



**Darwin Initiative/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019)**

<b>Project reference</b>	26-019
<b>Project title</b>	Secure Wetland Ecosystems to improve livelihoods through Community Conservation Agreements
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Uganda
<b>Lead organisation</b>	NatureUganda
<b>Partner(s)</b>	NatureUganda BirdLife International Wetland Management Department (WMD) Kabale and Rubanda District Local Governments Ramsar Committee of East Africa (RAMCEA Community Rural Development (CRD)
<b>Project leader</b>	Mr. Achilles Byaruhanga
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2019 HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="http://www.natureuganda.org">www.natureuganda.org</a>

**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).**

**Administration of the Project**

**A Project Officer was employed, oriented and is now stationed at NatureUganda Programmes Office in Kabale Town, south west Uganda.**

**Output 1**

1.1 Comprehensive ecosystem valuation report available by end of yr1

**Progress**

A consultant has been procured to conduct the ecosystem valuation of the three wetlands of Lake Bunyonyi, Kiruruma valley and Nyamuriro. The contract was signed between NU (Photo 1) and the consultant and the work is underway to be finalised by end of September 2019. An inception report with the planned scope of the assignment based on the ToR shared is attached (Annex 1).

**Annex 1** provides the copy of ToRs and (Annex 2) is the inception report for the consultant on ecosystem evaluation.

1.4 The quantity of peat carbon stocks in the project area assessed by end of yr 2

**Progress**

**The same consultant** ToR and a copy of the Inception report attached in Annex 1.

1.5 The relative impact of different farming practices and conservation activities on emissions assessed by end of yr 2

## **Progress**

A consultant procured and work commenced; ToR and a copy of the Inception report attached in Annex 1.

## **Output 2**

2.1 Biodiversity assessment report available by end of Yr2

### **Progress**

A reconnaissance trip to the project sites was conducted and exact sampling sites identified in the three wetland sites (Photos 1,2,3). Three areas were selected for Lake Bunyonyi, two for Kiruruma valley and two for Nyamuriro swamp for the assessment and more sampling sites will be selected from the identified areas. The terms of reference for the biodiversity assessment were developed and shared with the consultants. We are now awaiting the inception reports from the consultants. **Annex 3** A copy of ToRs for biodiversity assessments attached.

## **Output 3**

3.3 Seven CCAs signed between communities (2,000 households) and district authorities by EOP

### **Progress**

The community groups in project areas have been identified. Information gathered from the wetlands ecosystem services and biodiversity assessments will guide in refining the community groups and households to engage and train.

## **Output 4**

4.1 Three farmer field schools established and demonstrating benefits of soil and water conservation (SWC) and soil improvement activities by end of yr1

### **Progress**

A consultant has been procured to assess the quality of Upland soil quality in the project area. The contract was signed between NU and the consultant (Annex 1 and 2).

## **Output 5**

5.1 Communications plan for the project developed by the end of yr1.

### **Progress**

Development of a communications plan has commenced with desktop review of the stakeholder mapping, needs assessment and potential channel of communication. Baseline studies from wetlands ecosystem evaluation and biodiversity assessment will contribute to the finalisation of the communication plan.

5.3 Project outcomes and lessons shared in at least 5 meetings, local radio programmes in local language and forums BEOP

### **Progress**

NU project team organized meetings with the Kabale and Rubanda district local government officials and shared information about the project activities that will be implemented in their respective districts and it was highly welcomed. Technical and political staff of the two districts pledged their support in the project implementation and providing their oversight role in the project. Different meetings with the selected communities were organised and information about the project plans shared as well as the project activities and how the communities will benefit from the project. The project was greatly welcomed by the communities and local government. The local governments assigned a staff (District Natural Resources Officer as a

focal person) to support the project implementation.

**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.**

The difficulty in accessing some of the sites due to poor road networks during the rainy season means that alternative access routes have to be devised, which may mean using water transport for Lake Bunyonyi more often than had planned. Although this may affect the budget for field activities but we do not now anticipate significant shifts or changes. This will be carefully monitored

**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 at this stage

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 R25 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 DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to [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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**