



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	21-016
Project Title:	Alternative sustainable livelihood sources for forest edge hunting communities
Country(ies)	Uganda
Lead Organisation	Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Collaborator(s)	Budongo Conservation Field Station
Project Leader	Fred Babweteera
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	28th October 2014 HYR1
Project website	www.budongo.org

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).

Identification and registration of target households: One hundred seventy (170) households have so far been identified in eight villages around Budongo Forest Reserve. All the households selected are within a buffer strip of 5 km from the forest boundary. These households are deemed most vulnerable to crop raiding and are more likely to conflict with the wildlife. They also have easier access to the forest thus have a high potential to be involved in illegal activities.

Livelihoods analysis: We carried out a livelihood assessment in the twelve target villages. Most of the people (98%) in these villages practice subsistence farming. We are currently analysing the data. During the livelihoods analysis, we also assessed alternative livelihoods as proposed by the beneficiary communities. Although goat keeping was the intended livelihood alternative, some members of the community suggested alternative livelihoods that may be considered in this project. These include poultry, piggery, banana growing and bee keeping. We are evaluating the feasibility of these alternatives.

Improved homestead sanitation: Within the target villages, we have embarked on basic home sanitation campaign as a prerequisite for the alternative livelihoods support. The beneficiary households are obliged to erect/construct functional pit latrines, bath shelter, utensil drying rack, rubbish pit and animal shelter (goat house/sty) depending on the domestic animal they choose for their alternative livelihood. We have so far registered a 70% compliance among the target households.

Assessment of vocational skills needs: Through focus group discussions and personal interviews, we identified key vocational skills that the communities desired. The most preferred skills included horticulture, organic farming, tailoring, herbal medicine planting and processing and, bee keeping.

Surveys of wildlife and the threats to wildlife: Using the DISTANCE program, 24 transects measuring 3 km each were systematically established to run from the forest edge bordering with human settlements into the forest interior. Each transect was walked once during the survey period. During the transect walks, all signs of illegal human activity were recorded including logging, hunting, grazing, charcoal burning and farming. Data from this survey is currently being analysed. In addition to the survey of illegal activities, we established stratified random plots to conduct periodic population surveys of duikers and bush pigs using dung pellet counts. These surveys will provide baseline data for measuring performance/change.

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.

No changes made yet.

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: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance 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: N/A

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