



**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: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

<b>Project reference</b>	28-014
<b>Project title</b>	Gibbon biodiversity conservation through coffee-based agroforestry
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Myanmar
<b>Lead partner</b>	Fauna & Flora International (Fauna & Flora)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Asho Chin Coffee Association (ACCA) Myanmar Forest Department (MFD) Genius Coffee
<b>Project leader</b>	Ngwe Lwin
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	31.10.2023 (HYR3)
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	None

**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 2022, the project team collaborated with our partner, Asho Chin Coffee Association (ACCA), to deliver awareness talks on Organic Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) in three villages (Linde, Sonhet, and Sarpauk). The objective was to enhance the understanding of the farmers on initiating a peer review, conducting internal system audits for PGS certification, and completing organic farm profiles and records. A total of 53 coffee farmers (male:24 , femle:29 ) from the three villages participated in the event.
- In June 2023, a training session on the Organic Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) was conducted at Bonebaw village in partnership with ACCA and the Myanmar Organic Growers and Producers Association (MPGPA). A group of 79 coffee farmers, consisting of 55 men and 24 women, participated in the training from 10 different villages. The training focused on educating the coffee farmers about the creation of organic fertilizer, insecticide, and fungicide using agricultural waste obtained from their own farms and the surrounding areas, a process known as bio-recycling. This approach aimed to meet the organic PGS standards.

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

- Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network (WFEN) application was approved for certification in May 2023. With the support of the project, ACCA (Asho Chin Coffee Association) has obtained certification as a Wildlife Friendly organization for its coffee production efforts. The certificate acknowledges ACCA's commitment to sustainable practices that promote wildlife conservation.
- In August 2023, the project team organized a meeting with the Management Committee of ACCA in Bonbaw village to finalize on the standards required for the certification of wildlife-friendly coffee, thereby promoting wildlife-friendly coffee production. During the meeting, the finalization of criteria for the wildlife-friendly coffee were discussed. A total of 24 participants (male:17, female 7) actively attended the meetings and discussed finalizing the criteria for wildlife-friendly coffee.

**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.**

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

- In September 2023, the project team partnered with ACCA to develop a sustainable financing strategy aimed at advancing sustainable coffee production. Within the meeting, an initial outline of the data collection process necessary for the creation of the business plan was devised. A total of 30 participants actively participated in the discussions, with 24 being male and 6 being female, all focused on shaping the sustainable financing plan.

**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.**

3.2 Mann wildlife sanctuary draft management plan prepared in consultation with local stakeholders, by end Y1.

- In August 2023, a village-level stakeholder consultation workshop was held in Pabe village to foster discussions on the development of a management plan for the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary. The workshop attracted a diverse group of 67 attendees, including 44 males and 23 females, who represented four villages (Pabe, Sinlan, Wun & Htawzar) which located adjacent of the Sanctuary. The discussions at the workshop encompassed a wide range of topics, including the identification of potential additional threats and the formulation of strategies for the establishment of a buffer zone around the protected area. As an outcome of the workshop, the initial draft of the management plan for the recently established Mann Wildlife Sanctuary was successfully prepared.

3.3 Spatial planning in the new park buffer zone completed by end Y2

- During the reporting period, six village land use planning maps (Pabe, Sinlan, Wun, Htawzar, Shaukyin, Thithla) were successfully completed, adhering to the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) within the buffer zone surrounding the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary. Furthermore, a preliminary draft of a land use plan map was created for five villages (Yebyu, Thitkauk, Laukpale, Bo, Thitseintpin) located in the buffer zone of the Mann Wildlife Sanctuary.

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.

- In May 2023, the project team conducted a meeting with the village land use committee (Pabe, Sinlan, Wun and Htawzar) to share updates on the agroforestry design for the village land use plan. This design was developed after incorporating inputs from the previous discussions and consultations. During the meeting, the team presented the 5-

year land use planning for each village. In total, 51 members of the land use committee from four villages attended the meeting, with 43 being male and 8 female participants.

- In September 2023, the project team facilitated land use planning in five villages: Yebyu, Thitkauk, Laukpale, Bo, Thitseintpin. The planning was based on the gibbon habitat restoration plan and the zonation plan in the buffer zone of Mann Wildlife Sanctuary. This process involved identifying and mapping existing land uses and formulating strategies for future land use, including sustainable agriculture and conservation areas for gibbons, watersheds, and threatened tree species. A total of 54 participants from the five villages attended the land use planning meetings.

**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 2023, the project supported small grants to three grantees, in five villages (Wun, Htaw Zaw, Laukpale, Bo, Thitseintopin) 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 30,000 coffee seedlings were planted by the five villages during the reporting period.

**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.**

- In September 2023, the project team encountered no significant challenges during the execution of project activities. This smooth progress was attributed to our focus on fieldwork and meetings with 70% of the project target area. 30% percent of the project target area were unable to participate in these events due to the challenges posed by the monsoon season, which significantly impacted their ability to engage.

Therefore, we are planning to organize those activities with the missing participants and repeat them to meet the targeted number of people. Therefore, expenditure can be increased and more time will be required to complete those activities. If it is required to change for budget and timetable, we are going to submit the change request before the annual report.

**3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with NIRAS: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

Change request reference if known:

**4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)**

Actual spend: ██████████

**4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2024)?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: ██████████

**4c. 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.**

**NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.**

**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, 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.**

**All new projects (excluding Darwin Plus Fellowships and IWT Challenge Fund Evidence projects) should submit their Risk Register with this report if they have not already done so.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but should also be raised with NIRAS 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](mailto: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**