



## Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	22-011
<b>Project Title</b>	Conserving biodiversity by improving farming practices and livelihoods in Hoima
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Uganda
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	The Chimpanzee Trust (CT), Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), CLUSA
<b>Project Leader</b>	Miguel Leal
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	31 October 2016; HYR2
<b>Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc</b>	n/a
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	DFID

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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).

During the last six months, WCS and partners implemented project activities planned under *Outputs 1, 2, 3 and 4* across all 13 parishes.

#### ***Output 1: Project benefits in return for forest and wetland conservation clearly understood and agreed upon by the PFOs and formalized in a conservation contract***

Carried out activities were:

#### **1.2 WCS, CT and JGI organise two meetings with PFOs grouped at parish level to introduce and explain the conservation contract and incorporate their input and feedback until an agreed final version has been reached**

In the last report WCS and partners (Northern Albertine Rift Conservation Group partners) had already agreed on the content of the Conservation Pledge. In this period, WCS accompanied by field staff from the Chimp Trust and the Jane Goodall Institute have started organizing meetings with Private Forest Owners Associations introducing and discussing the conservation pledge. The pledge was translated into the local language and PFOs were asked in the meetings to provide feedback, concerns and suggestions for the pledge. We are implementing this activity on a rolling basis and so far we have consulted five Private Forest Owners Associations.

#### **1.3 WCS, CT and JGI conduct meetings to sign contract between farmers and the NARCG partners**

All five Private Forest Owners Associations targeted have signed which represents 38% of all Private Forest Owners Associations. We are on target to complete this activity before the end of 2017.

#### **1.4. WCS, CT and JGI organise annual verification mission to measure and monitor farmers' compliance**

WCS has developed an assessment and monitoring tool to record land use and land cover data for each PFO. This includes taking a geo-referenced photograph of the PFO's home, after

permission from the PFO. So far, we have collected data from 500 of PFOs. This information will allow WCS and JGI to connect remote sensing data from the Global Forest Platform on forest land use changes with ground verification done by the community based Forest Monitors through the Forest Watcher Application.

### **1.5 WCS carries out a biodiversity base and endline survey to measure species occurrences and updates its existing land use maps**

WCS carried out a survey recording the presence and abundance of the grey crested crane in the wetlands across the 13 parishes, other bird species were recorded as well. This was the first crane survey for this area in Uganda. WCS is currently carrying out the chimp survey.

#### ***Output 2: Rural financial services established in all the 13 parishes providing capital for sustainable forest friendly and agricultural enterprises***

Carried out activities were:

### **2.3 Trained CT and JGI staff organises training for PFOs and trains them in principle of microcredits, governance and business skills**

Forest Monitors were trained in the Street Business School approach (<https://www.beadforlife.org/streetbusinessschool>) and started training members, in particularly women, in developing their business ideas and think more commercial. This new approach was taken as the evaluation of Village Enterprise showed that members were saving well but few are taking the opportunities to develop their businesses.

### **2.4 Trained CT and JGI staff supervise the management and operation of the micro-financing institutes and measure and monitor capital flows with backstopping from Village Enterprise**

Village Enterprise carried out an evaluation of the Forest Monitors in charge of the Business Saving Groups, based on a score card system to track their performance. It was observed that there is a need for a refresher training on recordkeeping and constitution writing, as well as how to deal with new members who were not part of the initial constitution. Village Enterprise is providing back-stopping to address these issues. Overall, Business Saving Groups are saving well and have already accumulated above 100 GBP.

#### ***Output 3: PFO households linked to profitable markets and agribusinesses to sell their farming surplus to and increase their income***

Carried out activities were:

### **3.1 WCS identifies potential agribusiness partners in the region and other opportunities in Kampala**

The Dutch company *Farmers and Co* (<https://www.farmersandco.com>) has come out with a representative of the *Agrosolutions* (<http://agrosolutions.com>), a green and social agribusiness company based in France. They assessed the potential of exporting maize produced by the PFOs and provided valuable advice on bulking and improving the value chain.

### **3.2 WCS starts negotiating production contracts with participating agribusiness partners**

*Farmers and Co* and *Agrosolutions* are currently in the process of buying 15 tonnes of maize from the PFOs which they will export to Europe. This is a pilot. They will buy again when the harvest of the current ongoing growing season has been collected in December. These transactions with the PFOs are for now informal but in the future they will be formalized through production contract. For now WCS, *Farmers and Co* and the PFOs are building a trust-based relationship.

#### ***Output 4: Agricultural intensification through conservation farming to stop the need to clear new forests and wetlands***

Carried out activities were:

### **4.1 CLUSA trains 13 field-based staff from CT and JGI in conservation farming and assigns each staff member to a parish**

The two conservation farming consultants gave a refresher course to the Forest Monitors to overcome some of the challenges and issues mentioned by the Forest Monitors and observed by WCS and consultants during their evaluation, such planting the crops in the correct density, late and irregular rains, and dealing with pests. In addition, community based Forest Monitors were trained in better explaining the link between the conservation farming with the Business Saving Group, meaning that they should use their Business Saving Group as a means of getting capital to buy the agricultural inputs needed for conservation farming.

**4.2. CT and JGI trained staff train the PFO-HHs in conservation farming in their parish;**

WCS has now scaled up training in conservation farming across all 13 parishes. The inflow of new adopters was stimulated by providing inputs, such as seeds, as a loan to 104 Business Saving Groups. This helped scale up the acreage of farm land being worked with conservation farming practices.

**4.4. CT and JGI trained staff collect data on yields from PFO-HHs**

WCS and the consultants collected data on the harvests from the first season of 2016. The harvest of the 59 PFOs improved by 270% compared with traditional farming practices.

**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.**

N/A

**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 N/A

**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 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?**

N/A

**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: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**