival (Activity 5.2) and the biodiversity reports were shared with the national policy and academic stakeholders (Activity 5.3) during a validation workshop. Progress has also been made in reaching the all stakeholders of the project through radio/ TV talk shows, and a newsletter article on the World Wildlife Day celebrations (Activity 5.3, 5.5). In the coming reporting periods, the project will progress with the Lake Bunyonyi Ramsar designation process and accelerated community enterprises implementation where more lessons will be generated and shared. Reports and baseline studies will be posted on the NatureUganda website for increased national and international access.	
Activity 5.1. Develop a communications plan for the project by end of YR1		A project commination plan has been developed	Plan implementation will commence
Activity 5.2. Organise learning visits to other communities outside the project area to share expertise and experience BEOP		A learning visit has been conducted during the Crane Festival	More learning visits to /from places outside the project area will continue
Activity 5.3. Share project outcomes, experiences and lessons in at least 5 meetings and forums BEOP		The Baseline survey reports were shared with the national policy and academic stakeholders	More lessons from the Ramsar designation and enterprise development will be generated and shared
Activity 5.5. Develop and disseminate publicity materials on the project		Newsletter article produced and shared on the NatureUganda	Reports and baseline studies will be posted on the

results including newsletters, posters and policy briefs	website	NatureUganda website for increased national and international access.
Activity 5.6. Raise awareness on the outcomes and results of the project through radios, TVs and public print media	The project shared information through radio/ TV talk show	More talk shows will be held in the next project period

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Conserved wetlands with restored habitats for threatened species sustainably provide ecosystem services to improve the livelihoods of communities and mitigate against the causes of climate change			
Outcome: 10,000 households benefit from the wise use of wetlands and ecosystem services, mainly water, biodiversity and secure long-term conservation of the three wetlands in Kabale.	0.1. 40% of 10,000 households show improved wellbeing (eg. access to water, better health, and benefits from wetlands etc) due to project intervention by end of project. 0.2. Improved biodiversity scores as determined by IBA monitoring showing no further loss on baseline levels. 0.3. Lake Bunyonyi and surrounding wetlands designated as Ramsar site BEOP.	0.1 Baseline, annual and end of project reports 0.2. Baseline, annual and end of project biodiversity (IBA) monitoring reports. 0.3. Minutes of the National Ramsar Committee endorsing the Ramsar designation of the Bunyonyi wetlands	Stable political environment is maintained We think this will hold true because there has been political stability for over three decades Project interventions in sustainable farming practices, alternative incomes and CCAs will reduce impact on wetlands.
Output 1 1. Wetland ecosystem values known and availed to local and national decision-makers	1.1. Comprehensive ecosystem valuation report available and shared with national lead agencies and Conventions Focal points to inform national policy implementation and reporting by end of yr1 1.2. Synthesis and summary reports and graphics on the value of wetland services and 10,000 leaflets in local language distributed to residents by end of yr2. 1.3. Local district council members discuss the valuation report to integrate results into local government development plans by end of yr2. 1.4. The quantity of peat carbon stocks in the project area assessed by end of yr 1 1.5. The relative impact of different farming practices and conservation activities on emissions assessed by end of yr 1.	1.1. Valuation report available and shared 1.2. Reports, graphics and leaflets depicting the wetland values. 1.3. Minutes of local and national assembly debates on wetlands management in Kabale 1.4., 1.5. Report on peat carbon stocks and impact of conservation activities on emissions	Wetland ecosystem values known and availed to local and national decision-makers Conduct ecosystem valuation of the three targeted wetlands; Kiruruma, Nyamuriro, Bunyonyi Develop and disseminate materials for public awareness on the values of the wetland resources
Output 2 Wetlands biodiversity assessed, indicator	2.1. Biodiversity assessment reports available and indicator species identified by end of Yr2 2.2. Synthesis and analysis of the data against Ramsar criteria and support the Govt with completion and submission of the Ramsar	2.1. Baseline and biodiversity reports highlighting international significant elements of the wetlands 2.2. Ramsar Information sheet	National government remains committed to wetlands conservation *Government is in process of reviewing wetlands policy and laws and wetlands agencies hve committed to providing*

species monitored and data obtained and used to evaluate Ramsar status of the sites to enable designation.	Information Sheet (RIS) to the Ramsar Secretariat 2.3. A monitoring framework for biodiversity developed and administered throughout the project period to provide information on impact of project on biodiversity.	(RIS) completed and submitted to the national Ramsar focal point 2.3. Minutes of the National Ramsar Committee (NRC) 2.4 Monitoring reports for indicator species eg. Grey-crowned Crane	*support to the project implementation.*
Output 3 Community stakeholders engaged in the implementation of Community Conservation Agreements to sustainably manage and wisely use wetlands	3.1 Ten community groups trained in the setup, management and governance of Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs) by end of Yr1 3.2 At least 500 community group members have a good understanding of the laws and regulations regarding protection and wise-use of wetlands by end of yr 2 3.3 Ten CCAs representing ten community groups signed between communities and district government authorities by EOP 3.4 Ten community groups implementing conservation activities and biodiversity monitoring guided by Conservation Action Plans by end of yr 2	3.1a Training and evaluation reports showing disaggregation of gender involvement 3.1b Charter describing the governance and management of CCAs and action plans on achieving the targets of CCAs 3.2 Reports on Training and pre and post training interview 3.3 Signed CCAs documents between community groups engaged and local government authorities 3.4a Conservation action plans in place 3.4b Biodiversity (IBA) monitoring reports re: indicator species	Local politics remain conducive No changes have been made that indicate any changes in political commitment Also the clearer rights, roles and responsibilities for communities, articulated through a CCA with oversight from local government to ensure its enforcement coupled with improved agricultural methods outside the wetlands and better methods to wise-use of wetlands will result in better wetland management
Output 4 Wise use/sustainable use strategies and plans developed, demonstrated and adopted to improve community livelihoods.	4.1 A baseline report on upland soil quality in the study area assessed to inform establishment of FFSs by end of Yr1 4.2. Three farmer field schools established and demonstrating benefits of soil and water conservation (SWC) and soil improvement activities by end of yr2. 4.3 Ten community groups (1000 HH) trained in and using appropriate SWC methods 4.4. 1500 farmers adopt soil fertility improvement practices, establish fodder banks in the uplands to reduce their dependence on wetland-based livelihoods BEOP 4.5 1,000 HH (5,000 people) trained and	4.1 Baseline study report 4.2/ Farmer Field school reports showing governance and demonstration activities 4.3 Baseline, annual and end of project enterprise reports 4.4. Project enterprises reports 4.5 Farmer field schools reports showing improved income generation and showing gender roles 4.6 Monitoring reports showing improved soil productivity as a result of manure from goats and Soil and water conservation activities	The rainfall patterns remain conducive for farming Communities are receptive to mew methods of farming and alternative livelihoods: Recent experience with NatureUganda in the region shows commitment from communities by signing CCAs. See photo 3 where communities are already engaged in enterprises Political stability allows foreign tourists to visit the region We think this will hold true because tourism is critical foreign exchange earner for the country and all efforts are made to ensure security and safety of visitors. With improved status of wetlands as Ramsar site, increased publicity, sufficient tourists visit the area and provide employment opportunities for the tourism operators.

	practicing sustainable farming practices that do not expose peat wetlands to oxidation and excessive drying. BEOP 4.6 At least 20% community group members establish sustainable enterprises, in particular ten 'zero-grazing' goat rearing units and fourteen modern beekeeping units by end of yr2. 4.7 At least 10 tourism guides trained and a tourism development association registered to support tourism services BEOP	4.7. Report on tourism related interventions by the project	Tourism is a well-developed activity based on neighbouring forests in the catchment (Bwindi Mgahinga National Park for Mt Gorillas and Echuya Forest for bird watching) and tourism based on open water and wetland biodiversity will be an added quality and product to the tourist experience. National Ramsar Focal Point is already engaged with the project and supporting he initiative.
Output 5 Lessons from management of wetlands in Kabale shared at national, regional and international levels for future replication to protect high altitude wetlands	5.1 Project communications plan in place end of yr1. 5.2. At least 2 Learning visits annually to/from other communities outside the project area to share expertise and experiences throughout project 5.3 Project outcomes and lessons shared in at least 5 forums, local radio/TV programmes in local language and print media BEOP 5.4 At least one paper on wetlands management through Community Conservation Agreements published in a refereed journal 5.5. Publicity materials on the project results including newsletters, posters and policy briefs circulated BEOP	5.1a Communications plan and its monitoring and evaluation schedule 5.1b Materials and scripts used in communications 5.2 Reports of learning visits 5.3 Reports on forums attended and radio programmes aired 5.4 Article accepted by a refereed journal 5.5. Publicity materials produced and available	Lessons learnt from project inspire wetlands conservation in the region Government remains committed to conservation of wetland and also the realisation of the decline of ecosystem services such as water when such habitats are lost. Government has issued order for all who encroached on wetlands to vacate. https://www.newvision.co.ug/new_vision/news/1514303/gov-cancels-300-titles-wetlands

Activities:
Activities (each activity is numbered according to the Output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)

Output 1. Wetland ecosystem values known and availed to local and national decision-makers

1.1 Conduct ecosystem valuation of the three targeted wetlands; Kiruruma, Nyamuriro, Bunyonyi

1.2. Develop and disseminate materials for public awareness on the values of the wetland resources

1.3. Organise dialogue meetings with local councils to raise awareness of wetland resources and their values

1.4. Assess the quantity of peat carbon stocks in the project area

1.5. Assess the impact of different farming practices and conservation activities on emissions

Output 2. Wetlands biodiversity assessed, indicator species monitored and data obtained and used to evaluate Ramsar status of the sites to enable designation

2.1. Assess biodiversity of the wetlands and identify the indicator species

2.2. Synthesise and analyse data against Ramsar criteria and complete the Ramsar Information Sheet (RIS) for the National Ramsar Committee

2.3. Develop a monitoring framework for indicator species to provide information on impact of project on biodiversity throughout the project period.

Output 3. Community stakeholders engaged in the implementation of Community Conservation Agreements to sustainably manage and use of wetlands

3.1 Train ten community groups in the setup, management and governance of Community Conservation Agreements (CCAs)

3.2 Organise a workshop for every community group covering at least 500 community group members to promote good understanding of the laws and regulations regarding protection and wise-use of wetlands

3.3 Facilitate development of CCAs and ten MOUs signed between communities and district authorities

3.4 Facilitate and support ten community groups (ten workshops) to develop and implement Conservation action plans

Output 4. Wise use/sustainable use strategies and plans developed, demonstrated and adopted to improve community livelihoods..

4.1. Assess the baseline of upland soil quality in the study area, prior to the establishment of the farmer field school by end of Yr1

4.2. Establish three farmer field schools and demonstrating benefits of soil and water conservation (SWC) and soil improvement activities

4.3 Train ten community groups (1000 HH) in using appropriate SWC methods

4.4. Train 1500 farmers to adopt soil fertility improvement practices and establish fodder banks in the uplands to reduce their dependence on wetland-based livelihoods.

4.5 Train 1,000 HH (5,000 people) in sustainable farming practices that do not expose peat wetlands to oxidation and excessive drying

4.6 Support atleast 20% community group members to establish sustainable enterprises, in particular ten ‘zero-grazing’ goat rearing units and ten modern beekeeping units.

4.7 At least 10 tourism guides trained and a tourism development association registered to support tourism services BEOP

Output 5. Lessons from management of wetlands in Kabale shared at national, regional and international levels for future replication to protect peat wetlands

5.1 Develop a communications plan for the project

5.2 Organise learning visits to other communities outside the project area to share expertise and experiences
5.3 Share project outcomes, experiences and lessons in at least 5 meetings and forums
5.4 Publish at least one paper on wetlands management through Community Conservation Agreements in a refereed journal
5.5. Develop and disseminate publicity materials on the project results including newsletters, posters, policy briefs
5.6. Raise awareness on the outcomes and results of the project through radios, TVs and public print media

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Please expand and complete Table 1: new projects should complete the Y1 column and also indicate the number planned during the project lifetime. Continuing project should cut and past the information from previous years and add in data for the most recent reporting period. Quantify project standard measures over the last year using the coding and format from the Darwin Initiative Standard Measures (see website for details: http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms) and give a brief description. Please list and report on relevant Code No's only. The level of detail required is specified in the Standard Measures Guidance notes under 'definitions and reporting requirements' column. Please devise and add any measures that are not captured in the current list. Please note that these measures may not be a substitute for output level objectively verifiable indicators in the project logframe.

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
12A	Computer database for all biodiversity data from the Bunyonyi, Kiruruma and Nyamuriro		Uganda	1				1
14A	The Project supported and participated in the Conservation Conference on 27th February 2020.		Uganda	1				3
14B	The project participated in the Crane festival in Kabale Town (organised together with ACCP) on 2nd Match 2020. The Ministry of Tourism launched the Species national Action for the G C Crane Also the project supported and participated in the World Wildlife Day on 3rd March 2020		Uganda	2				>10

20	Two motorcycles (BP5500)		Uganda	2				2
	Two computer (BP1,000)		Uganda	2				2
	Camera (BP880)			1				1

In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2 Publications

Title	**Type** (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	**Detail** (authors, year)	**Gender of Lead Author**	**Nationality of Lead Author**	**Publishers** (name, city)	**Available from** (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Baseline assessments have all been undertaken. Although some of the reports are available (Appendices 2-8) but will synthesised for publication in the next report periods.

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

APPENDICES

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	YES
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	NO
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	