

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	19-022
<b>Project Title</b>	Ecosystem conservation for climate change adaptation in East Africa
<b>Country(ies)</b>	UK, Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda
<b>UK Organisation</b>	BirdLife International ( <b>BL</b> )
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Association Burundaise pour la Protection des Oiseaux ( <b>ABO</b> ), Nature Kenya ( <b>NK</b> ), Association pour la Conservation de la Nature au Rwanda ( <b>ACNR</b> ), Nature Uganda ( <b>NU</b> )
<b>Project Leader</b>	<i>Melanie Heath</i>
<b>Report date</b>	<i>31 October 2013</i>
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	<i>HYR2</i>
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/project/19022/">http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/project/19022/</a>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project:** Progress is outlined below based on the key milestones during this period (April-October) as specified in the project implementation timetable. **Bold** denotes activities that we aimed to undertake during Year 2. **Bold\*** denotes activities scheduled for Year 1 that have been either carried over to Year 2 as specified in the Year 1 Annual Report, or which Project Partners agreed to extend beyond Year 1.

**1.2\* Formalise project national stakeholder groups:**

In Year 1, the Important Bird Area-National Liaison Committee (IBA-NLC) and the Site Support Group (SSG) Forum served as national stakeholder groups for the project in Kenya. An additional working group was set up by NK - the Kenya Ecosystem based Adaptation Working Group (KEbAWG) - comprising a subset of the members of the IBA-NLC and other key stakeholders. The KEbAWG met during the last two quarters agreeing on the governance structure, objectives and activities to be carried out by the group. Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) continues to be a standing agenda in all IBA-NLC and SSG meetings.

In Year 1 NU had planned to work through the already established National Ad Hoc Committee on Climate Change, but the group meets irregularly and NU were unable to get a decision on the formal inclusion of this project by the group. In Year 2 NU had hoped to work through the National Climate Change Advisory Committee (NCCAC) constituted by the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP). However, the NCCP has not yet been signed by the Minister and as a result the committee has not been operationalized. NU is looking at other options such as the Civil Society Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (CSPCLG) and the Civil Society Organisation Natural Resources Management Network. At the National Workshop, UNDP and IUCN informed NU that they are also looking to set up a multi-stakeholder group; this could provide another opportunity.

**1.4\* Review examples of good practice EbA in each country**

This activity helped project partners identify speakers and participants for the National Workshop, and case studies were shared with participants. The database has been updated based on dialogue and case studies identified during national and regional meetings (e.g. *Harnessing Ecosystem Based Approaches for Food Security and Adaptation to Climate Change in Africa* attended by Olivia Adhiambo from the BirdLife African Partnership (BLAP) office). It was agreed to continue this Year 1 activity throughout the three years of the project in order to identify opportunities for collaboration and for sharing lessons. Some of the commonalities between projects have already started to come to the fore, as demonstrated in the Royal Society's Blog and Video which looked at the Darwin project site and Mt Elgon site (IUCN/UNDP/UNEP) in Uganda.

**1.6 Hold national training workshops on EbA implementation and application to policy for government and civil society**

Four national workshops were held during September and October. These were designed to meet the training needs identified by Partners from discussion with members of the multi-stakeholder working groups. The Secretariat provided support to Partners, preparing material and co-facilitating the workshops. The workshops in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda were held in the capital cities

rather than at the site to maximise participation, and because of the cost implications of holding the workshops at the sites. However, all three workshops were attended by local stakeholders from the site and were accompanied by a site-visit – achieving a broader understanding of EbA at site level – and vulnerability assessment training for project proponents.

- ACNR held a two-day workshop on 18-19 September in Kigali. Attendees included the Environmental Officer from Bugesera District (site location), UNFCCC focal points and other government representatives, and NGOs. A representative from the Rwanda Natural Resources Authority also attended the vulnerability assessment training.
- ABO held a two-day workshop on 2-3 October in Bujumbura. Attendees included government (e.g. Conseiller Présidence; Indigenous Peoples' representative in the Senate; CBD Focal Point); private sector, NGOs, and local stakeholders from Ruyigi. The workshop had radio and television coverage, promoting the project.
- NU held a two-day workshop on 14-15 October. Attendees included representatives from government (e.g. Climate Change Unit and Agriculture Department), NGOs and IGOs (e.g. WWF, CARE, IUCN, UNDP, local NGOs), local project staff, District Environmental Officer and the Royal Society.
- NK held a National Site Support Group (SSG) workshop from 14-18 October in Machakos, attended by 22 SSGs from around the country. One day was dedicated to climate change (CC) and EbA. It included a review of the progress on development of a CC policy for SSGs (a product of this project) and an introduction to vulnerability and vulnerability assessments. NK is also providing training through the National SSG, IBA-NLC committee and KEbAWG.

### **1.7 Produce and disseminate workshop reports nationally and internationally (stakeholder meetings, web networks, list servers, Climate Action Network, Nairobi Work Programme)**

Partner countries are currently developing workshop reports to be disseminated.

### **1.8 Regular dialogue with national and local government leads on adaptation. Presentations at national and international meetings, preparation and presentation of briefings ahead of key meetings**

Partners have attended meetings to facilitate project awareness, provide introductions to the concept of using ecosystem services to help people adapt, and to build relationships with members of the national governments. Examples include: ABO met with local administration authorities in Ruyigi; NU discussed Uganda National Budget Allocations suggesting the budget considers CC adaptation programmes; ACNR presented the Darwin project in Regional Network for Conservation Educators in the Albertine Rift (RNCEAR) annual meeting on 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> August 2013; NK raised EbA at the Lake Victoria basin biodiversity task force meeting and held KEbAWG meetings.

The BirdLife Africa Partnership office prepared a briefing that articulated the link with the Darwin project for the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Session of AMCEN in October, which had a focus on Africa's position on CC ahead of the UNFCCC COP19 and included a session on the Flagship Programme on Ecosystem Based Adaptation in Africa. The briefing was distributed to all African partners. Charles Rugerinyage, ABO project lead at the time and ABO Acting Director, attended the meeting.

### **2.1 Build and regularly review government-civil society partnerships**

The intention is that this will be facilitated by activity 1.2. See also answer to 1.8. The National Workshops also served to strengthen partnerships between civil society and government. Participants expressed interest in collaborating on EbA and shared experiences and ideas, including the development of a web platform for sharing information between government and civil society (Rwanda and Uganda), government invitations for civil society to provide technical guidance for the development of the National Adaptation Plans, and suggestions for how civil society could better access and communicate with key government bodies and the media to advance EbA.

### **2.2\* Complete 4 BL-government national reviews of adaptation policies**

ABO worked with the National Institute for Environment Conservation and Protection (INECN) to develop a Regional Action Plan for the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in the Central Plateau of Burundi – a region which encompasses the Darwin Project site. ABO, supported by the Project Manager, incorporated considerations of importance of ecosystems for adaptation in the Regional Action Plan. Partners are continuing work together with the BLAP office focal point and Project Manager to further develop the national reviews and use these to inform their advocacy strategy for EbA. NK included the review of national policies, strategies and plans as a key objective of the KEbAWG and plan to review the National Wetlands Policy through the KEbAWG.

### **3.1 With host country Partners select case study sites**

Partners have selected their sites and begun work on the ground: ABO – Mpungwe Mountain Chain; ACNR – Akanyaru Wetlands; NK – Yala Swamp; NU – Echuya Forest.

### **3.2 Engage with LCGs at each case study site and other members of the associated communities and undertake a participatory vulnerability assessment**

The BirdLife Secretariat has developed a vulnerability assessment toolkit for the project. The tool has been designed to be simple, participatory and replicable. It combines science and other “top-down” information (e.g. policy analysis) with local community knowledge and experiences. The idea is that this tool will be improved together with the Partners throughout the course of the project and then circulated to the entire BirdLife Partnership (121 organisations globally) so that CC and EbA considerations can be mainstreamed into other projects. Partners have started the participatory vulnerability assessment and will continue throughout Y2Q3/Q4. Guidance and training has been provided by the Project Manager. NK and the Project Manager are also working together to tailor the vulnerability assessment approach so that it can be applied by all of the Kenya Site Support Groups (in addition to the more comprehensive assessment at the Darwin site).

### **3.3 Assess training needs of LCGs and deliver as part of, and in addition to, vulnerability assessment process**

Partners have started to assess the training needs of LCGs and raise their awareness of CC. NK has also started training LCGs/SSGs so that they can conduct their own vulnerability assessments.

### **3.4 Measure and quantify adaptation benefits provided by ecosystems**

This activity will be a focus in Y2Q4 and Y3. However, ABO and NU have already begun assessing the value of ecosystem services at the Darwin Project Site using BirdLife’s ecosystem valuation toolkit “TESSA”. NK will collaborate with an organisation called Eco-Finder, which has started assessing ecosystem services at the Yala Swamp site using the same toolkit.

### **3.7 Develop indicator for relevant Aichi-Nagoya Targets\***

Partners have continued to engage in the NBSAP process, working with CBD focal points to develop indicators for relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This process will continue during the next two quarters. Countries are expecting support from a CBD expert during the next few months and this offers an opportunity for project partners to engage further. ABO has also proposed indicators for a Regional Action Plan for the Central Plateau of Burundi.

### **3.8 Dialogue with governments and other potential donors to secure future resources for EBA activities at case study sites**

Partners continue to explore opportunities for securing future resources. The National Workshops provided a good opportunity to further dialogue with governments and to form stronger bonds with other organisations working in this field.

The BLAPs office has recently hired a fundraising officer who has been briefed on the project by the Project Manager and BLAP office focal point and will help partners to secure future resources.

Funding has been secured for work on *Climate Resilient Altitudinal Gradients* in East Africa.

The Darwin Project Manager and the focal point in the BLAP office have got a small amount of time allocated within this project to explore links with EbA and further develop the vulnerability assessment work from the Darwin project.

After lobbying by the NU project team at the Darwin site, the District Local Governments of Kisoro and Kabale have agreed to fund the planting of 10,000 tree seedlings on the hilly areas as an adaptation strategy to reduce runoff and landslides brought about by heavy rains attributed to CC.

### **4.1 Produce and regularly review global, regional, national and local advocacy and communication plans to disseminate training and best practice guidance and examples from the project**

Advocacy and communication has been a key part of the project (e.g. through multi-stakeholder working groups; informal and formal meetings; and national workshops). There is however a need for a more structured advocacy strategy, and the Project Manager and BLAPs coordinator have started to develop further guidance on developing advocacy strategies. This activity will be continued throughout Y2 and Y3.

### **4.3 Produce and distribute policy analysis/issue awareness briefs in English and French**

This activity is scheduled for Y2Q3/4

### **4.4 Case studies and guidance displayed**

This activity will start in the Y2Q3/4 with the dissemination of National Workshop Reports and the beginning of site-based activities.

### **4.5 Project and materials presented at CBD, UNFCCC, AMCEN and other national and local events**

The Darwin Project Factsheet was updated and disseminated to key stakeholders during the National Workshops. The BLAP Office prepared a briefing for the AMCEN, which articulated the link with the Darwin EbA Project, and distributed this alongside the factsheet to all African partners.

Charles Rugerinyage (ABO) project lead at the time represented the Darwin Project team at the meeting.

The Project Manager and Project Leader attended the Bonn Climate Change Conference June 2013 and discussed the project with a number of organisations including IUCN, CARE International, World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International. They both attended the Adaptation Knowledge Day, which focussed on EbA, and a side-event on the future of the Nairobi Work Programme.

All the Darwin project partners were represented at the BirdLife International World Congress in Ottawa in June 2013 (attended by c.500 participants including >100 BirdLife partners) and Dr Paul Matiku from NK showcased the Darwin EbA Project during a workshop on Climate Change Adaptation.

**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.**

As was indicated in the Year 1 Annual Report, some of the activities scheduled for Year 1 were carried over to Year 2 (most notably the National Workshops) because the former Project Manager left in February 2013. Edward Perry took over the role of Project Manager on May 23rd and has been working close to 100% of his time on the project to ensure it keeps to schedule. There have also been changes in the BLAP office, ACNR and ABO. Olivia Adhiambo has taken over from Ken Mwathe in the the BLAP office as the regional focal point for the project. Ken Mwathe continues to work in the BLAP office and is ensuring a smooth transition. In ACNR the new project coordinator is Egide Ntakirutimana. The former coordinator, Serge Nsengimana (Executive Director), is still at ACNR and will continue to provide support on the project. In ABO the former coordinator (Charles Rugerinyage) has been appointed Acting Head of the organisation and has therefore handed over the role to Claudette Murebwayire. The Project Manager (Edward Perry) met with Olivia Adhiambo, Egide Ntakirutimana and Claudette Murebwayire when in East Africa for the National Workshops and ensured that the new coordinators were up to speed on the project. These changes should not impact the budget or timetable of project activities.

**Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?** LTS has been made aware of the staff changes during the Mid-Term Evaluation. If necessary, a separate formal request can be submitted. No changes have been made to the original agreement.

**Discussed with LTS:** Yes.

**Formal change request submitted:** No.

**Received confirmation of change acceptance:** n/a

**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?**

None

**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](mailto: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**