Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	18-003
Project Title	Supporting Indigenous and local organisations to implement CBD Article 10 (c)
Country(ies)	Bangladesh, Cameroon,Guyana, Indonesia, Panama, Suriname, Thailand
UK Organisation	Forest Peoples Programme
Collaborator(s)	Unnayan Onneshan (UO), Association OKANI, South Central People Development Association (SCPDA) , Institut Dayakology, Fundacion para la Promocion del Conocimiento Indigena (FPIC), Stichting VIDS / Organisation of Kalina and Lokono Peoples in Marowijne (KLIM), Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand Association (IMPECT)
Project Leader	*Maurizio Farhan Ferrari*
Report date	*30.10.10*
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	*HYR 1*
Project website	*n/a*

---

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).

See attached.

---

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.

None

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

N/A

Discussed with LTS: no/yes, in……… (month/yr) N/A

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in……….(month/yr) N/A

Received confirmation of change acceptance   no/yes in…………(month/yr) N/A

---

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

        No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £   N/A

---

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

Not at this stage, but will the financial information required for the Annual Report be more than that indicated in the Annual Report form on the website (i.e how much detail is required?)?

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.

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

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**

Supporting Indigenous and local organisations to implement CBD Article 10 (c) – progress update	
Activity	**Carried out**
Capacity-building activities for local institutions in their capacity to interface with regional, national, and international agencies in asserting and maintaining their rights (including right to FPIC)	This project element has focussed on facilitating meetings of traditional authorities and networks to discuss communal concerns and develop collaborative strategies to respond to these, and to improve awareness on issues that impact on the traditional territory and as such on the customary management of these areas.
1.1 capacity-building training for indigenous and local community organisations dealing with forest peoples' rights, biodiversity, participation in policy-making, FPIC	**Suriname:** In Suriname, the village leaders and representatives of women and youth organizations in Marowijne are following a 4-year "Indigenous rights training and capacity building programme". This year is the third year and between April and September 2 trainings were carried out within the framework of this
1.2 facilitate development of local teams able to effectively engage in local, national and international processes dealing with issues above	programme. One of the trainings was primarily focussed on improving communication skills and was facilitated by an experienced communication trainer from the Netherlands. This followed a long existing request from the traditional authorities to improve their internal and external communication skills. For
1.3 local partners effectively engage in forest peoples' rights and biodiversity issues and processes at local and national level	instance, exercises addressed how the KLIM (the organisation of Kalina and Lokono peoples) can have more effective meetings, and share information with their constituencies in a better way. Other parts of the training addressed the issue of bringing economic development in indigenous communities, making use of examples from the USA and Canada. The training also addressed the development of a village year plan and budget, and the development of an FPIC protocol. After national elections in May 2010, the KLIM discussed and assessed the opportunities of the new political situation and government, and how to address implementation of indigenous rights with the new government. The leaders also discussed the strategy to introduce and present the land management plan (see also 3) in the villages and explain about what can be achieved with it, and how to involve everyone. **Guyana** Sixty-five Toshaos (traditional leaders), senior councillors, councillors, head teachers, health workers and resource people from south central Rupunnuni communities attended a presentation on 'what is climate change' with emphasis on technical terms. The government of Guyana is getting heavily involved in climate change mitigation financing projects, and these may have major impacts on the customary management in the areas used and occupied by the Wapichan peoples. Local individuals trained in this area will be visiting all communities to carry out awareness sessions. An FPIC document has been developed during a joint meeting with all community leaders, this will be reviewed by the project lawyer before it will be shared with the government.

Meetings were facilitated of the South Central District Toshao Council (10 communities in south central Rupunnini) and of the South District Toshao Council (7 communities from south Rupunnuni).The DTC meetings address communal land and resource management issues. They also serve as an important forum where Toshaos and senior councillors can interact with each other and make collective decisions. Some outputs:

- A letter to the ministry of Amerindian Affairs about concerns of the Toshaos regarding Brazilian rustlers crossing into Guyana.
- Agreement to urgently develop a Rupunnuni river management plan to address decreasing fish stock.
- Several communities applied for extension of land titles, others are still in application process. Follow up with ministry of Amerindian Affairs ongoing.

Thailand
The project facilitated meetings and workshops of organizations and networks involved in the co-management of the Ob Luang National Park, such as watershed networks, women networks, community conservation networks, the Chomthong Highland Women's Conservation Network and the Hmong Women's Network.

Cameroon
Many capacity building workshops were held in Baka communities to increase their knowledge about forest and climate change policies and practices in Cameroon and Baka peoples' rights. Ten Baka representatives were trained in the use of hand-held GPS systems and learned how to enter and process GPS data into Google Maps. They mapped areas within the traditional territory where large-scale illegal logging is taking place and where the forest is being degraded. These maps are used to address the problem with the forest authorities (see also 2, 4 and 5).

Bangladesh:
Two community cooperatives were formed (fishermen and *mouals*) and one community-based organisation (Munda). This helps to create more cohesion and collaboration among resource users and strengthens their position. Together they raise funds to purchase communal equipment. A communal boat is necessary to get a Boat Licensing Certificate, which is a requirement to get a government permit to enter the Sundarbans forest and collect resources. As this is a Reserve Forest, entrance is subject to permit licensing, and only people with a boat can get a permit (see also 4 and 5).

Panama
Joint meetings of indigenous leaders of the Kuna and Naso peoples were facilitated. There was also participation in the General Kuna Congress, the highest Kuna authority, where FPCI raised climate change and forest issues. Also a Kuna Women Congress on Biodiversity and Climate change was organised, intended to build women's capacity on this issue. It focussed on adaptation and mitigation

	and their potential impacts on women, children and traditional knowledge. Also educational material was developed focussing on the issue of climate change to strengthen the knowledge of the indigenous peoples of Panama on this issue.
Documenting customary sustainable management systems 2.1 Community consultations for documenting customary sustainable management systems 2.2 community researchers carry out studies and produce reports 2.3 community validation workshops 2.4 studies publishing and dissemination	This project element has focused on collecting information of customary resource use in traditional territories, such as mapping or videoing. It also focussed on the transfer of traditional knowledge and practices related to sustainable use of biodiversity to younger generations. This was identified by the communities as a very important initiative to maintain the vitality of customary sustainable use, as mainstream education often forces foreign language and cultures on indigenous children, which leads to loss of important biodiversity- related knowledge and language. In **Cameroon** a participatory video was finalised, based on Google Maps, which points out Baka customary use locations and resources in areas overlapped by a forest reserve. The Wapichan communities in **Guyana** received printed copies of their territorial map. In **Bangladesh**, a video was made about customary sustainable resource use in the Sundarbans. Several workshops were also conducted, led by experienced traditional resource users, to transmit and share traditional knowledge and customary practices related to sustainable resource use, for instance on honey collection, wood and *golpata* (Nipah palm) collection. **Thailand:** Several traditional activities were carried out, which were partly aimed to engage younger people so that they would learn from them. For instance, Karen indigenous forest fire management activities were carried out, using rituals to ordain firebreaks. They also performedaquatic animal conservation rituals and indigenous headwater resource forest conservation rituals. Specific activities were also carried out to transmit and pass down knowledge about biodiversity and associated skills to children and youth in community cultural centers; these included weaving, basket-making, and other indigenous technologies that are used in everyday life. **Suriname** started with a pilot project to train teachers on the use of a bilingual (Dutch and Kalina) math method. The community resource map made by the KLIM is being digitalised. **Joint** A 10(c) synthesis report, summarising the country case studies on customary sustainable use (including threats and proposed solutions) was developed to use at the 14th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Technical and Technological Advice of the CBD (SBSTTA-14) and in preparation for COP-10. (see also 7).

Developing plans / proposals for community-based management and/or effective co-management	Community management or co-management is important in relation to access and use of resources that indigenous peoples and local communities customarily use. Under this project element, the partners are developing their own resource management plans, or work towards more equitable co-management.
3.1 Draft methodologies for development of community based management plans (CBMP) or co-management approaches	**Guyana** A meeting was organised between the communities of Potarinao, Shulinab, Parikwarinao and Baitoon to negotiate agreements over shared resource areas and draft rules to govern the use of these areas. These communities share large areas in the north western part of the Wapichan territory. The meeting identified these overlapping territories and developed agreements that clarify under whose jurisdiction these areas fall, what kind of activities take place in each of them, and put in place proper rules on how these activities should be carried out.
3.2 Community consultations for development of CBMP or CM approaches	
3.3 Development of CBMP or CM approaches	
	In relation to a proposed protected area overlapping the Wapichan territory (Kanuku mountains National Park), a 'Kanuku Mountains Community Representative Group' (KMCRG) has been registered. Their first project is to facilitate the development of a Community Development Plan for Katoka and Sand Creek.
	Thailand In Thailand, demarcation of agricultural land and community forest boundaries was carried out. The communities have their own clear land use boundaries and regulations and these were used as baseline data in field maps that are used to negotiate community land use and access with government agencies.
	In **Suriname**, the village leaders of the 8 indigenous villages involved in the project have held a first round of brainstorm sessions in their respective villages to introduce the land management plan, addressing: what is means, why it is important, and to start collecting ideas for input and ways forward to develop it. Two representatives per village have been selected, who will receive further training on land management planning and who will take on the lead on this process.
	In **Bangladesh**, our partners are working on a project called 'participatory survey model to identify the real forest users in the Sundarbans' (Parmorec). The problematic situation in the Sundarbans is that it is a reserve forest by law, and that anyone who wants to enter the forest to collect resources has to receive a permit. However, due to corruption, the real forest-dependent people who customarily use the resources fail to get a permit, while influential outsiders get a permit and harvest resources in an irresponsible way for commercial purposes. In the Parmorec study, data are collected to determine who the real traditional forest users are.

	Between April and September, a lot ofdata were collected to feed into the study (for instance frequency of use, type of resource use, dependency on resources, level of knowledge, etc). These results are used to lobby the Forest Department to ensure that the real forest users get the permits, and also to address more secure access and user rights. Ultimately, it aims to advocate for co-management or even community management of certain parts of the Sundarbans.
Community-based biodiversity monitoring (CBBM) 4.1 CBBM training (5-10 days training sessions on CBBM methods) 4.2 CBBM activities at community level 4.3 CBBM reports and dissemination	In **Cameroon,** the Baka have mapped areas within the traditional territory where large-scale illegal logging is taking place and where the forest is degraded (monitoring forest vitality). These maps are used to address the problem with the forest authorities. **Bangladesh**: resource mapping of vulnerable areas in the Sundarbans has been carried out; elders or experienced resource users collaborated to point out the areas that are most vulnerable to flooding and other threats. These are used for advocacy with the Forest Department, who often have a different view on the vulnerable areas and therefore don't direct appropriate action (in certain cases they ban access to the wrong places). A pilot project was done related of CBBM of fish species: traditional fishers received materials with images of all fish species in the Sundarbans and were tasked to count them, document the habitats, etc, because they know the locations and behaviour of the fish the best. This monitoring results in a better view of the status of possibly threatened species. In **Suriname**: very preliminary steps have been taken to investigate the possibilities of setting up a biological research and monitoring station/training centre in the Wanekreek Nature Reserve. A start has also been made with a community-based research on local climate change impacts and responses in the two villages that are located on the Atlantic Coast. In **Panama**, fieldwork was carried out to analyze and diagnose problems related to communities and ecosystems which are vulnerable to climate change, combining methods of physical geography, ecology, sociology and traditional knowledge. Formal and informal interviews were carried out with community members, lobstermen, fishermen, researchers and farmers. Literature review was done to produce an analysis that describes the effects of climate change on the ecosystems but also on the sociocultural and economic systems of the Kuna peoples (and, as such, on their customary systainable use of these ecosystems). There was a focus on the ecosystems of sandy islands (reef islands formed by sand and the remains of coral reef systems). These islands in Kuna Yala are managed by the Kuna people, who derive benefits mostly coconut and tourism. These sandy islands are starting to face erosion of the beaches caused by

	a possible rise in sea level. This has negative impacts on the biodiversity and traditional Kuna's management of the islands. A further rise in sea levels would greatly undermine the natural systems and and the economy, food security and culture of the region. Another focus was on changes in the mangrove swamps in the coastal flood plain and transit zones (drying up of mangroves). In addition to the analysis of vulnerable ecosystems, a biological inventory of flora and fauna in the vulnerable ecosystems was carried out. Some species have been already identified.
Advocacy: promote policy, legal and institutional reforms for an effective implementation of Article 10(c) 5.1 carry out legal, policy and institutional analysis concerning what reform is needed in order to effectively implement Article 10(c) 5.2 presentations, meetings and workshops with/for governments and other relevant parties 5.3 engage with governments and other relevant parties to effect required legal, policy and institutional reform	**Thailand:** IMPECT organised a workshop on "Indigenous and Tribal People and Participatory Management of Protected Areas". They also organised a workshop on Community Resource Mapping. In these workshops, partner organizations learned about and better understood indigenous natural resources management in accordance with the principles of the CBD. **Cameroon**: the Baka resource use maps (mentioned above) were used to address forest degradation and illegal logging, which are threatening customary resource use of Baka people in their territories . **Bangladesh**: The outcomes of the resource mapping of vulnerable areas in the Sundarbans (see previous project element) were used in discussions with the Forest Department to advocate for more appropriate and effective actions. Also, as was addressed under 3, the results gathered through the Parmorec survey are used to demonstrate to the government (Forest Department) who the real resource users are, and advocate for a more fair and equitable system of permit issuance. In **Suriname**, a new government was elected in May 2010. This new government is more open to indigenous peoples' rights and issues. Two indigenous leaders are now in the parliament. The KLIM, and national organisation VIDS, have held many meetings with the new government to discuss indigenous issues and to provide input for new policies. In **Panama**, a protocol on access to genetic resources was developed. This protocol represents the first nationwide initiative that promotes protection of access to genetic resources of indigenous peoples. Also, an updated overview of Panama's laws on forests, protected areas, biodiversity and climate change was produced.
Raising public awareness, both nationally and internationally, of these efforts and outcomes	
6.1 Dissemination of project information and its	In **Thailand**, data were compiled about herbal medicines and indigenous health care knowledge, and

outcomes through web sites, e-newsletters, radio interviews, videos and short films, TV (if possible), community discussions, arts contests	media materials were produced to disseminate information and increase knowledge about it. IMPECT participated in several (inter)national workshops, such as with the Asian Community Forest Global Network, World Environment Day in Chiang Mai, and meetings to present the work IMPECT is doing within the Community Mapping Project to other indigenous networks. At each of these meetings, the experiences and concepts of natural resources management were presented, as well as the use of community maps to address various problems. IMPECT also participated in a meeting with UN experts on violations of the rights of indigenous and tribal people and presented the case of the Hmong and Karen in Chomthong District that have been arrested and had compensation money demanded of them by the government for 'causing hotter weather'.
6.2 public discussions on biodiversity and forest peoples at local and national level	
6.3 dissemination of project outcome is international arena (CBD and other processes, e.g. CITES, CMS, Ramsar, UNFF)	
	In **Bangladesh**, UO published a report on the impact of natural disasters in the Sundarbans on the lives and livelihoods of the local traditional resource users (an assessment of the situation one year after cyclone Aila hit the Sundarbans). They also publisheda quarterly national biodiversity newsletter (CBD Watch). They also established a Sundarbans resource centre, which compiles information relevant to Sundarbans and its people, and published articles in national and local newspapers.
	In **Suriname**, a model village constitution was developed some time ago, as an outcome of a multi-year community project to strengthen traditional governance. This model regulation has now been developed into a little booklet, with a nice lay-out, so that it can be shared with other indigenous communities in Suriname and serve as an example. The KLIM has developed a new logo which is used in all correspondence and outreach.
	In **Panama**, the radio show "Paths of Biodiversity", has played a unique role in disseminating information not only among the indigenous population, but also among general national public. It focusses on issues such as climate change, forests, human rights, biodiversity, REDD+, culture, tourism, intercultural bilingual education, etc.
	In **Bangladesh**, the video about customary sustainable use of resources in the Sundarbans has been widely disseminated and made available online, and has also been shown during several events.
	Joint: FPP has developed a new website, which will be much more effective in outreach to the public (including space for videos and blogs). Between April and September, we have sent out 2 Enewsletters, which reach a large and diverse audience. This Enews has also discussed customary sustainable use developments in the CBD, reporting on the SBSTTA14 meeting, and looking ahead to the CBD COP10.
	The 10c synthesis report was also attached to the newsletter, posted online, and widely disseminated at

	the SBTTA-14 meeting. A presentation was prepared for SBSSTA-14 on what customary sustainable use is, what challenges the communities face in relation to these practices, what they are doing themselves to address these challenges and enhance implementation of Article 10(c), and to provide recommendations to the SBSTTA. We also contributed articles on 10(c) to the ECO Newsletter that is disseminated daily at CBD meetings.
Linking project activities and outputs to international processes on 10(c)	**Joint** FPP and partners attended SBSTTA-14 in Nairobi, where we worked hard to get sufficient attention on 10(c) under the 'review implementation Article 10'. In opening and other statements we pointed out the obstacles in relation to 10(c) and what can be done to address these. The recommendations were based on the community-based country studies. Important aspects included the important linkages between secure land tenure and customary sustainable use. After the SBSTTA, we started to prepare for the COP-10.
7.1 Feed experiences on implementation of Article 10(c) at the local and national level to international discussion on 10c in the CBD	
7.2 Partner organisations effectively participate in CBD meetings related to Article 10(c) by presenting outcome of local projects and engage in international policy-making	During side-events, the team presented their work on 10(c), and also a side-event on the implementation of programme element 2 of the programme of work on protected areas, which focuses on governance, participation, equity and benefit-sharing, was held to explain about the communities' experiences and initiatives.
7.3 Progress in the international arena is used to inform further action at the national and local level	In Nairobi FPP also co-organised a workshop with the IIFB working group on Indicators. COP10 will adopt 2 new indicators on indigenous well-being under the multi-year programme of work on article 8(j). One of these focuses on changes in land use and land security, the other one on changes in traditional occupations. One of the methodologies for measuring these indicators is community mapping. The 10(c) team shared their experiences on mapping and also exchanged information with other communities, and contributed to the discussions on these indicators. In **Cameroon** meetings were held in 15 Baka villages to inform them of the upcoming COP10 meeting and to seek their input on various issues, and to prepare information to be shared in side-events.