



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2018)**

Project reference	23-019
Project title	Achieving No Net Loss for communities and biodiversity in Uganda
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Uganda
Lead organisation	University of Oxford
Partner(s)	National Environment Management Authority Uganda (NEMA), Nature Uganda, International Institute of Environment & Development (IIED), Wild Business Ltd & Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Uganda
Project leader	E.J. Milner-Gulland
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	October 2018, HYR3
Project website/blog/social media etc.	https://www.iccs.org.uk/project/achieving-no-net-loss-communities-and-biodiversity-uganda

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).

The following activities were scheduled for year 3, Q1/2:

Output 1:

1.6. Research published and disseminated:

Means of verification and measurable indicators:

- *By project end, two research papers are published in peer reviewed journals and one IIED research report is published and available to download on the IIED website.*
- *By project end, the research is presented at a minimum of one international conservation conference and at least one international biodiversity offset policy meeting.*

Papers and reports

The manuscript, “No Net Loss for people and biodiversity” was published by *Conservation Biology* (September 2018) and can be [downloaded as an early view](#). The academic paper was published as an open access article, meaning that it can be downloaded free of charge. The publication is also accessible via the [project web page](#). The publication was announced and advertised via social media (personal twitter accounts and Conservation Biology’s official twitter account), and has been widely shared (tweeted by 87 twitter users).

The second manuscript was on the choice experiment results, and was submitted to *Biological Conservation* in June 2018. It has been peer reviewed by three reviewers and has been invited for resubmission. We received the reviews in early October 2018. The manuscript will be updated and resubmitted to the journal by the end of November 2018.

The remainder of the social aspects of the research have been analysed and written up in draft format. The aim is to turn these drafts into another two academic papers during the third and

fourth quarters of Year 3, for eventual publication. One manuscript will focus on the cultural heritage aspects of biodiversity no net loss policies, and the other will focus on the impacts to local people's wellbeing as a result of biodiversity related impacts associated with the development project.

The ecological research by Nature Uganda was completed in draft form at the end of Year 2. Since then it has been reviewed internally within Nature Uganda and by Joe Bull (Wild Business) and E.J. Milner-Gulland (Oxford). The final draft is now ready, and we expect to sign off on the finished report in the next few weeks. The report will then be made available on the project website, and publicised on social media and through our contacts list.

Drafting of a summary of our findings for policy-makers (to be published by IIED) will commence in the third quarter of Year 3. We also aim to produce a research paper which combines the social and ecological findings by the end of Year 3.

Presentations

Victoria Griffiths was invited to present the results from the choice experiment manuscript during a session hosted by [The Biodiversity Consultancy](#) (TBC): "Offsets and People" at the Annual Conference for the International Association for Impact Assessment ([IAIA 2018](#)), Durban, South Africa (16th – 19th May 2018). The aim of the session is to draw on real-world biodiversity offset projects to identify trade-offs between multi-stakeholder visions for offset management. Presenters highlighted lessons learnt from their experiences and tools and techniques to develop a collaborative approach to biodiversity offset design, establishment and implementation, using an interdisciplinary approach between social and ecological sciences. A blog about the conference can be found [here](#).

As documented in the Annual Report for Year 2, preliminary results from both the social and ecological studies were presented to stakeholders in Uganda as part of workshops held in March 2018. Oxford and Nature Uganda also presented these preliminary results to the local communities visited during the social surveys.

As only the preliminary results were presented, we plan on carrying out a second and final round of dissemination within Uganda. Planning for the final round of engagement and research dissemination in Uganda is currently underway by the project team. Meetings will be held with local communities at the case study site, Government agencies (both District and national), Environmental and Social Impact Assessment consultants, businesses, the Uganda Poverty and Conservation Learning Group and students at Makerere University. Dianah Nalwanga (Nature Uganda) and Victoria Griffiths (Oxford University) are in the process of compiling materials for the meetings in the form of posters and policy briefs. Dissemination is planned to take place in quarters 3 and 4 of Year 3 by Nature Uganda.

Output 2:

See section below.

Output 3:

3.3 Training of NEMA staff:

Means of verification and measurable indicators:

- *A minimum of 5 NEMA staff are trained with the necessary knowledge and skills to implement the new guidelines, and a minimum of 2 NEMA staff are trained as 'trainers' to continue the training to other / new NEMA staff (by end Y3).*
- *A report of the training for NEMA staff on the new guidelines posted on the project website.*

Training of NEMA staff took place in Kampala in June 2018, and was done in collaboration with a training event carried out by the COMBO project being led by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). By combining our training with that of COMBO, we were able to reach a much wider and larger audience than originally planned in the proposal. In addition to training NEMA staff, the COMBO training enabled us to reach the Uganda National Roads Authority (UNRA), oil companies and ESIA consultants. The overall goal of the three day training course was to strengthen the capacity of institutions in Uganda to implement the mitigation hierarchy, including NNL strategies and biodiversity offsets, as a planning and management tool for

biodiversity conservation. The training was organised by The Biodiversity Consultancy (TBC) and WCS. The main objectives were to:

- Improve understanding of the concept of the mitigation hierarchy including biodiversity offsets and the supporting legislative and regulatory framework.
- Improve understanding of the scale at which impacts may occur and the spatial and temporal needs for planning and implementing mitigation and offsets.
- Improve understanding of the international standards that apply to Uganda.
- Improve understanding of the requirements for effective mitigation of impacts by visiting a site where mitigation has been developed.

During COMBO's training event, a module was carried out by Julia Baker (IIED), dedicated to the social aspects of biodiversity NNL. The aim of this session was to:

- Explore potential impacts of NNL on people
- Explore how to positive and equitable social outcomes from NNL

Overall 54 people attended the training, 19 females and 35 males. Six individuals were NEMA staff.

Training material on the inclusion of social aspects into biodiversity NNL and biodiversity offsets is available on the [project web page](#). A training report was compiled by WCS but has not been made publically available.

3.6 Drafting of new international guidelines and publication by BBOP:

Means of verification and measurable indicators:

- *By project end, the new guidelines are published by NEMA, and integrated into the planning for at least two biodiversity offsets in Uganda.*
- *International guidelines published in collaboration with BBOP, by end Y3.*
- *By end Y3, at least 2 international businesses commit to implementing these guidelines within their operations.*

As documented in the Annual Report for Year 2, the team felt it most appropriate to produce good practice principles rather than detailed guidelines. These principles will clearly set out what good practice looks like, thereby setting an ambition which industry, investors and industry can strive to achieve. The principles will closely align with existing best practice guidance on NNL of biodiversity, ensuring that people's use and cultural values associated with biodiversity are taken into account when designing and implementing NNL projects.

New international good practice principles have been drafted. Valuable feedback and written reviews on these principles have been received from 19 individuals, as well as from various businesses, NGOs, government and consultancies from a range of countries including Australia, the UK, South Africa, Sweden, France and Switzerland. In addition, we held workshops in Cambridge, UK (20th February 2018), Kampala, Uganda (7th March 2018), Oxford, UK (9th July 2018) and London, UK (3rd September) to discuss the principles and solicit feedback.

A webinar was hosted by the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP) on the 20th September 2018, where Julia Baker (IIED) and Joseph Bull (Wild Business) presented the draft good practice principles. Approximately 65 people attended the webinar, with feedback from BBOP reflecting that this is an extremely high number. At the end of the webinar, several multiple-choice questions were posed to the participants in order to solicit their feedback on various elements of the principles. The slides for the webinar can be downloaded from the [project web page](#) and on the [BBOP website](#). The BBOP website also contains a [recording](#) of the webinar presentation and voting by participants.

The principles and associated technical notes are currently being finalised and will be launched at the business engagement workshop, being held at Oxford University on the 20th November 2018. Our Ugandan partners will be attending this event, where we aim to get public

commitments from businesses to use the principles in their No Net Loss / Net Gain activities.

A slot has also been allocated for Julia Baker and Joseph Bull to present the principles at the final Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme annual conference ([BBOP15](#)) in Paris in November 2018. As documented in our Annual report for Year 2, these principles will no longer be published by BBOP owing to the project's timescale. Moreover, BBOP is drawing to close at the end of 2018 and we will be discussing whether the document will be available on the BBOP legacy website. Instead, the document will be published independently by our team, using a professional designer, and made available on our project website as well as through an online archiving website which will give it a DOI.

As regards the publication of the guidelines by NEMA, we are currently arranging a training event with NEMA in early 2019. This will be an opportunity to finalise the Uganda-focussed version of the principles, which will then be published by NEMA by project end. We will also discuss the principles with Ugandan businesses at this event, with the expectation of adoption thereafter.

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.

No comments or queries were raised in the Annual Review for Year 2 of the project. However, we note the following challenges (both of which were raised in our Year 2 report):

Output 1:

1.7 Project meetings

An ongoing problem is trying to arrange our six-monthly project meetings. The aim was to hold these via skype as project team members are located in the UK and Uganda. However, owing to conflicting schedules, it has been very challenging to find a time and date where all team members are able to participate in a call. This has not affected the project however, as we have instead held individual and group face-to-face meetings with Ugandan partners when UK colleagues are in Uganda, followed up by email and supplemented with individual skype calls where needed. It is easier for UK partners to meet by phone or in person, and this has happened regularly. Therefore, overall, channels of communications have flowed well.

Output 2:

2.1 Review Kalagala Offset Sustainable Management Plan

2.2 Prepare recommendations on Isimba management plan

Concerns regarding these two activities were raised in the Annual Report for Year 2. We made the assumption in our proposal that there was still scope to influence the Isimba Management Plan based on our findings about the impact of the Kalagala SMP, however the management plans for Isimba and the ESIA Addendum for Kalagala have already been completed and approved by the government. We are actively seeking ways to influence these plans and their outcomes, as part of the re-financing project for the Bujagali Hydropower Project. We are preparing a briefing note for NEMA to use in influencing the community development projects envisaged under the re-financing project, which is based on the results of Victoria Griffiths' research (in particular the Choice Experiments). This will be finished by project end.

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?

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R24 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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**