

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2022

Project reference	28-014
Project title	Gibbon biodiversity conservation through coffee-based agroforestry
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Myanmar
Lead partner	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Partner(s)	Asho Chin Coffee Association (ACCA) Myanmar Forest Department (MFD) Genius Coffee
Project leader	Ngwe Lwin
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31.10.2022 (HYR2)
Project website/blog/social media	None

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Output 1: Technical standards for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee which meet the management goals of the proposed Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (to reduce deforestation, improve forest connectivity and secure resource use rights for buffer-zone communities).

1.1 Participatory Guarantee System established in 50% of coffee-producing area by March 2022.

- In May and June 2022, Organic Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Phase 2 and Phase 3 training for coffee farmers were organized at Khun Zu and Bonebaw village, (Ngape township) (total 180 participants, male: 123, female: 57) to proceed in-line with the project's facilitation road map of PGS certification for the implementation of an organic farming systems. PGS groups were formed in 11 villages. To date, 190 coffee farmers are members of PGS (20% of total targeted members).
- In May 2022, the project team, together with our partner, Asho Chin Coffee Association (ACCA), conducted PGS monitoring at 11 villages to support how to start a peer review, how to check internal systems in audit for PGS certification and how to fill organic farm profiles and records. So far, 120 coffee farmers have been checked by an internal audit of PGS certification.

1.4 Standards for gibbon/wildlife-friendly coffee defined by March 2022.

- In May and June 2022, the project team, together with local para-botanists, undertook threatened tree species surveys in the coffee plantation areas at 9 villages. These were to provide scientific data in support of wildlife-friendly certification of coffee and other agroforestry products.
- In August 2022, a meeting with the Wildlife Friendly Environment Network (WFEN) was

carried out, to discuss the development of certification for project stakeholders. In addition, a first draft of WFEN certification forms was prepared by the project team in September 2022.

Output 2: The GCA is registered as a legal entity with robust internal systems, financing plans and policies, and members have the skills and knowledge to fully implement technical standards to achieve improved and sustainable agricultural practices.

2.2 At least 50% of ACCA members (c.500 out of 1000 people) have received core competencies training by project end, of which at least half are women.

- In September 2022, The Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association, FFI and ACCA jointly organized a study tour to organic farms in the Magway region, to enhance the capacity of coffee farmers on the basic concept of organic agriculture and to promote market linkages among organic farmers across the region. (20 participants, male:10, female:10)
- A work-plan meeting with the ACCA Management Committee was conducted in September 2022 to discuss project implementation and training plans (organizational development, coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing), to develop an organization structure for the registration process at the regional level.

2.3 Sustainable financing plan implemented for the ACCA by March 2023.

- A two-day financial management training session was organized in May with 12 participants (male:7, female: 5) from ACCA. The objective of the training was to understand financial planning and budgeting, implement effective internal control systems and effectively manage cost and cash flow.

Output 3: Zonation and management of Mann wildlife sanctuary, and village land-use plans in the surrounding landscape, are based on biodiversity science and community consultation, to ensure effective protected area management and habitat connectivity within the wider Mann river watershed.

3.5 By March 2022, detailed village land-use plans, based on defined gibbon habitat restoration and management criteria, are signed-off by stakeholders from at least seven villages.

- General land-use maps for 11 villages, as well as specific agroforestry maps of an additional 7 villages, were completed in September 2022 for the village land-use planning and agroforestry design.

3.6 Mann Wildlife Sanctuary gazettement and management planning completed.

- In June 2022, a western hoolock gibbon survey was carried out by the community team in the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS), in support of ongoing efforts to reduce illegal hunting and habitat destruction in the MWS.

Output 4: Local growers and harvesters have improved technical skills, resources and capacity to access premium markets and improved value chains, to secure a reliable income source, contributing to more sustainable and resilient livelihoods.

4.1 Improved coffee and agroforestry seedlings planted by at least 1,000 growers, representing 1,000 households from 11 villages, by project end.

- In June 2022, the project supported small grants to six grantees, in eight villages in the Ngape Township (Minbu District, Magway Region), for the development of sustainable coffee agroforestry to reduce habitat conversion of the secondary and primary forest and conserve the watershed. A total of 63,000 coffee seedlings were planted by the eight villages during the reporting period.

4.3 Coffee cherry quality and bean selection and processing improved, so 80% of coffee beans meet Genius's high-quality standard by March 2023.

- In collaboration with ACCA and Genius Coffee, the project team organized a meeting for the development of a *coffee harvesting and post-harvest processing* training scheme for coffee production methods in September 2022, to be ready for the coming harvesting season in Dec 2022 through Feb 2023.

4.4 Increase in market visibility of "Gibbon Coffee" by March 2024.

- The project team and ACCA provided necessary information and materials to Genius Coffee which will join the Speciality Coffee Conference and Exhibition 2022, to be held in

Tokyo, Japan from 12 to 15 October 2022. Genius Coffee will introduce and display coffee produced by ACCA.	
2. 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.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 	
3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS-LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?	
Discussed with NIRAS-LTS:	No
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	No
Change request reference if known:	

4a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend:
4b. 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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.
5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?
N/A

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to BCF-Reports@niras.com. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**