

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

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
Project Leader	<i>Dr Juliet Vickery</i>
Report date	31 st October 2008
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	4
Project website	www.uganda-agrobiodiversity.org

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 following activities were scheduled for this period:

Fourth discussion forum held between NU/UWS and local farming communities

First meeting of agricultural biodiversity working group

These two milestones are dealt with together as they are related. During this period there has been a lot of activity on the farms. Firstly, two workshops were held with NAADS advisors. The aim of these workshops was to introduce the draft extension worker's handbook to them and seek comments as to its content and ways in which it could be improved. These were held in Masaka and Nakaseke District in July 2008 and comments received were incorporated into the draft handbook.

During September and October, three visits were made to the communities in Masaka, Mukono and Mubende. There were three main aims to these visits. The first was to introduce farmers to the demonstration farms where practices which (a) promoted biodiversity and (b) improved farmer's livelihoods were shown by the farmer who owned the demonstration farm. Second, we were able to test opinion on the farmer's handbook and third we combined a field trip with a field visit for the Agro-biodiversity Working Group which is now in its third year.

Sixth project Steering Committee meeting

Two steering group meetings were held during this period (30 June and 3 September 2008). Phil Atkinson from the BTO attended both meetings.

Project funding proposals prepared and submitted

During the June and September visits a follow-up project was discussed and NatureUganda and the Uganda Wildlife Society drafted a concept note for a joint project. We have signalled our intention to the DI that we would be submitting a follow on project proposal.

Sixth three month field season completed and annual newsletter for farmers drafted

The fieldwork was compressed into the early part of this project. During this time period the two students have been analysing their data. Theo Munyuli will be visiting the UK in November 2008 to finalise his analysis. He was due to come earlier but family circumstances meant he had to come in the next reporting period. Dianah Nalwanga has drafts of three of her chapters for her PhD thesis and we expect her to finish early in 2009.

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.

The analysis and write up by the PhD students has been slower than expected and they will overrun the 31 December deadline. They are registered at Makerere University until February 2009. We fully expect them to complete by 31 March and request a no cost extension to the project to allow them to complete their write up.

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

The issues concerning the thesis write up has been discussed with DI in June 2008. No changes to the original agreement have been made.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in...June 2008..... (month/yr)

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

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

Comments from the previous annual report

The overall conclusion of the review of the 3rd annual report was that both training and data collection had proceeded well but that the production of written outputs would need large investments in time and thought in the final months of the project and would be a significant challenge.

We acknowledge that thesis writing has been slower than expected and we have put in place a series of weekly meetings between Dianah Nalwanga and one of her supervisors Prof Pomeroy to ensure problems are swiftly dealt with that the timetable to complete her thesis is adhered to. Theodore Munyuli is coming to the UK in November 2008 to finalise his analysis and both his supervisor and BTO project staff will provide input into his thesis as English is not Theo's first language.

The reviewer gave very useful comments about the Agro-biodiversity handbook. Since the review two external reviewers were sent the handbook for comment and the comments received helped Olivia Nantaba (Uganda Wildlife Society) produce the final version.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

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

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**