

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

Project Ref No	21-016
Project Title	Alternative sustainable livelihood sources for forest edge hunting communities
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Uganda
Lead Organisation	Royal Zoological Society of Scotland
Partner(s)	Budongo Conservation Field Station
Project Leader	Fred Babweteera
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	31st October 2016 HYR3
Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc	www.budongo.org
Funder (DFID/Defra)	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).

Conduct livelihood analysis of ex-hunters' households: We have postponed the analysis of livelihoods in ex-hunters' households to January 2017 (Quarter 4 of year 3). Past experience shows the January period is more conducive for conducting such surveys around the project area. The postponement will also allow BCFS to concurrently assess crop yields and incomes in beneficiary households.

Joint snare patrol sessions: Ten joint snare patrol sessions were conducted in compartments bordering villages where project activities are being implemented. Three hundred six (306) snares were recovered by the combined teams of BCFS snare patrol rangers and ex-hunters. This shows a 25% reduction in snares recovery compared to the over 400 snares recovered during the same period last year. One incidence of an ensnared chimpanzee was recorded, which is lower than the previous record of at least 3 chimpanzees per year at the project onset (during June 2014). The veterinary team successfully removed the snare and the animal recovered.

Biological surveys of wildlife species: The survey of wildlife, including chimpanzees and species previously targeted by hunters was postponed to Quarters 3 and 4. BCFS will be conducting a comprehensive animal census in and around Budongo during this period. We strongly believe this will allow us make better comparisons with the nearby forest habitats and draw precise conclusions on the impact of the project on the wildlife species in Budongo.

Training in animal husbandry, improved agronomy and vocational skills: At least 130 beneficiaries were trained in improved crop husbandry practices. The training sessions were facilitated by Masindi District Farmers' Association (MADFA) at the 3 demonstration sites. In addition, 182 beneficiaries participated and got hands-on training in improved livestock management practices from the BCFS veterinary team.

Technical support services to beneficiary farms: Our veterinary team treated over 1,229 livestock belonging to 182 households during the treatment and support visits. Pink eye and Orf were the major disease conditions detected in goats during these sessions, and were brought under control. Seventeen farmers who had been identified to be performing poorly

were visited to deliver one-to-one technical mentorship by the project team.

Economic surveys of household incomes: Analysis of data from the second survey of household agricultural production and income was completed and the results showed beneficiary households earned \$1.5 per day on average. Both farm (\$0.7) and non-farm sources (\$0.8) contributed to this figure. Non-traditional crops contributed 37% of the farm income. The incomes of beneficiaries of vocational skills training were not considered as many were still undergoing further internship. Their incomes will be assessed in the next survey.

Establish and manage demonstration sites for buffer zone farming: BCFS re-established the 3 demonstration sites for buffer zone cropping. Ten crop varieties were planted, including rice and sunflower that were introduced in Year 3 Q2. All crops planted on the demonstration gardens were severely affected by a harsh dry spell. Our attempts at irrigation enabled some of the crops to establish. Soy bean was moderately raided by baboons at all 3 sites but the extent of the damage was lower compared to traditional crops. This suggests soybean is a fairly good buffer crop. Sunflower was never raided, while rice, cabbage, water melon, carrots, okra, green pepper experienced insignificant raids by wild animals.

Data collection and analysis of agricultural yield and household income: This was done concurrently with the economic surveys of household income. Majority of households planted only small acreages (0.25 acres) per crop. More land was dedicated to the cultivation of traditional crops, which were also mostly consumed within the household as food and seed. Non-traditional crops were mostly traded out, and earned households \$0.26 compared to the \$0.45 contributed by traditional crops which cover over twice the area dedicated to the non-traditional varieties.

Develop and distribute buffer zone farming guidelines: The BCFS project team have drafted guidelines for farming along the buffer zone. The guidelines were shared with technical teams from the local government. A final version is being prepared with input from local government staff and experiences from project beneficiaries.

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.

Persistent erratic weather led to reduction in crop yields which affected farmers' expectation of the benefits which demoralises further participation in planting such crops. However, farmers observed that one variety of soy-bean *Maksoy 3N* was tolerant of dry weather and could be promoted in future. In addition, sunflower was piloted as a possible weather-tolerant crop which has a ready market in the project area,

Surveys targeting household income in the predominantly agricultural households around the forest give more reliable estimates if conducted after farmers have harvested their crop produce and dedicated the yield to the various uses. BCFS assessed household agricultural production and income in March 2016 so it was not logical to do another one during Q2 as planned because farmers had just planted. The assessment was postponed to Q4 when we expect that farmers will have harvested and realised benefits that contribute to their livelihoods.

However, these changes and unexpected developments do not significantly affect the budget and timetable of the project.

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: Not applicable

Received confirmation of change acceptance: Not Applicable

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 rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

Not Applicable

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.

Comment to activity 3.2 is explained in section 2a above.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your projectschedule/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 . 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**