

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2022

Project reference	27-017
Project title	Community-led approaches to reforestation benefiting chimpanzees and livelihoods in Uganda.
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Uganda
Lead partner	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 2022 - October 2022; HYR3
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 since start up to end 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: Additional peer to peer exchanges planned for YR3 Q3-4.

Activity 1.2: Activities planned for the next reporting period.

Activity 1.3, 1.5: Systematic community chimpanzee threat and sighting monitoring has continued in the three focal parishes. Resulting data will be analysed for the AYR3 and used to inform future programming.

Activity 1.4: Baseline established in YR1. End of project repeat household survey planned for YR3 Q4.

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

Activity 2.1: Completed in previous reporting period.

Activity 2.2: Completed in previous reporting period. As previously reported, 190 hectares of riverine habitat mapped. Of which: 25ha is boggy and so unsuitable for reforestation; 90ha to be restored; 75ha left for natural regeneration.

Activity 2.3: In May and August 2022, 452 PFOA members (301M/151 F) from the 3 parishes, were engaged in a series of community riverine planning and reforestation exercises (**Annex 4a, 4b**).

Activity 2.4: Completed in previous reporting period.

Activity 2.5: Ongoing. Over the period April to September 2022, four community nurseries in the parishes of Kidoma, Buhumuro, Bulyango and Kasenene raised 40,000 tree seedlings (*Maesopsis eminii*, *Cordia diversifolia*, *Grevillia robusta*, and *Khaya anthotheca*) for both agroforestry and reforestation planting (**Annex 5a, 5b**).

Activity 2.6: Completed in previous reporting period. In May and August 2022, and following decisions made during the Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) work, 366 PFOA members (108F; 258M) were supported with 42,253 tree seedlings to plant on their farm and in riverine areas (**Annex 6a, 6b, 6c**). As a result, 20,724 tree seedlings were planted along riverine areas meaning 17 hectares were planted with indigenous trees (**Annex 4a, 4b, 4c**).

Activity 2.7: Ongoing. Seedling survival rate monitoring for on-farm tree planting and in riverine areas is planned for YR3 Q3. Results will be analysed and reported on in the AYR3.

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

Activity 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6: Completed in previous reporting period

Activity 3.4: Completed in previous reporting period however, in this reporting period, additional training was provided for PFOA / VSLA members who joined after the previous training. In July and August 2022, a total of 364 PFOA members (208F;156M) from 14 VSLA groups were trained in agroforestry practices, land use planning and reforestation techniques (**Annex 3a, 3b**).

Activity 3.7: Ongoing. Refer to Activity 2.5, 2.6, 2.7; Activity 3.8: Ongoing. Refer to Activity 2.5, 2.6; Activity 3.9: Ongoing. Refer to Activity 2.7.

Activity 3.10: End of project assessment on the use of PLUP planned for YR3 Q4.

Activity 3.11: Planned for YR3 Q4.

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

Activities 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.5, 4.9, 4.10: Completed in previous reporting period

Activity 4.6: Ongoing. In the previous reporting period, training was provided in conservation enterprise buyer contract negotiation. Project staff have continued to mentor and monitor PFOA marketing committees to ensure they are taking ownership of buyer engagement and contract negotiation as intended.

Activity 4.7: Ongoing. In May 2022, market linkages meetings were held with agribusiness companies (KK produce exporters, Tropical Dynasty fresh produce exporters, Altus Foods, and Jay Fortune Company) (**Annex 8a, 8b, 8c**).

Activity 4.8: Ongoing. An additional multi-stakeholder meeting is planned for late November 2022.

Activity 4.4: Completed. Responding to identified needs, in September 2022, 184 PFOA (90F, 94M) members across the three parishes received training in post-harvest crop handling. Agricultural crop seed (maize, beans, groundnuts) was purchased along with organic fertilisers and distributed to 171 PFOA members (91F, 80M) (**Annex 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e**).

Activity 4.11: Ongoing. Thirteen ginger farmers (2F,11M) across the three parishes were visited by project staff who assessed the performance of the different ginger fields and provided technical advice where it was required (**Annex 11c**). An additional 15 new ginger famers (11F,4M) were provided with training on ginger growing (**Annex 11b**) and each supported with two sacks of ginger seed for planting (**Annex 11a**).

Activity 4.12: Implementation of actions from the PMSD plan is ongoing. In July and August 2022, a total of 364 PFOA members (208F;156M) from 14 VSLA groups were trained in agroforestry practices, land use planning and reforestation techniques (**Annex 3a, 3b**).

Activity 4.13: In the previous reporting period, marketing committees were formed in the three focal parishes. Through the marketing committees and with FFI support, ginger farmers were linked to a private agribusiness company (Africa Spices Ltd) for the sale of ginger products. Over the period May-June 2022, 15 farmers sold ginger and earned a total revenue of 6m UGX (**Annex**

8b). In the coming season, farmers will give 5% of profits back to the PFOAs to support conservation related activities.

Activity 4.14: Completed in previous reporting period

Activity 4.15: Completed. In June 2022, 311 new VSLA members (176F, 135) from across the three PFOAs were trained in the VSLA methodology (**Annex 10**).

Activity 4.16: In May 2022, meetings were held with agribusiness companies (KK produce exporters, Tropical Dynasty fresh produce exporters, Altus Foods, and Jay Fortune Company) with the aim of linking ginger farmers to the buyers (**Annex 8c**). Two of the companies (Tropical Dynasty and Jay Fortune) confirmed interest in continuing engagement to explore value chains and agree next steps. An information sheet has been developed to help explore markets with international buyers. (**Annex 13**)

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.

Activity 5.1: Governance assessments are conducted annually. The final assessment will be completed in YR3 Q4; Activity 5.2: Completed.

Activity 5.3: In July 2022, Bulyango PFOA conducted an annual general meeting (AGM) in a timely fashion which was attended by 84 members (21F,63M). Delayed AGMs were a challenge previously identified in the governance assessments (**Annex 12a, 12b**).

Activity 5.4: Ongoing. Refer to Activity 1; Activity 5.5: Baseline established in YR1. End of project repeat survey planned for YR3 Q4; Activity 5.6 & 5.7: Planned for YR3 Q3/4.

2. 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 analysis of outcome-level monitoring data has highlighted some worrying trends in chimpanzee use of the Bugoma-Wambabya corridor. This data is based on voluntary community monitoring systems and, as such, has limitations but it is important to note the trends nonetheless and highlight the need for further investigation. Over period 2017-2020 (data from 2021/2022 still under analysis), chimpanzee sightings have become more clustered around areas nearer to the central forest reserves and less distributed throughout the corridor (**Annex 1**). During this period, there has been development of a road that bisects the corridor. This road is part of a suite of infrastructure development in the region, linked to oil exploration under the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Project (EACOP). Current data from households provides presence/absence of chimpanzees and shows an indication of the relationship between the timeline of the road development and chimpanzee distribution. In the next report, data from 2021 and 2022 will be included which shows additional information on number of chimpanzees seen per household rather than just presence/absence, thereby more accurately demonstrating the spatial distribution and densities of chimpanzee sightings relative to the road development. An ESIA was undertaken for EACOP, however it does not sufficiently provide for mitigation of the impact of road development on forest corridor connectivity. FFI's Corporate Sustainability team is supporting the project team to engage relevant private sector and civil society stakeholders to advocate for more comprehensive mitigation strategies.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS-LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: N/A

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance	N/A
Change request reference if known: N/A	

4a. 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: £

4b. 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 re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-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.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

N/A

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response 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 NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to BCF-Reports@niras.com. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**