



Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No 22-004

Project Title Collaborative Conflict Management for Community Livelihoods and Conservation

Country(ies) Mongolia, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan

Lead Organisation University of Aberdeen

Collaborator(s) Snow Leopard Trust (SLT), Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)

Project Leader Dr. Steve Redpath, Chair in Conservation Science, University of Aberdeen

Report date and number (e.g., HYR3) 30 October 2016, HYR2

Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc NA

Funder (DFID/Defra) Defra

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 to end September).

In red are the agreed baselines from our timetable for Q1 and Q2, with progress towards each:

1. Field implementers work with community leaders to agree suite of conservation programmes, sign new/update existing conservation contracts. We are now working with 47 communities (our Outcome was 'participatory interventions in 47 communities'). At the end of YR1, field implementers were working with 40 representative programme communities (32 Mongolia, 5 Pakistan, 3 Kyrgyzstan). Conservation Contracts have been renewed/maintained for all 40 communities. Seven completely new communities have joined and signed Conservation Contracts. Currently, we have 9 communities engaged in multiple programmes, compared to 7 at end of YR1. Worth noting is that 4 of the 7 from YR1 have increased from having two active schemes to three active schemes.

2. Field implementers secure materials, communities secure labour and corrals constructed in relevant communities.

We currently have a total of 20 corrals, over our initial baseline of 14. This includes 6 new corrals built in the past 6 months in Mongolia. In Pakistan, 2 corrals are underway—completion of one corral started in YR1, and a second corral started in YR2. In Kyrgyzstan, 14 households have expressed interest in corrals; we will follow-up and begin construction in November 2016.

3. SLCF, SLFK and SLGP distribute seed money into community fund to jumpstart insurance schemes in relevant communities. In total, we now have 11 communities involved in insurance programmes, up from 8 in YR1. In Mongolia, membership in insurance programmes went up from 35 to 48 households. Herder premiums were paid and collated in July 2016. SLCF has disbursed 2,536,590 MNT (~890 GBP) in seeds monies into community insurance funds. In Pakistan, we have increased membership from 66 to 111 households. SLF has pledged to provide seed grant of 300,000PKR (~2300 GBP) for each site while registration fee per participating household and premium per animal was also agreed with the communities. Of this, SLF has currently provided 25% of the seed grant to each community during the reporting period.

4. Orders (O) for handicrafts placed by SLT via field implementers; field implementers collect products twice/yr and bring to SLCF, SLFK, SLFP headquarters to ship (S) to SLT for distribution

Over the past six months, 29,267 handicrafts were produced by herders (21,127 Mongolia, 1085 Pakistan, 7055 Kyrgyzstan); collected by project partners; and shipped to SLT. Over 320 herders made crafts worth over 25,000 GBP. Average earning per household was roughly 83 GBP.

5. Baseline (yr 1) and final yr (yr 3) survey data collected in sample of communities on livestock losses, income and attitudes.

A total of 55 community surveys have been completed (across representative and control sites). Baseline community surveys have been done in representative and control sites in Mongolia and Pakistan. Kyrgyzstan has completed baseline community surveys in representative sites, and will complete baseline surveys in control sites in November.

6. Field implementers hold meetings for community representatives to convey skills in and discuss programme management/implementation skills (accounting, wool processing, sales and marketing).

Mongolia: 8 members of the team attended the PARTNERS Principles training in YR1. In order to build confidence of community members to manage and run livestock insurance programs, in July 2016 SLCF held a livestock insurance meeting to review the program. They provided a financial accounting and budgeting training for 6 livestock insurance leaders and township community leaders. Pakistan: 7 members of the team attended the PARTNERS Principles training in YR1. Since that time, they have been meeting with all programme communities on a monthly basis to apply skills, check accounts, check financial management in YR1. They also have walked through some of the PARTNERS Principles skills with community leadership, e.g. how to improve working relations with their community members. Kyrgyzstan: 3 members of the team attended the PARTNERS Principles training in YR1. No formal training or workshops have been held yet by the Kyrgyzstan team, however they have used handicraft purchasing trips to review programme management and implementation with 3 communities.

7. Local champions are identified and sensitized in programme communities through meetings with SLCF, SLFK and SLFP field implementers and toolkit.

At the end of YR1, 32 local champions had been identified. This is now up to 37. In Mongolia, the toolkit for champions is being translated and their aim is to finalize by end of October 2016. The SLCF team has been using visits to handicraft communities to meet with champions, introduce them to the conservation programs active in the local area, make sure they understand these programs, and introduce them to local governors so they can collaborate in the future. In Pakistan, the team aims to hold a training for champions in early 2017. Since there are so few communities in Kyrgyzstan, SLFK has met individually with champions. They have shared toolkit materials and looking at different ways to further distil and package.

8. Sustained interaction with local champions, including documentation by SLCF, SLFK, SLFP field implementers of their conservation awareness activities.

All countries have begun informally meeting with champions, and we are in the process of developing and translating a tracking sheet to document champion interactions. Partners are also in the process of setting strategies for ways to engage with champions in 2017 (e.g. prioritizing what information to share and how best to share it).

9. Any killing of snow leopards and wild ungulates recorded Yrs 1-3.

No records of poaching have so far been recorded directly in representative communities in Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, or Pakistan. However the SLF team in Pakistan received report of a snow leopard killed in the larger Hoper-Hisper landscape, District Nagarm; Hoper-Hisper being one of our representative landscapes. Our camera trapping team visited the location during the study but didn't find any hard evidence that confirms the killing. However, a senior official of the wildlife department endorsed the report.

10. Snow leopard abundance surveys in representative programme and control landscapes undertaken in Yr 1 and Yr 3 through camera trapping

In Mongolia & Pakistan, snow leopard surveys are complete. In Kyrgyzstan, snow leopard surveys are completed for the control sites. Cameras for the representative sites were placed in October and will be collected in December.

11. Photo-identification, data compilation and analyses by partners

Identification and analysis is underway, but not yet complete. As mentioned above, some cameras are still out in the field. We are adjusting the timeline to reflect this.

2a. 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.

Uptake of the livestock insurance programme model has been slower than expected. We originally planned to expand the programme by at least 6 communities; at the moment, we have expanded by 3. Community leaders are interested but in some cases, found it difficult to mobilize community members to pay the necessary premiums for livestock. Instead communities have opted for other programme options. In contrast, corrals have expanded much more quickly than anticipated, in part because they are more visible and have instant returns in the form of visible sense of security. Also, the initial community outlay for corrals is labour, not cash. Because of this, we will likely require less Darwin investment in insurance seed money in YR2 than anticipated and would like to update our indicators to better reflect this on-ground reality. Although we have more costs for corrals, we have been able to secure match funding to assist with this.

Relatedly, we have also experienced a slower increase in the number of communities with multiple conservation schemes than anticipated. This is partly because we have been focused on trying to expand insurance. Our aim is >20 communities with multi-pronged programmes by end of YR3; right now we have 9. Now that we have a better sense of programme uptake, we intend to focus more on expansion of corral and handicraft schemes. We therefore would like to increase amount of time spent on programme expansion in our timetable.

Another shift is that there is demand from project partners in Pakistan, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan to hold another big training for field implementers. Major trainings were held in YR1, and since then field teams have expressed need for 1) additional follow-up training in the PARTNERS Principles of community engagement, to develop skills and train new; 2) capacity building in data management for the sustainability and usability of the data coming in from this project. It also provides us with an opportunity to standardise data and to ensure a robust database. This will have long-term positive impacts for all countries towards sharing data and results for this project and beyond. We are currently planning a training in Kyrgyzstan for March 2017. This will affect the budget—since it was not originally planned for YR2, we are requesting to shift funding around within our existing budget to accommodate.

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: No

Formal change request submitted: Yes

A change request to amend our timeline, logframe, and budget has been submitted with this report.

Received confirmation of change acceptance Not yet

3a. 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: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. 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 and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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

No thank you. We are grateful for the support and appreciate the guidance.

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 can be discussed in this report but **should also be 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 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**