

## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017)

<b>Project reference</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); WildCRU, 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>	31/10/17 – HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media 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>

### 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).

During Q1 and Q2 of year two, the project has continued to deliver activity 1.6 (Safe working and livestock husbandry practice schemes rolled out in project communities) by working with the project communities to build a further 76 predator-proof pens. This mitigation measure has been very well received by the community members as they consider it effective for protecting livestock and people. As a result, our project has received quite a bit of media attention both nationally and internationally (<http://www.nagariknews.com/news/27308/> <https://twitter.com/RepublicaNepal/status/911422167417417730> <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/08/04/asian-tiger-recovery-leading-attacks-humans-conservationists/>).

To ensure that communities continue to maintain the pens in good working order, project field staff make regular visits to the communities to examine the mitigation measures (1.7 Monitoring and adaptation of practices completed). Contracts will be provided in final year report. Also, if community members need further assistance with information or care instructions the team are there to provide assistance. The team also continues to monitor all incidences of human-wildlife conflict (whether involving livestock or humans) on a monthly basis.

The bio-gas plants in year two have not been built due to the heavy flooding in the Terai region during the monsoon season (2.6 Alternatives or efficient use schemes rolled out in project communities). They are due to be built during the dry season come January 2018. Last year's bio-gas plants have proven a success for community members in terms of improving their wellbeing by reducing the amount of time they have had to collect fuelwood allowing them more time to spend with family and generate income.

The LWT field team continues to monitor the safe use and up-keep of bio-gas plants and assists community members when they have queries (2.7 Monitoring and adaptation of

We have yet to assess markets, value chains and micro-financing opportunities (activity 3.4) due to the delay in finding a suitable market researcher. We have had to re-advertise the consultancy as no suitable candidates were found the first time around. However, we have received some excellent applications in the second-round application and have hired a consultant who will start in October, to research viable alternative livelihoods, especially in light of an ever-increasing human population. We will be rolling out alternative livelihoods options that have been identified through research, baseline data, and community consultation (activity 3.5) in the second half of the year. During this time a training schedule will be developed and workshops held (activity 3.6). This work is intended to help livelihood start-ups, self-help groups and cooperatives in the project communities to increase production, sales and profits (activity 3.7) thus decreasing poverty, improving gender equity, and human wellbeing. The market/livelihood consultant will provide on-going advice and support to start-ups, self-help groups and cooperatives through the project life cycle (activity 3.8). The LWT project will monitor the livelihood schemes in year three by surveying the project communities, and through the final project evaluation (3.9.1 Monitoring and adaptation of livelihoods schemes completed).

For the ecological and social research component of the project, the first phase of the ecological research in Chitwan is underway (activity 4.4). We have been working in close collaboration with DPNWC and NTNC in organising the field data collection of camera traps, scats and pug marks. The project team has also been designing the year two social survey, which examines illegal hunting and bushmeat consumption (activities 4.1 and 4.2) using Unmatched Count Technique (UCT) (activity 4.5).

Alongside the above project activities, the project team has been researching past social marketing (SM) campaigns, about which we also have questions in the social survey. Our doctoral student has conducted a literature review of HWC in Nepal, while the team have been conducting focus group interviews on HWC in our communities. After examining all of the findings, the team has identified the target audience, local champions to disseminate the messaging, along with pathways in which to do this (i.e. using street dramas and radio programs). The team have nearly finished creating the skits for both street dramas and radio programs. Chester Zoo has also been using its community engagement specialists to produce guidance notes for the Nepal field team, and provide expert advice. We have also identified a Nepali expert in community engagement to review the social marketing campaigns created for both Bardia and Chitwan National Parks. We will commence the roll out of the SM campaign across project communities in the second half of the year (activity 5.7). Social research looking at the effectiveness of the SM campaign will happen in year three (activities 5.4, 5.5 and 5.8).

In summary, the project is going well and there are no major concerns or issues hindering progress. The collaboration between all project partners continues to function well, communication is open and frequent thanks to the efforts of Green Governance Nepal. The Project team have also been invited by other projects working on environmental issues in national parks to come and speak about the project at their events.

To date the project assumptions continue to hold true and as mentioned in our year one report we will try to diminish the theft and vandalism of camera traps by involving the Chitwan communities in the research both before and after. Our PhD student and the field team will visit communities to give a presentation about the project, explain the use of cameras, and how the data will be used, stressing that all data gathered are kept confidential. This is important, as in Bardia communities felt threatened that the photos could be used against them. After data collection, the team will again visit the communities to convey the general findings. The employed community members assisting in the field research will be monitoring the cameras.

The project will be evaluated and reviewed by a third-party evaluation officer starting in October 2017; a report will be included in the end of year report. The team will include a summary review of the findings within the 4.3 section. Project impact will also be scientifically measured and assessed, however this can only be finalised in year three. To date, we have submitted overall findings from each year's survey, but can only submit a comparative review from start to end of project in 2019. We have set ourselves the challenge to demonstrate decreased human-tiger conflict levels in the project communities, and the benefits of the mitigation measures, and how if scaled up these measures could statistically significantly

decrease conflict and the need for government remunerative assistance when it comes to leopards and tigers. There will also be a gap analysis of what steps could be taken beyond the project life cycle to continue building upon successful impact.

The project will leave a legacy by contributing to the delivery of Nepal's National Biodiversity Strategy and supporting elements of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The project has hopes to develop a new partnership with Tribhuvan University to measure poverty alleviation, particulate and carbon emissions, and increased human well-being brought on by the use of biogas plants as opposed to standard open fuelwood stoves.

**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.**

The disastrous flooding of the summer of 2017 in Nepal, India and other regions of South Asia, which affected around 40 million people, also affected our project areas and caused some slight delays with our mitigation measures. Another obstacle was the departure of our Bardia Project Officer, which delayed some activities, but whose replacement is now in post. The project coordinator, and the Chitwan Project Officer stepped in to assist the Bardia team in delivering the monthly project outputs and continue with the design and roll out of the SM campaign. The difficulty in finding a suitable market/livelihood researcher to conduct the market and viable livelihood research for the project communities with which we work delayed the project in rolling out livelihood options and assisting community start-ups, self-help groups and micro financing schemes. However, by the end of the year we will have finished the research and started rolling out training, workshops and ongoing continued expert advice to the communities. Thus, beyond slight delays in the timetable and project activities we do not foresee any need for budget modifications at this time. The project is expected to deliver all of its activities and outputs as within year two.

**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	N/A

**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.**

We do not anticipate an underspend in year two at this time.

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

Nepal and India are conducting a joint tiger monitoring census during November-December 2017, which may affect our ecological research activities as the Nepalese government authority (DNPWC) have told us we would not have access to the national parks at the same time as they are camera trapping. However we are working closely with them and drafting an agreement in terms of how we can share our respective data and assist with the census.

**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. Additionally, if you were funded under R23 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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](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**