

Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No	22-009
Project Title	Securing Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve's Grassland and wellbeing of local communities
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Nepal
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Partner(s)	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, National Trust for Nature Conservation, Himalayan Nature
Project Leader	Hem Sagar Baral
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	
Funder (DFID/Defra)	DFID

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).

Output 1: Two fully functional veterinary clinics established within the Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve buffer zone.

The two veterinary clinics supported by this project are now providing services to local communities in the buffer zone of Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve (SWR). The two veterinary centres have provided artificial insemination services for 80 households. Artificial insemination was conducted in Shuklaphanta improved cow/buffalo milk production sub-committees and Trishakti improved cow/buffalo milk production sub-committees for 12 livestock (7 Cow & 5 Buffalo). Regular meetings have been conducted in liaison with the District Livestock Services Office (DLSO), Kanchanpur to plan the management and operation of the clinics once the project has ended. The clinics have been handed over to DLSO and SWR ahead of schedule as both organisations are ready to take over operation and management of the clinics. ZSL will continue to support the clinics as planned throughout this project and beyond.

Output 2: Women-run dairy cooperatives facilitating more productive cattle farms within the SWR buffer zone.

Two cooperatives were established through support from this project. The cooperatives have provided financial support, in the form of soft loans, to 31 households (against the target of 20 households) to purchase improved breeds of livestock. The households will repay the loans together with interest to replenish and grow the seed money.

A representative of local dairy traders visited the communities in the buffer zone and held an interaction meeting with the cooperative members. DLSO facilitated and organised the visit. A discussion has been held with the DLSO and community members regarding the establishment of a Community Based Livestock Insurance scheme. All the improved breeds of livestock purchased through soft loans from cooperatives have already been insured.

Output 3: Grassland management guidelines in place and plan operational

Grassland management guidelines are complete and will be implemented in SWR. A workshop is planned to share the grassland management guidelines with reserve management.

National Trust for Nature Conservation has produced 15000 fodder tree seedlings of different species. The aim of fodder tree seedling production is to reduce grazing pressure in SWR through the promotion of private reforestation in the buffer zone. This year 4000 fodder tree seedlings have been distributed in Beldadi and 5000 seedlings have been distributed in Daijee and Jhalari. Seedlings were also distributed to the two women's-group led improved livestock milk production sub-committees (1314 seedlings to Trishakti improved cow/buffalo milk production sub-committee and 1220 seedlings to Shuklaphanta improved cow/buffalo milk production sub-committee). It is anticipated that seedling distribution and planting on private lands will be instrumental in meeting the objective of reducing grazing pressure to secure SWR's grassland and habitat.

Output 4: Annual biodiversity monitoring programme for SWR in place. Target species include hog deer (*Axis porcinus*), swamp deer (*Cervus duvaucelii*), Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*), Bengal florican (*Houbaropsis bengalensis*) and Hodgson's bushchat (*Saxicola insignis*).

The results from the tiger monitoring were released on International Tiger Day. Recent data published by SWR indicates that the tiger population has increased to 17 from the baseline of 15. Similarly, the rhino population has increased to 10 individuals compared to 8 in 2015.

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.

Successfully involving the District Livestock Services Office (DLSO) in the project enhanced the sustainability of the veterinary clinics and services provided through them to the local communities. The clinics have already been handed over to DLSO for operation and management. The key lesson learnt is that the involvement of responsible government agencies in the planning and implementation of relevant activities is vital for success. DLSO had been involved from the outset of the project and a series of inception meetings were held to align and integrate the project activities and outcomes within the DLSO work plan.

Coordination with the partner and regular communication is crucial not only for implementation of the project activities, but also for monitoring the success of the activity, and to ensure timely results.

This will not affect the budget or 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: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

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: £5000

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. 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 please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

No.

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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**

Annex A

Response to the feedback on the annual report

- *Comment-Targets for Output 1 (indicators 1.3 & 1.4) need to be revised upwards to reflect the actual baseline figures reported in AR1*

Target for output 1- Indicator 1.3 revised from 'Each veterinary clinic served at least 750 households by the end of year 2 and 1250 households by the end of year 3' to Each veterinary clinic served on average 1750 households by the end of year 2 and 2500 households by the end of year 3'.

Target for output 1- Indicator 1.4 revised from 'Each clinic vaccinates at least 300 cows against FMD by the end of year 3.' to Each clinic vaccinates on average 500 cows against FMD by the end of year 3.

These revised indicators will be used while reporting on annual progress for Years 2 and 3.

- *Comment- Identify the level of increases (%) expected over baselines for milk yield and milk sales as end of project indicators*

Milk yield and milk sales are expected to increase by 20%, against the baseline.

- *Comment- Provide evidence for cooperative registration (scans of registration documents)*

Registration document provided separately.

- *Comment- Provide evidence (report) for baseline figure and methodology used for level of grazing inside SWR*

Report on level of grazing inside SWR prepared by NTNC, will be provided separately.