

Darwin Initiative Main Half Year Report (due 31st October 2017)

Project reference	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	Jackson Frechette
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc.	http://www.fauna-flora.org/explore/cambodia/

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.

(1.2) A rice analysis was implemented in collaboration with IRRI (International Rice Research Institute) identifying key issues to target to increase yields. Nine group trainings focusing on technical rice production have been delivered across three villages. Trainings included; land preparation, transplanting, nursery use, crop management, pesticide & fertilizer use and pest management. In addition, 15 demo farmers were identified and received three individual coaching sessions, and have planted and raised new varieties to test their success in the environment. Harvesting will be in Q3.

(1.3) Q1 & Q2 are rice planting/harvesting seasons therefore there has been no trainings on crop diversification throughout this period.

(1.4) A senior veterinarian officer was hired to run the poultry element of this project. 15 demo farmers were selected across 9 villages, and were trained on poultry husbandry, chicken coops construction, natural medicines, administering vaccinations and the prevention, recognition and treatment of chicken disease. They have just finished their first cycle and the most successful and motivated six demo farmers will be connected to high quality animal medicine companies and further trained in ToT and business planning, to work as a locally based Paravet.

(1.5) A brief impact assessment of the bio-digesters was implemented and concluded limited use and success. Due to this, alternative more suitable technologies and partnerships have been identified and are being formed. There will be a likely shift to water-filters due to them having many of the same benefits, but more locally appropriate. Once finalised an official change request form will be sent to Darwin.

(1.6) We continue to support community members and guarding groups in human-elephant conflict (HEC) mitigation. In order to move towards a more sustainable system of HEC mitigation, we are engaging with the Ministry of Environment with the goal of them taking more responsibility to assist local communities. The ministry is supportive of the idea, and in the next year we build their capacity to monitor and support HEC mitigation.

Output 2

(2.2) Two producer groups have been set up with leadership elections and constitutions. They have received trainings in leadership and management, communication, negotiation skills and contracting.

(2.3) FFI identified several companies and facilitated a connections meeting with the community to discuss the organic fruit market and the potential for lemongrass essential oil production. The community decided to push forward with producing lemongrass essential oil, and FFI has helped to facilitate additional meetings, contracts and bring in additional stakeholders to invest capital and technical skills. A distillation machine is being constructed and suitable sites within the village have been identified. The machine will be installed in Q3 and a research phase initiated to ensure the process is both efficient and profitable for all stakeholders.

(2.4) See point 1.5 above.

Output 3.

(3.1) We currently support seven community elephant wardens from three different villages. They are conducting monthly patrols monitoring elephant presence and threats using SMART. The wardens are also working with our team in the elephant monitoring programme using 42 currently deployed camera traps.

(3.2) Three of our team were went through a week-long training to classify land cover and analyse land cover change. The team is currently developing land cover maps of our target villages and will prepare change analyses by the end of Y2.

(3.3) Our 30 crocodile wardens continue to patrol five crocodile sanctuaries ~10 days per month, using SMART to monitor threats and crocodile presence.

(3.4) Crocodile wardens regularly engage with fishermen and community members concerning fishing impacts and regulations, this is monitored using SMART.

(3.5) We have engaged with the Ministry of Environment and local communities concerning supporting protected area zonation and demarcation. In Q3 and Q4 we plan to have some provincial workshops to work towards zonation. The Ministry of Environment still has no clear zonation or management guidelines, so there is some delay in this activity.

(3.6) An indigenous rights needs assessment was completed to form the trainings, and existing FPIC materials were identified to use. The political situation has deteriorated rapidly however (see below), therefore the rights trainings have been delayed until deemed safe. A CR form will be sent in Q3/Q4 depending on the situation.

Output 4

(4.2) An indigenous knowledge review was compiled and a professional communications agency hired. They have completed a thorough stakeholder analysis and communications strategy. In Q3 all media will be created, and the campaign is scheduled to start in Q4.

(4.3) Government counterparts have been heavily involved in the process of developing the communications campaign strategy aimed at promoting the role of the indigenous population have in protecting Cambodia's biodiversity. Findings from the indigenous knowledge review were shared without a formal training, however government counterparts have been collaborated with at all stages.

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 political situation in Cambodia has deteriorated making it potentially dangerous to give land rights training. There is a national election next year and the government is cracking down on rights NGOs, imprisoning activists and dissolving political parties and international NGOs. We therefore recommend waiting until after the election, or until the political situation calms down, to implement the rights trainings. A CR request will be sent in Q3 or Q4 to see if the situational settles or whether this activity and funds have to be pushed to Year 3.

The failure of the bio-digesters was noted and an alternative is being worked on. No more bio-digesters will therefore be installed, and a CR request will be sent in Q3 when an alternative is confirmed. There should be no change in budget.

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

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

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?

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 . 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**