

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	14-032
Project Title	Conserving biodiversity in the modernising farmed landscapes of Uganda
Country(ies)	Uganda
UK Organisation	British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
Collaborator(s)	Nature Uganda (NU); Makerere University Institute of Environment & Natural Resources (MUIENR); Makerere University Department of Forest Biology and Ecosystems Management; Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS); Ugandan Wildlife Society (UWS); Plan for Modernisation of Agriculture (PMA); National Agricultural Advisory Development Service (NAADS); National Environment Management Authority (NEMA); Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Bournemouth University
Report date	31 st October 2006
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Project website	http://www.bto.org/research/projects/farmland/uganda.htm

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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).

The timetable agreed in the last annual report is shown in bold and italics.

August 2006: Second round of field visits completed and newsletter for farmers drafted by PhD students

The last six months have been dominated by fieldwork, which has been progressing well. Each round of fieldwork is taking approximately six weeks, plus 2 weeks for data entry and sample sorting. The second round began in mid-April and finished on 20 June 2006. Adverse weather conditions led to a small (2 week) delay in completing this round of fieldwork. The third round began in early July and finished on 4 September and the latest round began on 18 September 2006. Two new sites (at Kaweri coffee plantation) were added in the third round, both in intensively managed farmland, as it was felt we needed to increase the sample size of sites in this type of farming.

During the past six months, a poster targeted at farmers has been produced. The initial intention was to produce a newsletter for farmers but it was felt that the messages would be more effectively conveyed to a wider audience in a simpler pictorial form. The poster has been displayed throughout the study areas and carries the message "Birds, insects and trees are indicators of a healthy environment and increase productivity in your farm/garden. It is a win-win situation – for you and for wildlife". This has been well received in the project area and directs farmers to the Local Council (LCI) Chairman for more information about the project. The chairmen have been fully briefed and can liaise effectively between project staff and individuals who request more information.

September 2006: Second discussion forum held between NU/UWS and local farming communities

August 2006: Agreement reached between NAADS advisors and NU/UWS on the most effective approaches for technology participatory development

The Agricultural Biodiversity Working Group has been active and met on 7 April, 18 July and 3 October. It has now been formalised and a final draft of the Terms of Reference are being circulated and a chairman (Juliet Kintu, Uganda Wildlife Society) and vice-chairman (Sophy Musaana, National Agricultural Research Organisation) have been elected. This group is made up of representatives of many different organisations including the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer from NAADS. The mission of the group is to "Contribute to development and promotion of agricultural technologies that conserve biodiversity, which will directly increase the ability of the poor to raise their incomes and hence improved quality of life". During the meetings discussions have been held on how to best transfer knowledge from the project to farmers.

Along with the students, the working group participated in a farmer discussion held at Masaka on 29 September. The main aims of the trip were to bridge the gap between communities and the policy makers and practitioners as well as strengthen the relationship between farmers and the project staff. The students gave formal presentations about their work and these provided a focus for extensive discussion with farmers

October 2006: First exchange visit of Ugandan staff to UK (to BTO, RSPB, and Bournemouth University)

As fieldwork has been rescheduled to finish in February 2007, it was decided to postpone the visit until March/April 2007. The added advantage of the new schedule proposed will also allow students to attend the Student Conference on Conservation Science at the University of Cambridge in March 2007

Other progress

- The problem of student accommodation at Makerere University has been resolved. The students now have a lockable room in the Department of Zoology where they can store and sort their samples.
- A supervisory visit was made by Dr Simon Potts (CAER) from 5th to 11th June 2006 to work with Theodore Munyuli (pollination PhD student). Simon was able to help Theo with his design, identification and collation of specimens.
- A supervisory visit was made by Dr Philip Atkinson (BTO) in September 2006.
- A supervisory visit was made by Dr Simon Bolwig (DIIS) in 20th October to 4th November 2006 to advise on the socioeconomic survey methods and questionnaire design
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- Management meetings between local partners were held on 19 May and 30 June.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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.

No major problems have been encountered. The field work has progressed smoothly and data collection is on schedule. Power cuts in Kampala have made working there difficult. The students have laptops which do help the situation but the energy sharing (power only available at most on alternate days) has made computer work difficult.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

As outlined in the last annual report, the fieldwork schedule has been altered so that 5-6 eight week rounds of fieldwork will be conducted, rather than 2 three month field seasons. This has therefore meant that some activities scheduled for late 2006 have to be postponed. The visit by the students to the UK originally planned for October 2006 has now been postponed to March/April 2007.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**

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.

The last annual report asked for more clarification about the management structure within the project. During the implementation of the project, we have become aware that lack of a rigid management structure may become an issue. With the departure of David Mutekanga (Exec Secretary of Uganda Wildlife Society, UWS), this became a more pressing problem. As a result Olivia Nantaba was employed in his place and will be working full time on the project. A new Executive Secretary, Juliet Kintu, has replaced David Mutekanga.

The management structure is complex due to the number of organisations involved but there is a clear chain of command and division of responsibilities. In terms of the day-to-day management, David Mushabe (Nature Uganda) is the overall coordinator of the project. He does this, in addition to undertaking data collection in relation to the socio-economic and landuse part of the study. He deals with all the logistics and finance for the fieldwork and he has the authority to make rapid decisions on a day to day basis. The students and field assistants coordinate their work through him and if there are any problems or queries during the fieldwork, they will liaise with him first.

Olivia Nantaba (Uganda Wildlife Society) deals with external communications. This includes the Agro-biodiversity Working Group. UWS were brought into this project as communications and policy development are the main strength of that organisation. Nature Uganda has a more practical role in conservation and tends to be rather less involved in preparing policy briefs or lobbying government. Olivia liaises with David Mushabe and acts as a link between the field team and the Agro-biodiversity Working Group. Olivia also works in the field (part-time) with David and so is intimately involved with the project.

The project is overseen locally by senior staff in the Ugandan organisations. These are Achilles Byaruhanga (Executive Director, Nature Uganda), Prof. Frank Kansime (Director, MUIENR), Prof Derek Pomeroy (Deputy Director, MUIENR), Juliet Kintu (Executive Secretary, UWS). Local management meetings are held every 2-3 months and David Mushabe and Olivia Nantaba present the work that has taken place since the last meeting. Any queries and problems are raised in these meetings and acted on. This ensures the project runs smoothly from day to day, but progress is reviewed every 2-3 months by senior staff. Students are reviewed every month as they produce a brief progress report for Prof Kansime and their supervisors. Although informal, these email communications allow progress to be closely monitored.

More strategic decisions are made during Steering Group meetings. These are held every 6 months and a wide range of organisations are represented. During these meetings the students, David Mushabe and Olivia Nantaba present results from the recent fieldwork as a basis for discussion and future development of the work.