

**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project**
  
**Half Year Report**
  
**(due 31 October 2016)**

<b>Project Ref No:</b>	21-015
<b>Project Title:</b>	Balancing development and conservation in Kenya's largest freshwater wetland-Yala Swamp
<b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies):</b>	Kenya
<b>Lead Organisation:</b>	Nature Kenya
<b>Partner(s)</b>	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), The Inter-ministerial Technical Committee for the sustainable management of Kenya Deltas (IMTC), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), The Yala Wetland Environmental Volunteers (YAWEV) , Yala Ecosystem Site Support Group
<b>Project Leader:</b>	Serah Munguti
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	30/10/2016 HYR3
<b>Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc :</b>	<a href="http://www.naturekenya.org">www.naturekenya.org</a>
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra):</b>	DFID

**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).**

**Overall project outcome:** Key steps are taken to secure the future of Kenya's Yala Delta, recognizing both development and conservation needs, and to promote similar work in other Kenyan deltas.

Activity	Timeline	Progress	Evidence
<b>Output 1: A clear, evidence-based 'business case' is developed for the sustainable management of the Yala Delta</b>			

1.1 Conduct a start-up workshop to agree methodologies and provide training in protocols for the Ecosystem Service Assessment	Y1: Q1-Q4	<b>COMPLETED</b>	
1.2 Carry out consultations needed to assess ecosystem services (e.g. discussions about utilisation of natural resources)	Y1: Q1	<b>COMPLETED</b>	
1.3 Carry out fieldwork needed to assess the ecosystem services provided by the delta (e.g. studies of water regulation and carbon storage)	Y1: Q2-Q4; Y2:Q1	Yala Swamp Ecosystem Service Assessment was completed as submitted with the last report.	
1.4 Compile findings into a detailed report on ecosystem services, and summarise this report into a paper for submission to a peer-reviewed journal	Y2:Q3	Preparation of a scientific paper for submission to a peer reviewed journal is ongoing. Description of business case is ongoing within the framework of the Yala Swamp land use plan.  Between 14th-15th September 2016, <b>meetings with the Yala Swamp Inter-county Land Use Plan Steering Committee</b> (annex 1) <b>and the Yala Swamp Land Use Plan Advisory Committee</b> (annex 2) were held at Villa Hotel in Siaya County. A total of 47 and 42 participants respectively attended the meetings. During the meetings, the SEA for Yala wetland and the second draft LUP were presented. The committee members gave comments and input to enrich the draft land use plan. Equitable benefit sharing was stressed as an integral part of the LUP.	Annex 1-Minutes of the proceedings of the Inter-county Steering Committee on Land Use Planning for Yala Swamp
1.5 Based on this report, produce a detailed 'business case' for presentation to Dominion and the relevant authorities	Y2Q3		Annex 2-Minutes of the proceedings of the Yala Swamp Land Use Plan Advisory Committee
<b>Output 2: Vital wildlife habitat is restored and protected, in part by means of a 'payment for ecosystem services' scheme</b>			

<p>2.1 Develop a 'payment for ecosystem services' (PES scheme) scheme to incentivise farmers upstream of the delta to plant native trees and bamboo, and carry out a baseline study of selected wildlife in the area to be planted</p>	<p>Y2:Q2,Q3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitation of <b>200ha riparian zone of River Yala</b> is ongoing. The official launch of the tree planting exercise was presided over by Executives from the County Government of Siaya on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016, at Kosoro village in Gem Sub- county, Siaya County (Annex 3). A total of <b>48,830 native tree seedlings</b> have been planted to date in 9 Sub locations i.e. Anyiko, Sauri, Jina, Lihanda, Gongo, Kagilo, Uriri, Nyajuok and Gunge Sub-locations. (photos in Annex 4). This is among the key activities in the development of a payment for ecosystem services (PES) scheme to incentivize farmers to plant bamboo and native riparian tree species over the riparian zone of River Yala.</li> </ul>	<p>Annex 3-Report Official County Launch-Tree Planting</p> <p>Annex 4-Photos-Papyrus planting, Tree planting</p>
<p>2.2 Implement the PES scheme, providing advice and support to farmers as needed</p>	<p>Y2:Q3,Q4 Y3:Q1-Q4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing as detailed in Activity 2.1 above</li> </ul>	
<p>2.3 Identify in a fully participatory manner degraded areas covering 1,000 ha to be set aside as papyrus regeneration zones, and carry out a baseline study of Papyrus Yellow Warbler, Carruther's Cisticola, White-winged Warbler and Papyrus canary and Sitatunga in these zones</p>	<p>Y1:Q1-Q4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Criteria was formulated</b> for selection of community conserved areas (annex 5). Using this criteria <b>community conserved areas (CCAs) with a total acreage of 8,404 ha</b> were selected. The acreage was much more than the initially targeted 1,000ha because the criteria applied for selection of CCAs identified all areas that will be put under conservation, within the Yala Land Use Plan. Within the CCAs a total of <b>443.8ha were identified as degraded areas. A total of 264 ha of degraded areas was rehabilitated</b> through papyrus planting (See photos in Annex 4)</li> </ul>	<p>Annex 5 – criteria for selection of community conservation areas and identification of degraded areas</p>
<p>2.4 Monitor these zones to ensure that they are allowed to regenerate</p>	<p>Y2:Q1-Q4 Y3:Q1-Q4</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring conducted by the Yala Ecosystem Site Support Group, Officers from Nature Kenya and the Kenya Forest Service (See sample Papyrus Planting Progress Report-Annex 26, See photos in Annex 4)</li> </ul>	
<p>2.5 Identify in a fully participatory manner pristine areas of papyrus swamp</p>	<p>Y2:Q1,Q2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as detailed in Activity 2.3 above</li> </ul>	

covering 1,000 ha to be designated as Community Conservation Areas (CCAs), and carry out a baseline study of birds and other biodiversity in these areas		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual biodiversity assessment scheduled for November 2016</li> </ul>	
2.6 Provide advice and support as needed to communities managing CCAs	Y3:Q3,Q4 Y3:Q1-Q4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice and technical support provided to riparian land owners, CBOs by Officers from the Kenya Forest Service and Nature Kenya during field visits (See photos in Annex 4)</li> </ul>	
2.7 Working in collaboration with Dominion, design a water control regime that ensures sufficient inflow to Lake Kanyamboli at all times of the year, and carry out a baseline study of cichlids in this lake	Y2:Q2,Q3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The design of a water control regime that ensures sufficient inflow to Lake Kanyaboli is ongoing as part of the SEA/LUP process described in Activity 1.4 above.</li> </ul>	
2.8 Implement the water control regime	Y2:Q4 Y3:Q1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheduled to be done once Activity 2.7 above is complete</li> </ul>	
2.9 Carry out end-of-project studies of wildlife and water quality to match the baseline studies described above	Y3:Q2,Q3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On track and will be based on routine monitoring in Activity 2.5</li> </ul>	
<b>Output 3: Poor people living around the Yala Delta are empowered to improve their livelihoods in ways that contribute to or are consistent with the long-term conservation of the delta's natural resources</b>			
3.1 Identify households to be provided with fishponds, and carry out a baseline study of diet in these households	Y3:Q1,Q3	Completed	

<p>3.2 Create fishponds run by local communities especially women groups</p>	<p>Y1:Q4 Y2:Q2,Q3</p>	<p>A total of <b>17 fish ponds</b> have been established supported with Co-funding from Mac Arthur &amp; PREPARED. A total of <b>860kgs of fish has been harvested</b> from 5 ponds (4 ponds with tilapia, 1 pond with catfish). Out of this, 90kg of fish was consumed by beneficiary households and a total of 770kgs sold for a total of Ksh. 173,000. (Annex 6)</p> <p>On 1st October 2016, a <b>meeting was held with fish farmers</b> from Siaya and Bunyala at Villa Hotel in Siaya. A total of <b>24 fish farmers (10 females, 14 males) attended</b> the meeting. The meeting was successful in evaluating progress, highlighting challenges and coming up with solutions including; establishing a revolving microfinance scheme to enable farmers to restock the fish ponds and developing an effective marketing strategy. (Annex 7)</p>	<p>Annex 6-Fish Harvest Analysis Report</p> <p>Annex 7-Minutes of Meeting with Fish Farmers</p>
<p>3.3 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</p>	<p>Y1:Q1,Q2</p>	<p>On 30th September 2016, a <b>meeting was held with 18 papyrus product weavers</b> (10 females, 8 males) from Siaya and Bunyala at Villa Hotel in Siaya. The meeting was successful in highlighting challenges and coming up with solutions including; development/enhancement of a mentorship training plan, measures to improve productivity, constitution of a quality control committee, developing an effective product pricing mechanism, development of a marketing strategy among others. So far the weavers have sold products for a total of KES 23,800 (Annex 8)</p>	<p>Annex 8-Minutes of Meeting with papyrus product weavers</p>
<p>3.4 Deliver training in entrepreneurship for identified businesses</p>	<p>Y1:Q4</p>	<p>Completed in February 2016</p>	
<p>3.5 Identify individuals to be provided with training in wildlife guiding, and carry out a baseline study of ecotourism activity and income in the swamp</p>	<p>Y1:Q1,Q2</p>	<p>A number of trainings have been undertaken to build the capacity of community members in engaging in income generating activities with sustainable benefits. They include <b>training in fabrication of metal frames</b> for weaving papyrus products (Annex 9); <b>mentorship training for papyrus product weavers at group level</b> facilitated by both trained TOTs and experienced Trainers (Annex 10); <b>training in production of fireless cookers</b> (Annex 11). Other trainings</p>	<p>Annex 9 – Training in Fabrication of Metal for Papyrus Product Development</p> <p>Annex 10 - TOT Mentorship training in Papyrus Product</p>

		conducted include; <b>training in group leadership and governance</b> (Annex 12); <b>training in policy, advocacy and resource mobilization</b> (Annex 13); training in strategic planning and financial management (Annex 14)	Development at Group level Annex 11 -Training in production of fireless cookers Annex 12 - Training in leadership and governance Annex 13 - Training in policy, advocacy and resource mobilization Annex 14 - Training in Strategic Planning and Financial Management
3.6 Deliver training in tourism administration, management and birding	Y1:Q4	In regards to promoting ecotourism, an action plan (annex 27) developed in February 2016 (from the training in tourism administration, management and birding) has been implemented through <b>supporting the formation and registration of a Yala Swamp Community Based Tourism Organization (CBTO)</b> (Annex 15); <b>4 community guides were trained in Fundamentals of Ornithology</b> ; we <b>mentor community guides in avi-tourism during bi-monthly bird walks</b> ; the project provided technical support through <b>development of draft tourism product packages</b> for Siaya and Busia Counties (Annex 16); the project provided technical support in the compilation of a <b>draft checklist of the Birds Yala swamp</b> (Annex 17); and discussions with County government stakeholders to explore the feasibility of putting up a walk board and a watch towers in Yala swamp.	Annex 15-Constitution-Yala Community Eco – tourism Organization  Annex 16 – Draft Description of the tourist hot spots  Annex 17 Sample Birds Checklist
3.7 Carry out end-of-project studies of diet and income to match the baseline studies described above	Y3:Q3	On track once the projects ends	

<b>Output 4: Lessons learned from the project are disseminated effectively to all relevant stakeholders</b>			
4.1 Compile findings and recommendations from the project at the end of each project year	Y1:Q4 Y2:Q4 Y3:Q4	Submission of project reports on half year and annual basis is on track.	
4.2 Present these to the Interministerial Committee, Ministry of Water, Environment and natural Resources, NEMA, KWS, County Government, Lake Victoria Basin Initiative and other key bodies through face-to-face meetings and other appropriate channels	Y1:Q4 Y2:Q4 Y3:Q4	Presentation of findings and recommendations to relevant stakeholders is also on track e.g. presentation of the SEA and Draft LUP detailed in Annex 1 and Annex 2 above; <b>sharing challenges and lessons during the National Site Support Groups (SSG) Workshop</b> in September 2016 (Annex 18); Key note presentation: Value Chain of Papyrus and Fish Farming; the Case of Siaya County (Annex 19); and Annex 20-Population Health and Environment (PHE) model and SSGs, the case of Yala IBA).	Annex 18-Presentation on Challenges and Lessons Learnt from Local Community Engagement with County Government, Case of Siaya County; Annex 19 - Key note presentation: Value Chain of Papyrus and Fish Farming; the Case of Siaya County  Annex 20-Population Health and Environment (PHE) model and SSGs, the case of Yala IBA
4.3 Monitor records of discussions within and between these bodies, and the content of policy and planning documents, to ensure that the lessons shared are taken into account	Y1:Q4 Y2:Q1-Q4 Y3:Q1-Q4	<b>Reports from the County Assembly of Siaya recognize the on-going Land Use Planning process</b> and recommend a the land use plan as one of the requisite policy planning tools to reduce conflicts within Yala swamp (Annex 21 and Annex 22-Cries of Our People).	Annex 21-Report of the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, Water and Delegated Legislation on Yala swamp  Annex 22-Cries of Our People

<p>4.4 Carry out broader dissemination activities (e.g. Twitter updates via @Nature_Kenya, Facebook, NatureKenya website and NatureKenya newsletter)</p>	<p>Y1:Q3,Q4 Y2:Q1-Q4 Y3:Q1-Q4</p>	<p>Dissemination activities are on-going with <b>publication of project activity updates in the Nature Kenya monthly newsletter</b>, Nature Net May 2016 Issue (annex 23), Kenya Birding Magazine August 2016 Issue No. 10 (annex 24, also available online <a href="http://www.naturekenya.org/content/why-plant-papyrus">http://www.naturekenya.org/content/why-plant-papyrus</a> ), Darwin Newsletter May 2016 Issue <i>Article-Towards a Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme for habitat restoration in Yala Swamp</i> and in the Darwin Newsletter September 2016 Issue (<i>Article Securing the upstream of Yala Swamp through rehabilitation of the riparian zone of River Yala</i>).</p>	<p>Annex 23 – Nature net May 2016 issue  Annex 24 Kenya Birding August 2016 issue</p>
<p>4.5 Advocate to KWS for the designation of Yala swamp as a Ramsar site</p>	<p>Y1:Q2,Q3, Q4 Y2:Q1-Q4 Y3:Q1-Q4</p>	<p>A draft Site Support Group Advocacy Strategy (Annex 25) was developed in consultation with communities and identifies Ramsar designation as a priority issue of advocacy.</p>	<p>Annex 25 – Yala Ecosystem Site Support Group Advocacy Strategy</p>

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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.**

Challenges: The changing climatic seasons have affected rainfall patterns with erratic rainfall patterns. This has slowed down progress in tree planting in most areas with Bondo and Alego Usonga Subcounties being seriously affected. On the other hand, the on-going rains in the upper catchments of R. Yala and R. Nzoia have rendered some areas inaccessible due to flooding which has slowed down work progress in papyrus planting. Areas affected by flooding on the Siaya County part of the swamp include the area along R. Yala in Bar-Olengo Sublocation, Dhogoye next to L. Sare, while in Bunyala, areas affected include Bulwani area. The areas affected are among the identified priority site for planting papyrus. These are short term challenges caused by weather changes and are not expected to significantly impact project implementation timetable or budgets.

**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

Formal change request submitted: No



Received confirmation of change acceptance      No

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., 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.** 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 please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

**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 e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**