

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

Project reference	25-020
Project title	Supply and Demand: Restoration in Uganda for People and Biodiversity
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Uganda
Lead organisation	Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
Partner(s)	Tooro Botanical Gardens (TBG), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Project leader	<i>Kirsty Shaw</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	<i>www.bgci.org</i>

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).

Since the project started we have made good progress, particularly in terms of getting a strong team together to ensure this project is a success.

Progress is reported against each activity scheduled for the first three months of the project (July 2018 – September 2018). Activities delivered in October 2018 are also noted.

1.1 Inaugural Project Workshop held with all stakeholders present. Project plan communicated, refined and all necessary mechanisms for acquiring permits and Prior Informed Consent defined and implemented

An inaugural project workshop was held on October 23rd 2018. It was postponed from September to October to ensure that all essential partners could be involved. The project plan was communicated to 21 people, including government representatives from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE), the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Forestry Authority (NFA), and NGO representatives including Fauna & Flora International.

Tooro Botanical Gardens (TBG) is in discussions with the Uganda Wildlife Authority, who are responsible for many of the forests where seed will be collected from, to arrange permits that are required for seed collection (due to commence in 2019).

1.1 Steering Committee established, including all existing stakeholders (national and local authorities, communities, NGOs, academics etc.)

A meeting was held on October 23rd 2018, following the inaugural project workshop, with TBG, BGCI, IUCN, MWE and NFA represented. The meeting identified which other people / organisations should sit on the Steering Committee (SC) and they have been invited to sit on the SC and join the first full SC meeting which will take place in December 2018. The SC will guide project implementation and monitor and evaluate progress. A decision was made to establish a separate Technical Committee in addition to the SC to guide development of resources from this project that will support implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration globally. The Technical Committee will predominantly consist of representatives from IUCN's global and regional teams, as well as TBG and BGCI.

1.1 Detailed briefs written for external consultants

A brief was written for a BGCI Plant Conservation Project Consultant and interviews were conducted. Quinter Peres was appointed to sit in the BGCI Africa office in Nairobi, working as Project Manager for this project, under the guidance of Kirsty Shaw, Project Leader.

The marketing and socio-economic consultants have been appointed by TBG and contracts are currently being finalised.

1.1 Monitoring and evaluation methodology defined and implemented

In August 2018, TBG and BGCI staff met and discussed reporting procedures between the two lead organisations, to ensure activities are kept on track throughout the project timeframe. This includes regular email and phone contact, as well as regular trips by BGCI staff to Uganda to visit project sites.

During the meeting on 23rd October a monitoring and evaluation methodology was proposed for the SC. The SC will meet twice per year to monitor project progress against the project logical framework and timetable, and to identify and address any problems in project implementation.

2.1 Working group established to identify sites for nursery establishment: BGCI, TBG, IUCN, NEMA, MWE, NGOs.

Criteria were developed to help identify suitable sites for nursery establishment. This includes; The area should be a high priority for restoration as identified by the FLR Opportunity Assessment for Uganda report; The land for tree nursery establishment should be available and secure long-term and free of charge; The site should be easily accessible by all means of transport; The site should be visible and with good opportunities for marketing seedlings; The site should be well drained and have access to a good supply of soil; The site should have a dependable water supply, etc.

Discussions were held with the National Forestry Authority (NFA) in August and September 2018 to identify candidate sites that are close to high priority areas for restoration and where permission would be given to host a nursery. TBG then visited candidate sites during September – October 2018, including in Karamoja, Northern Moist Landscape, South West range lands, Western Mid altitude and the Lake Victoria Crescent. Sites were assessed against the defined criteria.

On 22nd October 2018, the nursery site working group met to review candidate sites for establishing four high diversity sites. Candidate sites were then presented to participants of the inaugural project workshop to obtain feedback. A final decision on the location of the four sites will be made in November 2018, so training of community members can commence in December 2018.

2.1 Visits to candidate sites to hold meetings with community members.

During visits to candidate sites through September and October 2018, discussions were held with community members, including to assess their enthusiasm to be involved in the project (one of the criteria for nursery site selection). The project intends to train and appoint 104 community members to work as seed monitors and collectors, nursery workers and restoration demonstration plot managers.

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.

A change request was submitted for this project, which was approved. As agreed, year 1 training will be delivered by BGCI staff and year 1 Project Management will be delivered by a consultant working under BGCI. These changes are not expected to affect the budget or timetable of project activities.

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

Formal change request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

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?

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. 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**