



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

Project reference	25-018
Project title:	Succeeding with CITES: Sustainable and equitable Jatamansi trade from Nepal
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Nepal
Lead organisation	TRAFFIC International
Partner(s)	ANSAB Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, ProFound - Advisers In Development, University of Copenhagen, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, FairWild Foundation, IUCN SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group
Project leader	Anastasiya Timoshyna
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	31 October 2018, HYR1
Project website/blog/social media etc.	Succeeding with CITES: New Project aims to promote sustainable wild Jatamansi trade from Nepal.

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).

Overall, the project is progressing as anticipated against the agreed timetable for the project, with the following details.

A range of activities took place to enable the effective management and implementation of the project. Namely, the Grant Agreement was signed by TRAFFIC, and a sub-agreement was signed with the key implementing partner in Nepal, ANSAB (Activity 0.1 and Activity 0.3). Further agreements were discussed with other project partners. ANSAB successfully hired project field-based staff with all staff undertaking their respective roles to carry out the activities as per the project proposal (Activity 0.2). A project inception workshop was held at the national level in Nepal on the 28 September 2018 (Activity 0.4), while the district-level workshops in project sites were delivered in early October 2018. The aim of the workshop was to share the key objectives of the project, its activity plan and receive direct input and feedback from all concerned stakeholders: government agencies, private sector, and development partners over the project implementation plan. Over 30 participants, including Members of Parliament, the representatives of the Ministry of Forests and Environment, important collectors and industry associations (e.g. FECOFUN, NEHHPA) attended the workshop and provide positive comments. Prior to the national level workshop (see details described in Activity 4.11 and [link to the press release](#)), two-day project partners meeting was organized on September 26-27, where the team developed common understanding on project's cycle including the expected outcomes, outputs and activities, monitoring and evaluation, communication and reporting; and developed a detailed project implementation plan, including the communications and M&E plans drafts (Activity 0.5).

The project partners have initiated the development of terms of reference for an overview of the Jatamansi use and trade in Nepal (Activity 1.1) at the face-to-face meeting in September. Basic Jatamansi sectoral and producer gap analysis (Activity 1.2) and the prioritization of producer companies (Activity 1.3) took place in the reporting period, through targeted one-to-one meetings with the producer enterprises (Himalayan BioTrade, Annapurna Aroma, Natural

Resources Industries, and HPlant). Additionally, these and other companies joined the project-coordinated meeting in Kathmandu focusing on FairWild implementation and other project activities following the inception workshop. Input received, which feeds into Activity 1.4, emphasised common issues and bottlenecks for the producer enterprises/private sector companies in ensuring sustainable and equitable Jatamansi trade. These common issues included regulation (CITES controls and the compliance mechanisms), technology (lack of essential oil testing facilities, as well as low efficiency of distillation with losses of up to 30%, access to the processing equipment), and socio-economic challenges (for Jatamansi in particular collectors appear to receive very low prices, additionality of costs for certification and the need for reliable market links to buyers of sustainably sourced Jatamansi). Project activities aim to address these constraints at the pilot level. The discussion also took place to identify the appropriate elements of the training materials to roll-out in future periods (Activity 1.6).

ANSAB has participated in two high-level meetings organized by the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), highlighting the implications of the current ban in Jatamansi trade provisioned in the CITES Act (Activity 2.1). MoFE, after a series of discussions, has issued an amendment bill to address the current challenge in trade of CITES-listed species including Jatamansi. The draft bill has been passed by the National Assembly (Upper House). The bill is expected to be ratified by the House of Representatives (Lower House) in the next session of parliament to come into effect (Activities 2.2 and 2.3). Simultaneously, at the international level, TRAFFIC has helped to strengthen links and communication between the CITES Secretariat and Nepal's CITES focal point, in order to address the issue addressed to Nepal in the Plants Committee (July 2018) and the Standing Committee documents (October 2018).

Initial plans have been made for the resource inventories and the field work to be rolled out as planned in following periods (but not in the winter season) – fulfilling Activities 3.2-3.4. This included the discussions on methodology and the activities to date with the CITES Scientific Authority in Nepal (Department of Plant Resources, MoFE) held in September 2018.

The meetings, facilitated by ANSAB and ProFound in Nepal, as well as the communication with the buyers across in Europe strive to establish strong trading relationships between producers and buyers (Activity 4.3). Preparations began for a Jatamansi trade specific session at the BioFach trade fair to be held in February 2019. A translator has been identified and assigned for the translation of the FairWild Standard Version 2.0 and the Performance Indicators into Nepali language (Activity 4.4). Drafts were shared with the participants of the National level inception project (September 2018). Translation of the indicators is going on, and it is expected to be completed in next reporting period. A presentation on FairWild was delivered at the inception workshop, receiving positive feedback from participants. Project team members were trained on FairWild Standard and Certification (Activity 4.5) by the Project Leader on September 27 in Nepal. Participants included: one individual from ProFound, seven from ANSAB and one TRAFFIC team member. Training was conducted over a day-long session, covering all aspects of FairWild, ensuring that capacity is being built to deliver the training onwards to collectors and companies. (Activity 4.11).

Finally, the project was able to engage a wider audience through a side-event at a CITES Plants Committee in July 2018, supported by a German government funded project, looking at the relevance and usefulness of the certification schemes to support the implementation of CITES measures for Appendix II listed medicinal and aromatic plants. As a result, Jatamansi and this Darwin Initiative project were highlighted as opportunities to pilot such an approach (Activity 5.1). This was captured in the [CITES Plants Committee Information document](#), and a presentation delivered by the Project Leader. The project press-release launch was also tweeted by the CITES Secretariat.

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.

Originally, the draft bill to amend CITES provisions was almost agreed among the Upper House members, but some issues were raised by some members and it was postponed. Fortunately, the importance and urgency were realised, and the Upper House Assembly passed the bill on the last day of sitting government, allowing no time for the House of Representative to ratify this during the present session. As such, the bill is pending the next session. If it moves forward as planned, then it will not affect the budget and timetable of the project.

As part of the inter-sessional CITES work programme, Jatamansi was subjected to a Review of Significant Trade, with actions requested of Nepal in 2017. No response has yet been received by the CITES Secretariat, and Nepal's MoFE is required to take actions by December 2018, or a zero quota for the trade in species may be introduced at the international level.

The registration process of the project first at the district and following it at the national levels in Nepal took time in this reporting period, delaying slightly the project activities. This has been accommodated for in the project start-up planning.

The change request will be submitted to LTS International concerning the change in field staff of ANSAB, and the finance and administration managers (in ANSAB).

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 re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget 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?

Not applicable

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/work-plan 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**