

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

<b>Project reference</b>	24014
<b>Project title</b>	Carrots and sticks: incentives to conserve hilsa fish in Myanmar (also known as DarwinHilsa <sup>MM</sup> )
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Burma
<b>Lead organisation</b>	International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	WorldFish Myanmar; Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar; University of Yangon (YU); Network Activities Group (NAG)
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Essam Yassin Mohammed</i>
<b>Report date and number</b>	<i>HYR1</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<i><a href="https://www.iied.org/carrots-sticks-incentives-conserve-hilsa-fish-myanmar">https://www.iied.org/carrots-sticks-incentives-conserve-hilsa-fish-myanmar</a></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).

- Project inception workshop: The inception meeting was held on the 15th of August in Sedona Hotel in Yangon. The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Department of Fisheries of the Government of Myanmar, scientists from the WorldFish centre (main host country partner), Yangon University, Network Activities Group (NAG), a local parliamentarian from the Ayeyarwady Delta region, a representative from FCO, a representative from the Danish Embassy and other representatives of the civil society group. The objective of the inception meeting was officially kick-off the Darwin Initiative funded project titled Carrots and Sticks: Incentives to conserve hilsa fish in Myanmar. It was agreed that the project will be known as DarwinHilsa<sup>MM</sup> project. This is done to differentiate it from the DarwinHilsaBD (Bangladesh) project.
- Project leader held meetings with in-country partners and discussed workplan in August. After thoroughly reviewing the workplan, some minor amendments were made. Amended version of the workplan is attached herewith. Please see Annex 1.
- Memorandum of Agreement between IIED and WorldFish has been signed
- Similarly, the WorldFish has signed MoA with Yangon University and Network Activities Group (NAG)
- Yangon University has identified a PhD student who will be playing a major role in executing Work Package 1; i.e. understanding the biology and ecology of hilsa fishery.
- NAG team is working closely with WorldFish and the IIED team to design socioeconomic survey.



Figure 1 Inception meeting participants

**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.**

- Despite the delay in project start date (which was due to the delay in announcement of the outcome of the application), the project was on track to executing project activities as originally planned. However, due to lengthy bureaucratic procedures in signing an agreement with Yangon University, start period of the activities have been delayed by two months. This is not expected to have significant impact in achieving the outcomes of the project.

**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	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?**

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. 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**