

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

<b>Project Ref No</b>	23-013
<b>Project Title</b>	Living with Tigers in Nepal: poverty reduction for human-wildlife coexistence
<b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies)</b>	Nepal: Terai Arc Landscape (Bardia & Chitwan)
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Chester Zoo
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Green Governance Nepal (GGN); Wildlife Conservation Research Unit, Oxford University; Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC); Buffer Zone Management Committee Chitwan National Park (CNP); Buffer Zone Management Committee Bardia National Park (BNP); Swarnim Academy of Community Development (SCAD); National Trust for Nature Conservation (NTNC)
<b>Project Leader</b>	Alexandra Zimmermann
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	31/10/16 – HYR1
<b>Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc</b>	<a href="http://www.chesterzoo.org/conservation-and-science/where-we-work/south-asia/living-with-tigers">http://www.chesterzoo.org/conservation-and-science/where-we-work/south-asia/living-with-tigers</a>
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	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).**

**Activities 1.1 & 2.1& 3.1& 4.1: Baseline qualitative data collection completed in project communities:** All four activities for year one have been completed. GGN & CZ conducted focus group meetings in April 2016. Semi-structured interviews were held in May & June in 2016 in Ayodhyapuri User Committee of CNP, Kalabanjar User Committee of CNP, Janaknagar User Committee of BNP, and Rammapur User Committee BNP. (Summarised initial findings available on request).

**1.2 & 2.2&3.2& 4.2: Baseline quantitative survey developed, piloted and administered in project and comparison communities:** This activity was started in April and completed in September (a copy of the questionnaire survey is available on request).

**1.3 & 2.3 & 3.3 & 4.3: Baseline qualitative and quantitative survey data analysed:** This activity has been delayed (please refer to section 2a for further information); we will begin analysis of the data in October 2016, now that our new PhD student, Amy Fitzmaurice, has started. A trip to Nepal to meet with GGN in order to analyse the data and design the social marketing strategy took place between 18 October and 5 November, involving the project officer, the full host country field team, PhD student and our social marketing adviser.

**1.4: Trial safe working and livestock husbandry practices identified:** Completed information gathering during the focus group meetings and semi-structured interviews and from direct community observations. Grant agreements with the following 4 Buffer Zone User Committee groups (Ayodhyapuri, Kalabanjar, Kareliya, & Patabhar) have been signed to install an agreed amount of both predator proof pens and bio-gas stoves (copies of these available on request). Purchase of construction materials is ongoing. Project officer, while travelling in October in Nepal, will be checking up on the progress of the construction of livestock pens and bio-gas stoves within the community.

**1.5 & 2.5: Training Schedules developed and workshops held. GGN and CZ have begun discussions regarding livelihood training and safe working practices workshops:** Social marketing training in Nepal has been organised for 27-28 October 2016. Camera trap training will be provided for GGN and park authority staff, however as we have yet to receive our field research permits from the DNPWC we have postponed the training until closer to the time that we will be able to deploy the cameras in the field. We have already shared a camera trap guideline manual and discussed latest felid recognition software programmes with park authorities, and offered to help identify their tiger and leopard individuals.

**2.4: Alternatives to natural resources or more efficient use practices identified:** Completed through focus group interviews, semi-structured interviews, household surveys, direct community observation, and discussions with DNPWC, NTNC, SCAD, and chairs of BZUCs. Different communities wanted different training ranging from for example weaving, sewing & tailoring, barbering, confectionery making, mobile repair, bike repair, rope making, artisan for tourist, hospitality training, homestay tourism, culinary skills, and soap making.

**3.4: Assessment of markets, value chains and micro-finance opportunities:** This has been started and discussed with the communities and SCAD. Certain products were deemed to be poor products as market was too far away or price of item had fallen quite significantly on the market. One of the major reasons for fluctuating market prices is that some villagers blindly follow the same business of pioneer villagers leading to fierce competition in the limited market. We discussed the need to always do a study first in terms of feasibility, distance to market, value item could fetch at market, market demand, market saturation, etc. There are opportunities for micro-financing small businesses and entrepreneurs for example, women's cooperative weaving groups, electronics training, fisheries etc.

**3.5: Viable alternative livelihoods options identified:** Completed in the sense that we have compiled lists from each BZCU group of alternative livelihoods they were interested in developing. Next steps are to investigate if these are viable long term livelihood solutions.

**4.4: Baseline camera trapping and line transect surveys in forests adjacent to project and comparison communities.** Unfortunately we have not yet been able to start the tiger ecology research component of the project both because our PhD student Susana Rostro-Garcia decided to carry out her studies instead on felids in southeast Asia, and left the project in May 2016. We have since recruited a new PhD student, Amy Fitzmaurice, who matriculated at WildCRU, Oxford University in October (supervised by Prof D Macdonald, and Project Leader Dr A Zimmermann). However, as the research permits from the Nepal government are specifically for the given named researcher, this meant we had to put on hold the entire permit application process until Amy had been officially confirmed as our new student. Meanwhile the department in charge of approving our permit application (DNPWC – which is a project partner) has undergone two changes of its Director General and other senior staff, and the post is currently vacant. These changes lead to delays in the processing of applications. We hope that the permit will be approved very soon, as the research is ready to start anytime now.

**5.1: Natural resource use and collection behaviours and livestock husbandry behaviours which exacerbate HTC identified:** Partially completed. We have collected the data via focus group interviews, semi-structured interviews, household surveys and direct community observations which has enabled us to identify the natural resource use and collection behaviours that put locals at risk of human-wildlife conflict, and also have identified the livestock husbandry behaviours that are putting at risk their livestock. As mentioned in 1.4 we have signed grant agreements with the four communities we are working with to rectify and change some of these behaviours.

**5.2: Prevalence and frequency of these behaviours determined:** Completed through the household surveys conducted in September. Once all data has been entered on spreadsheet we will be able to quantify the frequency and will share findings in the next report.

**5.3: Possible alternative behaviours identified:** Completed yet still ongoing, as data have not yet been entirely analysed.

**5.4: Barriers to and incentives for current and alternative behaviours identified:** Partially completed still ongoing have until the end of December to do this. Our social marketing Diogo Verissimo will contribute towards identifying barriers while visiting Nepal in October.

**5.5: Key local institutions / respected individuals / early adopters identified:** Not completed, we have until the end of December to do this. We have started compiling a list of champions that could spearhead the social marketing campaign. Will be identifying these during our visit in October.

**5.6: Social marketing strategy developed:** Slightly delayed because we only finished collecting the data in September but we are beginning to develop the strategy in October, but we have until the end of March 2017 to complete the strategy.

**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.**

We have had some staff changes in our project as follows:

Original PhD student, Susana Rostro-Garcia, left in April 2016, and was replaced by PhD student Amy Fitzmaurice, who started on 10 October 2016. As a result we have incurred delay with the ecological research as we had to wait to select and confirm our new PhD candidate before re-submitting our research permit applications to the DNPWC. However, as soon as Amy was offered the position by Oxford, we resubmitted the permit applications so that she has now hit the ground running – visiting the project immediately to meet the project team, DNPWC staff, communities with which the project is working with and to scope out the landscape in which she will be working for all her field kit. If we manage to get the permits in time Amy, will install the camera traps in January in Bardia National Park.

Our original project coordinator, Chloe Inskip, left in early 2016 to pursue a different career. Chester Zoo then recruited a South Asia programmes coordinator in April 2016, Valerie de Liedekerke, who has taken on the role of project managing this Darwin project from the UK side.

Our host country Project Manager at GGN, Roshan Sherchan, in late September 2016 decided to leave his job with the project in order to finish his PhD full-time. We are currently looking for a replacement for his position.

We have recruited a Project Officer for the Bardia project site: Mrs Monsoon Khatiwada, she started in March 2016. She comes with a wealth of experience in human-leopard conflict, GIS skills, and other professional experience in conservation.

We found an in-country livelihoods, wellbeing and microenterprise advisor and were going to appoint him but in the end he decided the pay we were offering was not enough and therefore did not accept our offer. We are presently searching for another livelihoods expert to advise us in terms of market availability, market demand, and sustainable livelihoods. We would prefer to hire a Nepalese national someone with in country expertise as well as to assist with building capacity, however if this is not possible we will hire a foreigner.

These staff changes delayed our progress slightly in implementing some of the activities mentioned above. In order to mitigate further delays we are acting swiftly to replace the country coordinator and hope to have a person in post as soon as possible. The project officer (V de Liedekerke) is currently in Nepal in order to interview candidates for the post.

Also of concern is the turnover of Director Generals at DNPWC, since the project start two DGs have left the post. This has slowed down progress with the research component of the project, delaying activity 4.4 (camera trapping) and consequently all activities that follow building on this activity, specifically 4.6-4.9 which are due to start in April 2017. As a result the PhD will not be completed at the end of the Living With Tigers project it will most likely overrun by six months. However all papers and outputs from this research will be provided to the Darwin Initiative even after the project end date, while its interim results will help inform activity decisions during the project, and the study will still be able to meet its objective of measuring the impact the project has on mitigating human-tiger conflict in Nepal.

Due to these staff changes and permit delays, we may need to file a budget change request before the annual report in April 2017.

**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~~/No (Not yet)

Formal change request submitted:   ~~Yes~~/No (Not yet)

Received confirmation of change acceptance      ~~Yes~~/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:      £

**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?**

None

**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 projectschedule /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](mailto: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**