



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018)**

<b>Project reference</b>	24-006
<b>Project title</b>	Enhancing forest biodiversity and community resilience to Tajikistan's changing climate
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Tajikistan
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Fauna & Flora International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Kulob Botanical Garden, Zan va Zamin, Zam Zam, Muminabad Forestry Management Unit, Dashtijum Forestry Management Unit
<b>Project leader</b>	Vicky Wilkins
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/conserving-threatened-fruit-nut-forests-tajikistan">https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/conserving-threatened-fruit-nut-forests-tajikistan</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).**

**Output 1: Increased knowledge and understanding of forest habitats**

Throughout the project we have completed a series of remote sensing maps for each of the reserves. The maps are mainly focused on 'tree density', and will be used to help us understand the state of the forest's health and potential locations that require reforestation. Additional to this work, ground-truthing surveys are being conducted in each reserve by our project partner Kulob Botanical gardens, with 25 plots (5 of 5 vegetation cover different types). The survey data will be used to support the interpretation of the maps. These will be the first comprehensive electronic maps for the reserves, and will be extremely helpful and useful to the reserve teams who have been working from paper remote sensing maps that are over 50 years old.

An interview dataset was also gathered in the first project year from 202 households in order to explore the respondent's perceptions and knowledge of the forest, including: forest condition, forest change, threats, climate change, engagement in forest use and conservation, as well as their understanding and influence on forest management. After an initial review from last year, a more in depth analysis is being conducted on the data, and our project partner Zam Zam is undertaking discussion groups to ensure a full understanding of agroecology is gained and integrated into the project.

A brief two pages summary report outlining the project's achievements and progress was completed and translated into Russian and Tajik. This report is currently being disseminated to project partners and community stakeholders.

The climate change adaptation element of the project is currently being planned for late 2018 and early 2019 in both reserves, using the skills and expertise of the Tajik climate change organisation the Centre for Climate Change and Disaster Reduction (CCDR). In terms of progress on species action plans, October 2018 will see existing data and knowledge gathered on the target threatened tree species, to facilitate a species action planning workshop in November 2018. Having been unable to obtain sufficient data on harvesting and having

established that factors limiting forest regeneration go beyond just harvesting and also cover grazing impact as well. Therefore efforts are now being made for a wider community forest regeneration monitoring protocol, with community surveys and consultations starting this process.

### **Output 2: Improving income from fruit and nuts**

Having completed the initial steps of the Participatory Market System Development method, this year's work has focused more on the delivery of the 'Community Market Development Action Plans' that resulted from the March 2018 Market Actors Workshop, where traders and community suppliers worked through issues and solutions. Project partner Zam Zam has been running training courses identified through the Action Plans, including canning and jarring training for 'producer groups' in both projects sites, for a total of 40 people (20 from each reserve). The producer groups have been provided with equipment such as: glass jars, covers, and closer equipment; additional training at both project sites on "techniques for improving fund savings" were provided to 6 'Saving Groups', a total of 150 members, including 26 male and 124 female participants.

In July a meeting was held with the producer groups from both project sites and traders from across the Sugd region in order to connect the local producers to the wider produce market. As a result of the meeting, the traders agreed to collaborate with the local producers without middlemen, when product quality is high.

For October and November, tree maintenance and health courses are planned, and the producer groups will be provided with the appropriate tools and equipment to facilitate tree care.

Training will be provided on budgeting/finance, marketing and use of saving groups loans, in order to support improved marketing and sale of sustainably produced non-timber forest products.

Training on pest and disease will be provided to the producer groups from both project sites.

### **Output 3: Forest management and promoting resilience**

The four awareness raising activities on forest health and threatened trees that will be completed this project year are being planned for November. There will be two adult sessions plus two agro-theatre sessions for schools, including: roleplays, poems, drawing and a short essay competition on conservation of biodiversity.

The project officers in Tajikistan have been researching the existing use of stakeholder forums in the reserves and how the project can add to and augment work to ensure long-term community involvement in forestry management.

The species action plan work and the climate adaptation planning in this project year, together with the remote sensing mapping plus ground-truthing, will be the first steps toward developing restoration plans for the reserves.

Agreements have been established with the Dashtijum (DJ) and Childukhtaron (CH) reserve forestry service units in order to facilitate planting, fencing and aftercare. This includes contracts with both reserve teams to plant 50,000 native tree species in CH and 54,800 natives tree species in DJ; fencing 20x20m plots on both project sites, and; completing aftercare.

### **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 has been an issue with data. The data that was provided on threatened trees in the year 1 progress report has been found to be incorrect. It was believed that complete surveys of threatened tree populations had been completed for the reserves and these were outlined in the year 1 Annual Report, however it was then clarified that in fact only sections of these populations were survey and the numbers of threatened trees will be much higher and much

more widely distributed. The ecological knowledge of threatened tree species gained through the surveys is still incredibly useful, but in terms of clear and full abundance and distribution data, information is still lacking. This issue will be addressed at the species action planning meetings in November and the combination of data gathered through remote sensing, local knowledge and targeted surveys will strengthen tree species population estimates.

Please note that this problem does not require a change to be made to the original agreement.

We need also need to move funds between budget lines as some of the equipment and fieldwork costs originally budgeted for this project year are no longer needed, due to cost efficiencies and a reassessment of project delivery. However in the same reassessment it is clear that we now need more national consultancy support to facilitate climate adaptation work, and also community management planning exercises to secure project outputs on forest resilience. Therefore we need to move £ from Operating costs F05 Fieldwork operating costs (not travel) and £ from Capital Equipment G01 Fruit drying/ processing equipment; to 2 Consultant C01 National specialists for bio surveys.

**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 Attached with this form

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No Attached with this form

**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?**

Currently, there aren't any other issues to be raised.

**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 R24 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**