



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report

Project reference	27-017
Project title	Community-led approaches to reforestation benefitting chimpanzees and livelihoods in Uganda
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Uganda
Lead organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Partner(s)	Jane Goodall Institute (JGI); Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA); National Forest Authority (NFA); Private Forest Owners' Associations (PFOAs) from Bulyango, Kidoma and Kasenene Parishes
Project leader	Cath Lawson
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	April 2021 – 30 th September 2021; HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	www.fauna-flora.org/countries/uganda

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period from start-up to end of September).

Output 1: PFOA members have the knowledge and skills to support peaceful co-existence with chimpanzees in 2 forest corridors, increasing secure habitat contiguous to 4 protected areas.

Activity 1.1: In May, two radio talk shows were conducted in Masindi and Hoima Districts on human wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation approaches. Total radio listenership for these two stations is 800,000 (**Annex 1**).

Activity 1.2: In May, training on HWC mitigation techniques was provided to 232 PFOA members PFOA (61F;171M) (**Annex 2**). Training covered HWC causes, effects and mitigation strategies.

Activity 1.3, 1.5: Six-monthly and systematic community chimpanzee threat and sighting monitoring was conducted in the three focal parishes. Data will be analysed by Yr2 reporting. In August, 9 community monitors were trained in using Survey 123 for data collection (**Annex 3**).

Output 2: Critical riverine areas on private lands reforested with native species by PFOA members, trained and knowledgeable in reforestation techniques

Activity 2.1: In July, in line with the reforestation plan and supported by 20 Trainers of Trainees, visits were undertaken to follow up on implementation of farm plans by 200 farmers (68F;138M) (**Annex 4**). 90% of farmers (180 people) are implementing their farm plans.

Activity 2.2: Satellite imagery was analysed to try and determine the exact acreage of boggy/marshy areas so as to map habitat characteristics and establish suitability for reforestation, but there was insufficient information. Physical mapping is now underway instead and will be finalised by end of November.

Activity 2.3: In August, 199 PFOA members (63F;136M) were trained in reforestation techniques. (**Annex 5**). Over the period May-September, 696 PFOA members (232F;456M) have participated

in community riverine reforestation efforts. As of the end of September, 42,293 tree seedlings had been planted along riverine areas (**Annexes 6a, 6b, 6c, 6d**).

Activity 2.4: In May, guided by the restoration plan, seeds for seven indigenous tree species were purchased. These were raised in community nurseries and seedlings were distributed to the community members for planting from August (**Annex 7a**).

Activity 2.5: Over the period April to September, three community nurseries in the parishes of Bulyango, Kasenene and Kidoma raised 96,588 tree seedlings (**Annex 7a, Annex 7b**).

Activity 2.6: In May, following decisions made during the Participatory Land Use Planning work, 350 PFOA members (127F; 223M) were supported with 22,478 tree seedlings to plant on their farms and in riverine areas (**Annex 8a, 8b, 8c, 8d**). By end of September, 58,718 assorted tree seedlings had been distributed to community members in the 3 focal parishes.

Activity 2.7: In September, seedling survival rate monitoring (6 months post distribution) for on-farm tree planting was conducted in the 3 focal parishes. 200 farms/farmers (77F;123M) were monitored and a survival rate of 76% was reported (**Annex 9**). Monitoring of survival rates in riverine habitats is ongoing.

Output 3: PFOA member capacity built in agroforestry systems and land use planning

Activity 3.2: In May, a community capacity needs assessment on agroforestry, land use planning and HWC mitigation was conducted with 101 participants (33F;68M) from the 3 focal parishes to inform project planning (**Annex 10**).

Activity 3.4: In June, 180 PFOA members (74F;106) in the 3 focal parishes were trained in the benefits and use of agroforestry systems at household level (**Annex 11a, 11b**).

Activity 3.7: See Activity 2.5; Activity 3.8: See Activity 2.6; Activity 3.9: See Activity 2.7; Activity 3.10: See Activity 2.1

Output 4: PFOA members involved in agroforestry-based market development report improved wellbeing and increased income from diversified livelihood activities

Activity 4.4: In August, field visits to the 15 PFOA members (5F;10M) that were trained and supported with bags of ginger seed were carried out to provide technical backstopping. Advice was given on record keeping, fertilizers, weeding, pests and disease management (**Annex 12**).

Activity 4.6: In September, training on conservation enterprise governance structures was provided to 24 PFOA leaders (8F;16M). Marketing committees for each PFOA, which will be responsible for developing and managing relationship with buyers, were also selected during this meeting (**Annex 13**).

Activity 4.7: Engagement with key actors continued at main markets (Kampala/Hoima/Masindi) to understand value chains for ginger (**Annex 14, 18, 19**). Nine agribusiness companies have been engaged and, so far, 3 (African Organic Uganda Limited, African Spices, Bio-fresh Uganda Limited) have expressed clear interest in establishing market linkages with the PFOAs. Additionally, 2 regional markets (Masindi/Hoima main markets) and 2 individual bulk buyers of ginger from Kampala Owino main market have been engaged. Diversification of buyers and markets helps manage risk (**Annex 15**).

Activity 4.8: Since April, consultations with actors in the ginger value chain have led to agreement on having another general multi-stakeholder meeting, planned for October 2021, where a joint action plan will be developed.

Activity 4.9: See Activity 4.8; Activity 4.11: See Activity 4.4.

Activity 4.13: In September, the 3 focal PFOAs formed marketing committees (Activity 4.6). Each committee comprises of 5 members (2 ginger farmers, 2 PFOA executive members, and 1 committee member). The 15 (3F;12M) committee members were trained on their roles and responsibilities and the requirements of contract farming agreements for future negotiation with agribusiness (**Annex 16**).

Activity 4.14: See Activity 4.6

Activity 4.15: In May, all PFOA executive members, Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) leaders and new VSLA members, were trained in bookkeeping to enhance group record management. A total of 151 PFOA members (55F;96M) attended the session that improved the knowledge and capacity in maintaining records (**Annex 17**).

Activity 4.16: See Activity 4.7.

Output 5: Capacity and governance of three PFOAs are improved; PFOAs document experiences and participate in learning exchanges with other actors of NARCG across the Northern Albertine Rift.

Activities either completed previously or planned for the next reporting period.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learned that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for COVID-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

During the implementation of the participatory market system development (PMSD) approach, it has become apparent that different agribusiness companies have different product interests. Involving and engaging agribusiness companies early on in the PMSD approach is critical to ensuring that activities respond to specific market requirements.

Further learning is that, because companies that are specialised in organic products need to conform to specific certification requirements, they need to be involved in farmer identification, site selection, seed sourcing, and general crop management so as to ensure the resulting products meet the requirements for certified organics markets.

Whilst both of these points are important learning for longer-term collaborations with agribusiness partners identified through this project, the project budget / implementation timetable is not impacted as there is a ready market for raw ginger which can be capitalised on now, in parallel with forging stronger links with companies that have specific requirements.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of COVID-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Uganda continues to be impacted by Covid-19 and associated restrictions. In July-August 2021, a 52-day nationwide lockdown, which severely limited movement and prevented gatherings, was implemented in response to a second wave of infections in the country. During this period, field staff were unable to visit project sites and provide in-person support to / oversight of the implementation of project activities. Plans were adapted and greater reliance was put on PFOA leadership to monitor activities and train PFOA members in agroforestry practices. Mentorship from, and feedback to, FFI technical expertise was provided through telephone communication. Restrictions have now eased and project activities are being implemented at pace. As such, an impact on budget / project implementation for these activities over the course of the year is not expected.

Engagement with market actors was also limited by Covid-19 associated travel restrictions. During the period of restrictions, market actors were instead identified and engaged through remote communication methods. In doing so, engagement was already progressed when restrictions eased and face-to-face communication was possible.

International travel has also not been possible during this reporting period and, as such, the Project Leader and other UK based technical experts have not been able to visit the project. If international travel restrictions remain as they are now, it is hoped that this may be possible in early 2022.

There are some projections of a third wave of Covid-19 cases in Uganda in November 2021, but no surge is currently evident. Assuming now further restrictions are imposed, it is anticipated that project activities can be executed as per the budget and timetable (aside for one consultancy activity, for which a change request has been submitted).

2c. 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 – A change request was submitted on 27/05/2021, requesting to move funds for a consultancy activity from Yr2 to Yr3.

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes – Previously, a change request was approved on 27/04/2021, moving the balance of Yr1 International Travel to Yr2.

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 Budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree with a budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

The projected underspend relates to funds for a consultancy activity, for which a change request has been submitted (on 27/10/21).

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

If you were asked to respond 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/work plan 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. 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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**