

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

Project Ref No	23-027 ref 3250
Project Title	Cultural and economic incentives for endangered species conservation in Cambodia
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Cambodia
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Partner(s)	Promvihearthor Organisation, The Forestry Administration of the Royal Government of Cambodia, Engineers Without Borders Australia.
Project Leader	<i>Jackson Frechette</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>HYR 1</i>
Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	<i>This project will not have a specific website but we will develop a specific project page on www.fauna-flora.org by the end of YR1</i>
Funder (DFID/Defra)	<i>DFID</i>

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).

**Please note that this project had a three month delay, starting in Q2, July 2016.*

Planned Project Implementation Timetable: *Financial Year Apr 2016 – March 2017. Key Q1-Q2 activities and milestones.*

- 1.1 Conduct surveys to inform agricultural output baselines, community-led identification of additional crops for introduction and harvesting
- 1.4 Pilot use of household-level aquaculture as a protein source alternative, establish baselines on household consumption of farmed vs wild-caught fish
- 1.7 Set up frameworks and methods to enable ongoing monitoring and evaluation of agricultural indicators
- 2.1 Identify existing agricultural and NTFP networks, cooperatives and local harvesting of NTFPs, identify opportunities for creation/strengthening of networks, undertake market analysis for relevant NTFP and agricultural products, and identify general community training needs in business and enterprise skills
- 2.5 Set up frameworks and methods to enable ongoing monitoring and evaluation of forest use and income indicators
- 3.1 Establish and support community-led Asian elephant monitoring and protection programme
- 3.2 Monitor forest encroachment using landscape-level analysis and ground-truthing of forest boundaries
- 3.3 Increase support for community-led Siamese crocodile monitoring and protection in crocodile sanctuaries

- 3.7 Set up frameworks and methods to enable ongoing monitoring and evaluation of forest encroachment and species conservation indicators
- 4.1 Collate existing data on indigenous knowledge and cultural values to inform project activities, and devise appropriate communications messaging
- 4.4 Set up frameworks and methods to enable ongoing monitoring and evaluation of communications indicators

Actual Project Implementation timetable: *Financial Year Apr 2016 – March 2017. Key Q2 activities and milestones.*

July

FFI identified and hired Project Coordinator.

FFI entered into talks and negotiations with potential project partners

Community crocodile wardens (28) patrolled a total of 25 days in four crocodile sanctuaries (3.3)

August

Project Coordinator visited FFI UK office for induction

FFI identified and hired Project Officer

Initiated contact with PhD student focusing on the Khmer Dauem to start collate existing data on indigenous communities (4.1)

Community crocodile wardens (28) patrolled a total of 25 days in four crocodile sanctuaries (3.3)

September

FFI conducted scoping visit to two communities informally interviewing key informants on the local situation, issues, agriculture, NTFPs and past and present projects (1.1)

Finalised contract with Promviahear Thor as implementing partner, confirmed work plan, budget and M&E reporting schedules, forms and trainings (1.7)

Initiated discussions with Engineers Without Borders to plan timeframes (1.5) and adapt their existing M&E frameworks to capture project specific bio-digesters data (1.7)

Set up frameworks and methods to capture on-going data in agriculture, forest use and income (1.7, 2.5)

Set up frameworks and methods to identify existing NTFP networks, cooperatives and local harvesting of NTFPs to be used in the baseline survey (2.1)

Community crocodile wardens (28) patrolled a total of 25 days in four crocodile sanctuaries (3.3)

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.

There was an initial project delay due to delay in funding agreements and distribution from DEFRA. The implementation of the project was heavily dependent on the recruitment of the Project Coordinator, therefore the delays compounded as the recruitment process took a

month. Based on this we requested and were granted a 3-month delay in project start date. We are now on track with two new staff members taking the lead in implementation of the project.

The drop in the value of the GBP significantly reduced the size of the implementing budget which has led us to revise the budget and subsequent project activities. A Change Request form has been submitted to accommodate these modifications to both project and budget, and includes detailed explanation and justification.

Notable lessons learnt after the scoping visit and discussions with various partners included:

- 1) Agricultural knowledge is limited in the communities, government extension is scarce, and past successful projects have tended to have a more sustainable source of agronomy expertise on the ground. We have therefore decided to hire a full time field agronomist and a part time senior agronomist to help with technical backstopping.
- 2) Aquaculture in the communities would be expensive, difficult and not necessarily cost effective therefore we have decided to will instead promote fish feeding and small livestock raising as a protein alternative to wild meat.

These learnings have been incorporated into the CR form.

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

Formal change request submitted: Yes

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: £ 11,065

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**