

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	18-012
Project Title	<i>Paying local communities for ecosystem services: The Chimpanzee Conservation Corridor</i>
Country(ies)	Uganda
UK Organisation	IIED
Collaborator(s)	Chimpanzee Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservation Trust
Project Leader	<i>Maryanne Grieg-Gran</i>
Report date	01-12-2010
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR1 – revised</i>
Project website	http://www.iied.org/sustainable-markets/key-issues/environmental-economics/paying-local-communities-for-ecosystem-servic

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 inception workshop for this project, organised by CSWCT, was held in mid-June in conjunction with the complementary GEF project on randomised evaluation of PES. The Darwin support made it possible for the workshop to be held in Hoima and to incorporate a field trip. This gave participants the opportunity to visit the area where the payment scheme will be implemented and to see some of the pilot activities initiated by CSWCT which will be built on in the project. These include agreements with landowners to refrain from timber harvesting in exchange for assistance with livestock rearing and beekeeping. The workshop focused on introducing the project, sharing the work-plan and generating input on ongoing initiatives that will impact on the project implementation. The 36 participants in the workshop included local traditional leaders, representatives of local government, national government (National Environment Management Authority and the National Forest Authority) and other NGOs working in the Northern Albertine Rift area as well as the partners in the Darwin and GEF projects. Maryanne Grieg-Gran and Essam Yassin Mohammed from IIED participated in the workshop, making a presentation on PES experience in other countries.

The inception workshop revealed that a number of potentially complementary activities are being conducted by other NGOs and private sector in the Northern Albertine Rift area. In July, CSWCT organised a meeting to explore further possible linkages. Participants included conservation organizations, private sector and government representatives from Ministry of Water and Environment and National Environment Management Authority. The meeting provided an opportunity to know what each partner is undertaking in the area and how this project could link to what is already going on. CSWCT is now in regular contact with the other organisations working in the area.

Progress since then has been slower than envisaged and a number of activities which were scheduled to be completed by end of Q2 are still underway. These include formulation of land management plans (1.1), and technical studies on biodiversity (2.1), both of which have only just started. Some delays were caused by a proposal from the team involved in the randomised evaluation project to increase the size of their sampling in order to minimize leakage and spill-over and increase statistical power. By implication this would increase the size of the payment scheme. The budgetary and practical implications of this had to be examined and work could not start on the technical studies until this was resolved.

In the meantime, in August and September, CSWCT undertook to restructure and recruit staff to be able to meet the need of the project.

Work on determination of appropriate payment packages (1.2) and review of options for institutional framework (1.3) has started with information-gathering on approaches elsewhere in Uganda and other countries as well as consultation with legal experts. These activities are likely to be finished at the beginning of Q4. Consultation with landowners on the payment packages and design of PES scheme (1.4) will take place later than envisaged, in Q4. This is partly because of delays mentioned above but also because of the national elections in Uganda, scheduled for early February. It is considered prudent to wait till after the elections to discuss potentially sensitive issues such as payments and contractual relationships.

Other activities related to the studies necessary for preparation of a Project Design Document (PDD) for CCBS validation (2.1 to 2.7) have started but not in the way originally envisaged. The meetings with other organisations working in the Northern Albertine Rift area in Uganda have enabled the project team to identify areas for cooperation. Most notably, WCS has been working with WWF to draw up a PDD for a forest carbon project for the whole of the Northern Albertine Rift landscape. Rather than draw up a separate PDD for the area covered by the PES scheme, we will concentrate the Darwin funds on reviewing and adding to this document in Year 1. The aim will be to ensure that the PDD captures the key features of the area covered by the PES scheme and the activities conducted for the design including the consultations with landowners. We expect this work to be completed in Q4.

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 main unexpected development (also mentioned above) was the proposal from the scientists involved in the randomised evaluation project to double the size of their sample in order to minimize leakage and spill-over and increase statistical power. As this meant a doubling in the size of the PES scheme, this proposal had serious budgetary and administrative implications which had to be carefully examined. This caused some delays while these issues were being discussed. A compromise was eventually reached with some increase but not to the scale proposed by the evaluation team.

The other development is the national elections to be held in early February 2011. Consultation with the landowners on the design of the payment scheme will be postponed till after the election. This is because the political atmosphere in the country in the period up to the election might cause unexpected responses that would affect the project negatively. This may cause some delay in the Year 2 activities but we expect to be back on track fairly quickly.

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

A change request for the budget for the host country partners is being submitted to LTS International together with this report.

Discussed with LTS: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: yes, in December 2010.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/yes in.....(month/yr)

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

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

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

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

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**