

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No	19-021
Project Title	Values and valuation: new approaches to conservation in Mongolia
Country(ies)	Mongolia
Lead Organisation	University of Leicester, UK
Collaborator(s)	UK: Plan Vivo/ Bioclimate; (plus International Wildlife Consultants (IWC) - not receiving Darwin funds). Mongolia: Mongolian Society for Rangeland Management (MSRM); Mongolian State University of Agriculture; Centre for Ecosystem Studies, Mongolian Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Mongolian Nature Protection Civil Movement Coalition, (Mongolian Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism –now Ministry of Nature, Environment and Green Development – not receiving Darwin funds).
Project Leader	Dr Caroline Upton
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	30 October 2013 (HYR2)
Project website	http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/geography/research/projects/darwin/values-and-valuation

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).

The project remains on track against the agreed timetable (Section 18 of the Project Document). Specifically, since the first annual report in March 2013, the following activities have been completed in accordance with the timetable:

Activity 1.3: fieldwork activities relating to mapping of key ecosystem service (ES) with local herding communities completed at all study sites i.e. Ikh Tamir, Bogd, Undurshireet and Ulziit *soums*. Within each of these *soums* (districts) work was undertaken with three herder groups (*heseg*), typically of between 5-30 households. In total the team completed ES identification and mapping exercises with some 200 herder households. This was complemented by 10 herder group workshops, and by activities under 1.4, below.

Activity 1.4: ranking and valuation exercises were completed with the same herder households and groups as above. These included conjoint analysis/ choice modelling; group-based deliberative approaches, and participatory photography and video. Existing economic data for key ES was also collated in each area and through discussion with local officials.

Activity 1.5: data from Activities 1.3 and 1.4 has been collated and is undergoing analysis. This work includes construction and use of SOLVES database for spatial exploration and quantification of social values for ecosystem services – the first application of this approach in Mongolia. IDRISI software is also being deployed as part of choice modelling and analysis.

Activity 2.1: Completed for original 3 PES groups, plus new herder group in Bogd *soum*.

Activity 2.2: As above, based on herder group/ *heseg* existing organisational structure and constitution. To be signed off as part of the Plan Vivo process through final PIN (see Annual Report), Project Design Document (PDD) and Validation Report (Activity 2.5 – due by 30/6/14).

Activity 2.3: Technical specification has been developed, based on fieldwork, soil and vegetation analysis in summer 2013 and Year 1 of project. To be approved by Plan Vivo through PDD and Validation Report (Activity 2.5) and as part of PV process.

Activity 3.1: Completed as part of Activities 1.3 and 1.4.

Activity 3.2: Completed. Livelihood indicators have been established, based on the extensive socio –economic database (Activity 3.3). Biodiversity indicators have been developed based on extensive rangeland vegetation surveys at all study sites (see attached for comments on fauna).

Activity 3.3: Socio economic surveys now completed for >320 households, complemented by participatory indicators developed and applied during Activities 1.3 and 1.4.
Activity 3.4: Extensive rangeland vegetation surveys have been completed at all study sites. See overleaf for comments on fauna.
Activities 4.2 & 4.5: Ongoing throughout project. Since April 2013 a book chapter has been submitted based on the Cambridge University meeting 'Geopolitics and Mongolia's Natural Resource Strategy' (as referred to in Annual Report, Section 9).

2a. 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.

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/ <u>No</u>	(N/A)
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/ <u>No</u>	(N/A)
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/ <u>No</u>	(N/A)

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

Yes No

3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible through the formal Change Request process. However, it would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication now 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?

No – not on the basis of work in the last 6 months. Responses to biodiversity issues raised in the feedback on the 1st Annual Report are attached.

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 through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report 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**