

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	15-014
Project Title	Managing wetlands for sustainable livelihoods at Koshi Tappu, Nepal
Country(ies)	Nepal
UK Organisation	Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Collaborator(s)	CABI Bioscience, Stirling University, Bird Conservation Nepal, Tribhuvan University
Project Leader	<i>Seb Buckton</i>
Report date	<i>12th October 2007</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website	-

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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).

The period April-September 2007 constitutes the second half of Year 1 of the project. Below I outline progress against the agreed timetable for standard outputs for the project.

Output number 22: A suite of 30 study sites (fish ponds) was established throughout the buffer zone in April 2007, and basic hydrological monitoring has been carried out by local people since then. Water samples have been taken from each site and analysed for a range of pollutants.

6A, 6B: A field visit from 25/10/07-9/11/07 will incorporate training in participatory biodiversity surveys, which had been delayed due to the cancellation of the visit planned for March 07.

6A, 6B: The Nepalese project officer was due to receive training in the UK in July 2007; this has now been postponed until a later date due to the cancellation of the March 2007 trip. Budget has been carried forward to this end.

6A, 6B: One of the actions highlighted in the Community Action Plans (see below) involved developing a training programme in mat weaving techniques for those fishing communities that do not have an alternative source of income. Pilot training activities have been carried out and are being evaluated. This will inform training to be carried out in Year 2.

8: The Community Action Plans that resulted from the wetland socio-economic valuation workshops reported on in the first Annual Report, has been finalised and approved by the Action Plan Committees.

8: Wetland tenure surveys were carried out in April and May 2007, during which 270 ponds were identified and their ownership ascertained.

8: The project officer has been consulting with community groups and stakeholders over participatory biodiversity monitoring. Participatory biodiversity surveys training will be undertaken during the field visit from 25/10/07-9/11/07 and reported on in the next annual report.

8: Learning needs assessment will be undertaken during the field visit from 25/10/07-9/11/07

and reported on in the next annual report.

8: Invasive species management surveys will be undertaken during the field visit from 25/10/07-9/11/07 and reported on in the next annual report.

8: Fisheries management surveys have been on-going, carried out by the project officer and a Masters student from Tribhuvan University (one of the project partners). A questionnaire survey was undertaken to ascertain the hydrological conditions required for aquaculture, and observations have been made of fishery practices.

15B, 19C: Press releases planned for Nepal in March 2007 were not made due to the cancellation of the March visit and associated political instability in Nepal.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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.

Continued agitation in areas of the Terai have at time hindered the work of the project officer, mainly due to difficulties in travelling around the site. Although this led to some delays in finalising the Community Action Plans, these have not significantly affected the timetable and have not effected the budget during this period.

Major monsoonal flooding occurred throughout Nepal in July and August, which made travel impossible during this period. However, difficulties associated with the monsoon were expected and limited activity was planned during this period anyway.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Issues were discussed prior to submission of the Annual Report and were outlined in that report. No additional issues have been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat relevant to this reporting period.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

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

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.

NOTE: A response to the annual report review was requested earlier and was submitted to ECTF in May 2007

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**