



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

Project Ref No	22-019
Project Title	Supporting community conserved areas in Uganda for biodiversity and livelihoods
Country(ies)	Uganda
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Collaborator(s)	ECO Uganda, Nature Uganda
Project Leader	<i>Alison Mollon (acting PL until new Project Lead recruited)</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR2 October 2016
Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc	www.fauna-flora.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).

1.1 Carry out ecosystem services assessments at 3 sites using TESSA and GRACE and other tools - Completed as previously reported.

1.2 Publish ecosystem services reports and promulgate through community meetings, seminars with local and national government bodies, cultural institutions and other stakeholders

Assessment reports for ecosystem service have been shared with key stakeholders and community participants. A summary compiled biodiversity ecosystem services report and cultural values report will be presented at public dissemination meetings and seminars at the district level (Wakiso and Rakai) in November 2016.

1.3 Develop and publish site-specific, locally appropriate CCA management plans

Having concluded the identification of CCAs within five parishes at the project sites, development of management plans has begun with the Ugandan Wildlife Authority (UWA) leading this process. Activities since the last reporting period have focused on participatory mapping of the proposed CCAs.

1.4 Support UWA to forward District Council resolutions and CCA management plans to the Minister for Wildlife and Tourism for legal gazettment

This will be conducted after the finalisation of management plans and District council's endorsement of the resolutions to gazette identified CCAs. This activity is scheduled to be finalised in the last quarter of Y2.

1.5 Support communities to work with District Councils to make resolutions to effect the gazetting of 3 CCAs – As per 1.4

1.6 Support Local Government planning processes to integrate CCAs into strategic and annual District Plans

There has been an ongoing process of integrating CCA's in the District development plans for Rakai and Wakiso since MoUs were signed between FFI and each District in May 2016. The Districts' natural resources departments have now incorporated CCA activities into annual planning processes. Negotiations for inclusion of CCA activities in local government budgets have begun at the sub-county level.

1.7 Support development of specific District Government regulations to conserve ecosystem

In 2015, driven by a contention by District council members that the Marabigambo Central forest

reserve was being unsatisfactorily managed by the National Forest Authority (NFA) Rakai District Council passed an ordinance, requesting for the uplifting of its status to a wild game reserve (with the potential of a community co-management structure). If affected this would see management responsibility move from the NFA to UWA. Since April 2016 the project has focused on mediating this decision between UWA, the Ministry of Water and Environment (of which the NFA is part) and Rakai District council. A reconnaissance trip was facilitated for UWA staff and District officials. The UWA Executive Director is due to lead an assessment of the forest by the end of 2016, incorporating data already gathered by the project, to enable discussion with responsible departments within the ministry of environment.

2.1 Undertake baseline surveys of target species at 3 sites

Baseline survey of target species, water quality and broader biodiversity assessments were conducted at proposed CCA sites in Q1 2016. Results and recommendations from these processes have guided the continued monitoring of species within the three project sites.

2.2 Document ES assessments and link to stakeholder learning – as per 1.2

2.3 Organise awareness campaigns at community and district levels.

Three awareness meetings were conducted on sustainable fishing practices since April 2016. This was in preparation for establishing the fish breeding areas at project sites in Rakai district. Awareness of the project has been raised through production of T- Shirts, meeting with partners and key stakeholders on the project key outputs and likely outcomes

2.4 Support monitoring of Critically Endangered bird species and diversity of fish assemblages at breeding sites (data collection reporting and management)

The project's partner organisation, Nature Uganda, conducted bird counts at project sites in September and October 2016. Monitoring of fish assemblage diversity is being conducted by trained Makanaga community members at three landing sites in Wakiso District (data collected includes size as well as species). Data collection in Sango bay (Rakai) will begin following community training scheduled for early November 2016.

3.1 Organise training sessions on sustainable fisheries, agriculture, land use, agroforestry and biodiversity conservation

FFI trained 217 people in this period (105 men and 112 women) in Agroforestry practices (focusing on fruit-tree production and management).

3.2 Support local capacity to conduct patrols to protect fishing sites and fish breeding zones

The project supported three awareness meetings at Balabala, Kojja and Kivunyu landing sites on the need for fishing sustainably. At these meetings community members requested the sub county authorities to allow them monitor fishing activities on the lake and were allowed as long as what they were doing was within the law. Since then, those that had been monitoring were registered and have conducted 12 patrols in total. They have recovered 12 illegal fishing nets and warned 22 community members against illegal fishing methods.

3.3 Support monitoring of fisheries activities (fisheries data collection, reporting and management - keeping track of landings and size of fish)

As per section 2.4 on monitoring of fish assemblage diversity.

3.5 Organise Natural Resource Management groups peer to peer exposure visits

Since April 2016 one peer to peer exchange for Kagera Tourism Conservation Organisation (KATOCO) to Sangobay Twezimbe (ST) group was conducted. 60 KATOCO members were shown ST's piggery production, savings and credit scheme, tree nursery and water harvesting methods.

3.6 Conduct trainings to BPRMGs on data collection, reporting and management of Critically Endangered bird species and diversity of fish assemblages at breeding sites - Scheduled for Q3 Y2.

4.5 Support communities with designation and protection of 10 fish breeding areas/grounds (community-wide sensitization & demarcation of the breeding zones)

Following awareness raising activities and sensitisation exercises conducted through the course of the project, demarcation of fish breeding areas was begun in September 2016. To date this activity has been completed at three sites in Rakai District (8.3kms of Gwanda Parish shoreline; shoreline of the two Musambwa islands. Demarcations are on-going at Makanaga (Wakiso District), in order to harmonise fish breeding areas identified by past third party projects (Hope LVB).

4.6 Support Fisher to Fisher community sensitizations

Three fisher sensitisations were made in Sango bay on the need for having and protecting fish breeding areas. During the meetings a total of 246 members of the fishing community attended and a total of 33 were nominated to participate in mapping and marking of fish breeding grounds.

4.7 Facilitate community efforts on tree nursery development and tree planting

During this period, the project supported tree community nurseries at three locations in Rakai (Kanabulemu and Sango bay) and Wakiso (Makanaga). Community members have been able to raise 93,510 coffee seedlings, 13,468 grevillea seedlings, 815 measopsis eminii seedlings, 3880 Milicia excelsa seedlings and 1575 neem tree seedlings. Due to the persistent drought, only Makanaga has had suitable conditions for planting seedlings during this period (11,185 coffee, 1575 neem tree and 3880 milicia excelsa).

4.8 Support farmer group members with revolving credit for agricultural inputs

Having trained the 5 BPRMGs with in the project areas in savings and credit, the project has been monitoring the progress on saving for the 5 BPRMGs and the range of money saved per group ranges from 3-5 million Ugandan shillings. Lending to members will begin when a threshold of 6million Ugandan shillings is passed.

5.5 Conduct project inception and planning meetings with communities, local governments and cultural institutions to clarify roles and responsibilities, participation during project implementation.

Completed as previously reported.

5.6 Design and disseminate information through public awareness campaign based on ecosystem services assessment reports

This activity, to be conducted at District level (Wakiso and Rakai) has been scheduled for Y2 Q3, in line with the on-going CCA gazettement process and formation of CCA committees.

5.7 Convene multi-stakeholder CCA design workshops - Scheduled for Y2 Q4

5.8 Organize community mobilization to select CCA committees and determine roles and responsibilities

CCA committee members will be drawn from participating BPRMG members and other key stakeholders. This process will begin on the completion of the participatory mapping of proposed CCAs (Y2 Q3).

5.9 Undertake cultural institutional analysis - Completed as previously reported.

5.10 Organize governance and resource use policy seminars - Scheduled for Y2 Q3&4

5.11 Establish CCA management committees - See 5.4

5.12 Establish CCA gazettement committees with relevant stakeholders including local and national government, community members and cultural institutions at 3 sites - scheduled for Y2 Q4

5.13 Support local communities in the develop community byelaws, Popularise, promote and implement community bye-laws - Scheduled for Y2 Q3.

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.

Within this period, the project encountered the challenge of prolonged drought especially at the site of Sango bay (Rakai District). This has delayed planting of tree seedlings raised at the three nurseries and of those that had been planted circa 80% failed due to water stress. Agriculture and agro-forestry support activities will be reviewed in December, if drought conditions remain these components will need to be restructured for example piloting novel high value/lower water demand crops such as mushrooms for local and district centre markets. Tree planting would be refocused on lower lying areas.

An update on the implications of the Presidential embargo of Beach Management Units is given in the accompanying Additional Information document.

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 (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.

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

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 . 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**