



**Darwin Initiative/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020)**

<b>Project reference</b>	25-005
<b>Project title</b>	Enabling ecosystems to deliver sustainable development goals at Lake Indawgyi
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Myanmar
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division (NWCD), Forest Department (FD)</li> <li>• Indawgyi Environment and Development Association (IEDA)</li> <li>• Indawgyi Natural Farming Association (INFA)</li> <li>• Inn Chit Thu Social Development and Eco-tourism Group (ICT)</li> <li>• Mohnyin Natural Greening Development Association (NGDA)</li> <li>• Wetlands Works</li> </ul>
<b>Project leader</b>	Frank Momberg
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	31 October 2020, HYR3
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	None

**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).**

**1. A decentralised and collaborative management committee and mainstreamed ecosystem services approach places the Indawgyi Lake Biosphere Reserve under management systems that respect integrated development and biodiversity needs**

This output comprises twelve activities aimed at improving collaboration between government departments and CSOs and reducing illegal activities. Three main activities were conducted during the reporting period.

- Regular patrolling and law enforcement were conducted by the Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary (IDWS) supported with two community rangers for terrestrial patrols and one community ranger for lake patrols. The patrol covered Indawgyi's eastern and southern forests, the lake area, and the Indaw Chaung seasonally flooded grassland. SMART software and cyber tracking equipment were used during patrols for recording illegal activity and biodiversity monitoring.
- Collaborative lake patrol were also conducted in collaboration with the department of fisheries, supported by two community rangers. The patrol did focus on fish conservation zones in Indawgyi lake and also covered streams feeding into the lake with the aim to prevent the use of illegal fishing gears and remove barriers to fish migration.

- In order to increase the capacity of government rangers, community rangers and local community members in implementing conservation activities, a 3 days capacity building training workshop was held in July in collaboration with the IDWS office. The training covered the topics of protected area laws and regulations, payment for ecosystem services, camera trapping, basic compass and GPS mapping. A total of 25 participants attended the training.

## **2. Community forestry and agroforestry in designated buffer zones of Lake Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, while maintaining access to essential natural resources**

This output comprises of two activities aimed at supporting local communities to establish community forestry and agroforestry in the buffer zones of Indawgyi Biosphere Reserve together with the Indawgyi Environmental Conservation and Development Association (IECDA).

- For buffer zone reforestation, 9 CF groups were establishing tree nurseries and started planting seedlings in July. A total of 66,441 seedlings were successfully raised, of which 59,230 trees were planted in CF areas. Moreover, community plantations for reforestation along the lake shores were established in 4 villages (Lone Sant, Ywar Thit, Manakhaw and Lel Pon Lay – 0.5 ac each) together with the local village communities. Lakeshore freshwater swamp forest is a particular threatened habitat.
- The project facilitated participatory boundary demarcation between the core zone and buffer zone in the eastern forests of Indawgyi, since community forestry and agroforestry focusses on the rehabilitation of degraded lands in the bufferzone, while the core zone is designated for nature protection. In September 10 days of field surveys for participatory boundary demarcation were conducted together with the forest department and local community representatives. As a result of the survey, CF user groups identified the zonation boundaries, which has guided the selection of CF sites. The survey has also further improved the collaboration between local communities and the forest department.

## **3. Organic rice farming and value-adding practices result in certified organic products that provide income to at least 200 households and protect wetland biodiversity**

This output comprises of 7 activities aimed at supporting the farmers to initiate organic farming to improve income and well-being in collaboration with the Indawgyi Natural Farming Association (INFA).

- To fulfil the organic certification requirement of using qualified seed material for organic farming for the 2021 rice season in Indawgyi, organic seed production farms were established by 25 local farmers. In June, seed production trainings were carried out in 2 villages in collaboration with the township and district department of agriculture (DoA). A total of 35 participants attended the training. In the following month, 2 days of on-the-job training was provided to demonstrate the operation of seed farms. 34 baskets of organic rice seeds were distributed to organic farmers, planted on 33.1 acres of farmland.
- In 2020, the organic farming and certification process was conducted in collaboration with the Myanmar Organic Grower and Producer Association (MOGPA). Before inspection, a refresher training for organic farming/ internal control systems was held in July with 41 (M=13, F=28) local farmers attending the training. After the training, a field inspection was conducted in July and August, documenting that a total of 177 farmers have successfully adopted organic farming practices. Moreover, 380 baskets of organic seeds were provided to organic farmers.

- For livelihood development of local woman groups in Indawgyi, a 2 day training for the production of value-added products was hold in August. A total of 26 women were trained in the methods of fruit fermentation and preservation, using locally available resources.

**4. At least 1,000 households (c. 5,400 people) participate in community waste collection and safe disposal; at least 200 households (c.1,000 people/ approx.50% of all HH in flood prone areas) benefit from improved sanitation systems in flood prone areas with eutrophication problems**

- To reduce water pollution caused by the lack of sanitation of households in flood prone areas and its impact on the lake ecosystem, Inn Chit Thu (ICT) continued the installation of handypods (household waste water treatment systems). During the reporting period, ICT supported 64 households in 4 new villages (Lone Sant, He Pu, Nant Mauk Kan and Nant Me Laung), as well as the Shwe Taung ranger station, to install handypots.
- The Indawgyi Social Development Association (ISDA), formerly named Parami village waste management group, continued to operate village waste management and collection in 8 villages in collaboration with the He Par, He Pu, Mamon Kai and Maing Naung waste collection groups. The association also developed waste segregation system in the villages and constructed a plastic burning stove at the Nam Mun landfill site for un-recyclable plastics in September 2020.

**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.**

- Travel and gatherings were restricted as a result of the covid-19 pandemic, some trainings, workshops and meetings had to be cancelled and postponed, while field activities continued with specific covid-19 safety guidelines and precautions.
- Due to travel restriction, invitation of external experts for field inspection and processing of organic certification (MOGPA and Control Union) had to be delayed for this growing season.

**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?**

None

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 R25 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 DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to [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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**