



**Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report  
(due 31 October 2014)**



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

<b>Project Ref No:</b>	<b>21-015</b>
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Balancing development and conservation in Kenya's largest freshwater wetland</b>
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Kenya
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Nature Kenya
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
<b>Project Leader</b>	Paul Muoria
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR3)</b>	30/10/2014 HYR1
<b>Project website</b>	

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
1. Conduct a start-up workshop to agree on methodologies and provide training in protocols for the Ecosystem Service Assessment	6 months (Y1Q1,Q2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Start up Workshop</b> held on 21st July 2014 (Annex 1). The main purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project (Annex 2) to the stakeholders and to create awareness on the ecosystem services of Yala Swamp (Annex 3).</li> <li>• <b>National Project Advisory Committee</b> constituted and first meeting held in 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2014 (Annex 4). The primary function of the national project advisory committee is to advice on project implementation and pprovide a link on policy influencing including establishing and maintaining links with county and national governments</li> <li>• The National Advisory Committee proposed that a <b>Site Advisory Committee</b> be constituted</li> </ul>	<p>Annex 1- Start – pt Workshop report</p> <p>Annex 2 : Project introduction</p> <p>Annex 3 – Ecosystem Service assessment</p> <p>Annex 4: Project Advisory Committee meeting</p>

2. Carry out consultations needed to assess ecosystem services	3 months (Y1Q1)	<p>A <b>stakeholder's workshop</b> was convened at Kenya Industrial Estates in Siaya from 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of July 2014 as part of the consultations needed to assess ecosystem services. The main objective of the workshop was to involve representative of all Yala Swamp stakeholders in identifying and assessing ecosystem services provided by the swamp. The participants were in agreement that we need to assess climate regulation, cultivated goods, water provision and regulation, harvested wild goods and recreation. A detailed rapid appraisal's technical report will be submitted In March 2015 as part of the detailed ecosystem Service assessment.</p> <p>Nature Kenya also consulted Siaya County Government including holding meetings with Governor Siaya County, and with relevant county government ministries – (agriculture, tourism and Wildlife).</p> <p>Other interactions that we have had with other key stakeholders including Kenya Forest Service and Water Resources Management Authority (WARMA)</p>	Stakeholders Workshop Report (Annex 5)
3. Carry out fieldwork needed to assess the ecosystem services provided by the delta (e.g. studies of water regulation and carbon storage)	6 months (Y1Q2,Q3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A draft land cover/land use map has been developed (Annex 6).</li> <li>• <b>Soil carbon content data</b> :In July 2014, Dr. Rob Field of RSPB, an expert on Soil carbon, trained the field staff on the theory and field methods of soil carbon content estimation. Preliminary soil sample <b>data collection</b> is scheduled to start in November 2014 and carbon content analysis be conducted at Kenya Forest Research Institute (KEFRI) laboratories at Maseno (some 40 km from Siaya) for organic carbon content estimation. Results of preliminary analysis will be used to determine the number of additional soil samples that will need to be collected from each habitat or land use type as per methods described in the TESSA toolkit .</li> </ul> <p>Administration of <b>Questionnaires to assess water services, cultivated goods and harvested wild goods</b>: The questionnaires to assess water regulation and use, harvested wild and cultivated goods in the TESSA toolkit were modified to suit Yala Swamp (Annex 7) and to capture other baseline socio- economic data. 12 enumerators will be selected to help administer the questionnaires.. A total of 300 respondents who use live near and/or use the swamp will be interviewed in October 2014 and the interviews are planned to take place immediately after the training.</p>	Annex 6 - Draft landcover map  Annex 7: House Hold Questionnaire
4. Identify in a fully participatory manner degraded areas covering 1,000 ha to be set aside as papyrus regeneration zones, and carry out a	12 months (Y1Q1,Q2,	<p>Identification of degraded areas has been an on-going activity and includes the production of land cover map, field excursions</p> <p>Degraded areas so far identified include areas of burnt papyrus within the</p>	

baseline study of Papyrus Yellow Warbler, Carruther's Cisticola, White-winged Warbler and Papyrus canary and Sitatunga in these zones	Q3,Q4)	community cultivated fields in the swamp and encroached riparian areas along the shores of Lake Kanyaboli and along River. Yala  <b>Relevant stakeholders engaged:</b> A stakeholders meeting to agree on areas to be set aside is planned for November 2014.  <b>Protocol (Annex 8) for monitoring</b> of Papyrus Yellow Warbler, Carruther's Cisticola, White-winged Warbler and Papyrus canary, Sitatunga and cichlids has been developed . A biodiversity monitoring team comprised of Scientists from Ornithology and Ichthyology sections of the National Museums of Kenya has already been constituted. This team is led by Dr. Ronald Mulwa – a Senior Research Scientist in the Ornithology section. A workplan for biodiversity assessment has been agreed upon and scheduled to take place from 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2014.  Discussions on Joint monitoring of Sitatunga by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Nature Kenya and the local community already initiated .	Minutes to be submitted after the stakeholders meeting  Annex 8 – Biodiversity monitoring protocol
5. Identify households to be provided with fishponds, and carry out a baseline study of diet in these households	6 months (Y1Q2,Q3)	Household will be selected after analysis of the baseline data in with a view to get the poorest and vulnerable household supported. .  A draft Strategy for livelihood support had been developed to guide the implementation of livelihood activities this includes the selection criteria for beneficiaries and benefit sharing mechanisms (Annex 9)	Baseline survey report to be submitted  Annex 9
6. Identify households to be provided with training in the creation and marketing of high-value papyrus products, and carry out a baseline study of income in these households	6 months (Y1Q2,Q3)	A small group of 10 SSG members also already involved in the papyrus product development discussions are on going on how to include more household within the Yala Swamp. See annex 10	Baseline survey report to be submitted
7. Identify individuals to be provided with training in wildlife guiding, and carry out a baseline study of ecotourism activity and income in the delta	6 months, (Y1Q2,Q3)	Same as number 5 above	Baseline survey report to be submitted
8. Advocate to KWS for the designation of Yala swamp as a Ramsar site.	33 months starting in Y1Q2, continuing throughout project cycle	Building the capacity of local community to advocate for conservation of Yala wetland is ongoing including development of a draft Site Support Group (SSG) Strategy for Yala (Annex 9).  30 SSG members and local communities from Yala were trained in leadership management and advocacy this in one of the output of the SSG strategy(Annex 10)	Annex 9 -

**2a. 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.**

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**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS:      No                              Yes/No

Formal change request submitted:    N/A                              Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A      Yes/No

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

**Yes      No**              Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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

No

**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 can be discussed in this report but should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**