



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

Project reference	24-023
Project title	Safeguarding a critical biodiversity conservation corridor in Cambodia's Eastern Plains
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cambodia
Lead organisation	WWF Cambodia
Partner(s)	Provincial Department of Environment (PDoE)/ Ministry of Environment (MoE), Provincial Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (PDAFF) and Cambodia Centre for Study and Development in Agriculture (CEDAC)
Project leader	Samuel Hamy
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR2 – 31 st October 2018
Project website/blog/social media etc.	http://cambodia.panda.org/projects/darwin_project/

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).

Highlights for the reporting period are the Human Wildlife Conflict survey (Output 2), the progress in the procurement of equipment for the elephant collaring, the first training of the collaring team (Output 3) and the completion of the zonation of Srepok WS (Output 4). The sustainable agriculture programme has been planned and the implementation will start in November 2018 (Output 1).

Output 1: Vulnerable farming households from 8 remote forest communities inside a Protected Area improve their livelihoods through the learning and implementation of innovative, sustainable and more efficient agricultural practices (crop selection and rotation, irrigation technics, natural fertilizer and pest killer, fire breaks, HWC mitigation tools) – ON TRACK

Activities 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 that assessed communities' needs were completed in Y1. Activities 1.4, 1.5 will start in November 2018 once the subcontract with the partners is signed after joint planning and organization with WWF partners (CEDAC and PDAFF). Both 1.4 and 1.5 are led by partners, with supervision of WWF.

Activity 1.4 is based on the results of the assessment and will train households from the 8 target communities in sustainable agriculture and HWC mitigation. It will also provide the villagers with physical tools to achieve the goal, which have been identified and agreed as the installation of irrigation systems and provision of seeds. The activity will be on-going until the end of Year 3.

Activity 1.5 will organize study tours for villagers to neighbouring communities in Cambodia and in Vietnam in order to expose them to sustainable agriculture practice and facilitate their learning and adoption process. The first study tour will take place in Year 2 Q3 while the second will take place in Year 2 Q4 or before.

Output 2: Greater understanding of local communities' perception of Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) in the PPWS/SWS complex – ON TRACK

Activities 2.1 and 2.2 have been completed. They aimed to collect data from target villages about their perceptions and level of Human Wildlife Conflict. A total of 54 villages in 4 districts were surveyed by WWF with the support of university students from Cambodia. The 8 students received training by WWF Technical advisor on HWC, data collection and analysis and biodiversity monitoring. The data collected are currently being entered by the students and they will be analysed by WWF in the second half of Year 2 (Activity 2.3). (Note: the survey sample has been expanded thanks to additional co-funding secured).

The deployment of HWC mitigation measures and HWC awareness raising sessions (Activity 2.4), based on the data collected, are coupled with the implementation of Activity 1.4 and they will be done by partners CEDAC and PDAFF. In Year 3, the survey will be repeated and analysed to measure changes and impact (Activities 2.5 and 2.6).

Output 3: Better knowledge of Asian elephant movements across two critical protected areas in Cambodia. – ON TRACK

The preparation for the collaring is on-going and the project has successfully gained the trust of government officials. The import of the equipment has been delayed due to administrative and custom procedures, nevertheless the collars have finally arrived to Cambodia and the darts, dart guns and drugs required are being procured and expected to be delivered in November (Activity 3.1). Initial preparations for the collaring have been done and the collaring team has received an introductory 2 days training by WWF Cambodia Technical Advisor on Biodiversity Monitoring and Cambodia Wildlife veterinary in March 2018, Year 1 (Activities 3.1 and 3.2).

The intensive training on collaring given by Kaziranga National Park staff in India is organized and it will take place from 25th to 29th November in India (Activity 3.3).

After the training the team will start the collaring, expected to be between December and February (Activity 3.4). The analysis and reporting of Activity 3.5 will take place afterward.

Output 4: The revised management plan of SWS is approved and implemented by PDoE and local communities to preserve globally significant biodiversity while promoting and supporting appropriate and sustainable development to assist in alleviating poverty – ON TRACK

Output 4 is led by PDoE with the support of WWF. It was inceptioned in Year 1 and it will be completed in Year 2.

For activities 4.1 and 4.2, which concern the preparation of the management plan and of the scientific documentation in support to it, they will be completed by end of 2018. Although it is delayed compared to the original workplan, PDoE has successfully completed the zoning of Srepok Wildlife Sanctuary. Approval by the Cambodia Prime Minister of the zonation is expected for the end of 2018 while the management plan by the Ministry of Environment is expected to be approved by March 2019.

Activity 4.3 will commence after the management plan is approved and it will disseminate the plan to local communities and other stakeholders to ensure up-taking and compliance to it. The dissemination workshops will be concluded during Year 2 Q4.

Output 5: The concept of biodiversity conservation corridor is nested in the Cambodia Environmental Policies - COMPLETED

Output 5 has been achieved in Year 1 of the project. WWF continues to monitor policy developments related to the target corridor and provide updates when relevant. As stated in the comments to Year 1 Annual report, WWF is working to better define DARWIN contribution to the achievement of the output. While it is difficult to measure attribution for large policy

processes, WWF is committed to improve the evaluation of Darwin contribution. The evaluation is planned for H2 Y2.

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 delayed implementation of Year 1 has resulted in a potential loss of budget for carrying out the activities as planned. The financial change request of the re-budgeting has been approved by DARWIN and the project is now on track to deliver on the work-plan.

The import of the collaring equipment has been problematic due to custom regulations. Alternative solutions to reduce the regulatory burden are going to be applied (e.g. different type of darts launchers that do not qualify as weapons). The import is expected to be in time for the collaring during the dry season, starting in November.

The vacancy of the project manager position has resulted in lack of coordination and leadership in the project. The position has now been filled and the project implementation is progressing.

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 Yes

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: £

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 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. 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**