

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	019-24
<b>Project Title</b>	Enhancing the relationship between people and pollinators in Eastern India
<b>Country(ies)</b>	India, UK
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust, UK
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Calcutta University, India; Exeter University, UK; Inspiral pathways (previously John Mauremootoo Consulting), UK
<b>Project Leader</b>	Barbara Smith
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR3)</b>	HYR2 31 October 2013
<b>Project website</b>	www.cpscu.in

**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).**

Here are our activities against the Logframe.

Activity	No of Months	Year 2 as in logframe				Year 2 actual				Notes
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<b>Governance</b>										
1.1 a. Project start-up , capital items purchased, b. 1 Post-doc Project manager, 2 Research fellows, 4 Field assistants appointed c. 2 advisors appointed d. Field stations set - up. Advisor accommodation secured (outside project timeframe but if go-ahead given some early preparation will take place)	2									
1.2a Partner meetings in host country	<1									
1.2b Partner meetings in UK	<1				x					

Training											
2.1	MSc students trained in taxonomy and research techniques (3 per year)	12		x	x			✓			We have started a new certificate course in 'Pollination biology and agro-ecosystems' for MSc students. This course and the curriculum is certified by Calcutta University and is an additional qualification to the MSc. Students have the option of joining this course and this year 11 students have enrolled. The 5 top scoring students will have an opportunity to undertake a piece of guided research which will support the CPS research output and also be a good research training for the students.
2.2	a. Farmers trained in pollinator survey and recording (12 per year) b. In years 2 and 3 farmers from the previous year will help with training	8		x	x			✓			15 farmers have been trained to carry out long-term monitoring and are currently setting and collecting the pan-traps on their own sites in Tripura. They are overseen by Field Assistants (FA) and Research Fellows (RF). In Orissa three farmers have been trained as part of their role as 'Farmer

											Coordinator' and these individuals are now engaged in training farmers to emulate the exemplary model established in Tripura. An individual who has been appointed to take on the role of overseeing the coordinators will be trained so that he can quality control the cascading of knowledge. In the meantime the RF and PDRF are closely involved. Work in Orissa is likely to be disrupted by the recent cyclone which hit our project area directly, flooding the field station and destroying crops and our experimental garden.
2.3	Research fellows trained and CPS staff trained in long-term monitoring methods and data management	6	x	x			✓	✓			RF and FA have been trained and are carrying out long-term monitoring. They are now engaging the farmers though simple training workshops.
2.4	CPS training: Taxonomy, experimental pollination ecology	3			x						
2.5	Workshops for children	1			x						
<b>Survey and Monitoring</b>											
3.1	a. Long-term monitoring strategy devised and plots/transects identified b. Permanent gourd plots set-up	2									

<p>3.2 a. Field surveys on farm and in surrounding area b. Pollinator visitors to permanent gourd plots recorded c. Gourd yield recorded</p>	6	X	x	x	x	x	✓	✓			<p>Field surveys are underway. Once on the ground it was evident that rotational practices prevented a permanent plot but we are recording yield from fields on each farm in each year. As we are working at the farm scale this is an equivalent surrogate.</p>
<b>Research at CPS</b>											
<p>4.1 Research questions refined</p>	2	x					✓				<p>Research questions are being refined, the basic research programmes are in place but each protocol is responsive and is adapted where necessary.</p>
<p>4.2 a. Experimental work initiated b. Pollination ecology experimental work c. Testing beehive utility at CPS d. Testing beehive utility in the field e. Testing native floral strips to benefit pollinators (at CPS) f. Testing native floral strips to benefit pollinators (in the field)</p>	27	x	x	x	x		✓	✓			<p>Experimental work and pollination ecology work are initiated. Beehives are now being tested in a field scenario only. We have identified an experimental area in the field that is suitable.</p> <p>The floral strips will not be tested this year as we are currently surveying natural vegetation to confirm candidate plan species.</p>

<b>Advisory</b>											
5.1	a. Advisor in place b. Advisor attending all training courses c. Advisor engaging with farming community	36	x	x	x	x	✓	✓			Advisors (under the new structure outline in the 2012 Annual Report) are receiving training and are engaging with the farming community.
<b>Data management analysis</b>											
6.1	Data-base for long term data established	2									
6.2	Data-base for research projects established	2									
6.3	Data-base of long-term data made public	<1									
6.5	Data analysis	12			x	x					
6.6	Data integration and final analysis of all data	3									
<b>Community participation</b>											
7.1	Annual 'celebration' at each field site (6)	<1				x					
7.2	a. Feedback sessions with farmers b. Farmer visit to CPS	<1			x	x					
<b>Reporting against milestones</b>											
8.1	Quarterly teleconference between research partners	<1	x	x	x	x	✓	✓			Teleconferences take place on a regular basis, at least twice a month.
8.2	a. Annual report to Darwin Initiative b. Final report to Darwin Initiative	3				x					
<b>Dissemination</b>											
9.1	a. Press releases b. Newsletter articles	1				x					
9.2	a. Scientific publications submitted b. Conferences attended	N/A			x	x					
<b>Project wrap-up</b>											
10.1	Integration and final analysis of all survey data, completion of specimen databases, results on webpages, final deposition of specimens in CPS collection and duplicates in other collections,	3									

	writing of conservation assessments and recommendations										
10.2	Formal handover of all equipment, databases etc.	<1									

**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.**

There have been some changes in the way the Rural staff are organised. We have changed because we found that the structure we wanted to introduce did not fit well with the socio-economic situation that we found in reality. Therefore, in Tripura, we have a single Rural Advisor who is a senior member of staff in the Agriculture Dept. He is very helpful to us in mainstreaming our project outcomes into policy but he is unable to be on the ground day-to-day. He understands this is a limitation and to counter this he has deputed a more junior member of staff to act on his behalf. He has a very good line of communication and we are happy with this. We have also employed a third field assistant in Tripura to help make sure that the project runs smoothly. I have visited Tripura and it looks good.

In Orissa the situation was very different. The farming community is more fragmented and farmers have local affiliations. We therefore have engaged farmers to carry out the work of the advisors. To do this effectively we have engaged a 'Farmer co-ordinator' who is well educated and oversees three locally influential farmers who in-turn coordinate the local farmers in their area. The Co-ordinator and the three key farmers are paid and share the salary of the Rural Advisor. We did initially employ a senior single individual in the role but it was unworkable in reality and this is the preferred model in this region. I am visiting Orissa on my next visit.

A cyclone recently affected our project area in Orissa but it is too early to know the real impact of this. Certainly one of our students has lost his experimental fields and a lot of live experiments were destroyed.

It has come to my notice while doing the budgets for this year that there was an error on the original application which means there are some unallocated funds. I would like to use these to increase the amount of time the project partners are able to spend together and have submitted

a change request outlining this.

James Cresswell of Exeter University is currently away from the project due to ill health. I expect him to return to the project asap. If his ill health is extended he has agreed that we should use his salary to pay a consultant to advise us where necessary. I have not yet spoken to LTS about this as we are hoping that James will be well very soon. However, I flag it up here as he has now been away from the project since July.

I have two further concerns.

- 1) 6 farmer festivals has proved to be too ambitious. In reality the PhD students end up doing a lot of the work for this and I think it would be more realistic to aim for two in each region (4 a year). In practice there is a lot more contact with farmers than we anticipated. Last year we managed two in Orissa and none in Tripura as the window was filled with elections (and our students were forbidden to enter the region due to potential unrest). Hopefully in year 3 we can increase the number again.
- 2) As the first year of the project was a set-up year I have doubts that any PhD theses will actually be submitted within three years. In addition the cyclone has now destroyed several experimental areas in Orissa which will out back at least one student to the beginning of his field trials. However I would expect to be able to see sufficient work that we could ascertain whether the students were likely to submit successfully and confirm that they are achieving a good standard. I would expect to have some official confirmation from the University that the students are on track and I also expect them to have submitted some work for publication to a journal.

**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 – the financial issues around the OH

Formal change request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

**3a. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your**

<b>budget for this year?</b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>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.</b> 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 carry forward request:     £
<b>4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</b>

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](mailto: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**