

## 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>	<b>29-001</b>
<b>Project title</b>	Embedding Sustainable Pollination Management into Nepalese Agricultural Systems
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Nepal
<b>Lead partner</b>	Department of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol
<b>Partner(s)</b>	HERD International, Nepal Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Nepal Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC), Karnali Province Agriculture and Forest University (AFU), Nepal Central Department of Zoology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Nepal Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC) PACE, Nepal
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Professor Jane Memmott</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	12/10/2023 (HYR2)
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.herdint.com/our-work/darwin/">https://www.herdint.com/our-work/darwin/</a> <a href="https://libird.org/projects/pollination/">https://libird.org/projects/pollination/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/601083515388921">https://www.facebook.com/groups/601083515388921</a>

**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).**

During the last 6 months (since the time of the annual report), we have made the following progress, in accordance with our original project implementation timetable:

- 1) Pollinator awareness classes – a further c.200 pollinator awareness classes have been held since the last reporting period (April 2023); these have reached a total of 6400 participants (60% women). Whereas the Year 1 awareness classes focused primarily on farmers, the more recent awareness classes have included many school children as well, with a total of 22% child attendees.
- 2) Farmer Field School (FFS) sessions – A further 34 FFS sessions have been held since the last reporting period. The first 12-month cycle of these FFS sessions is about to be completed after which point a new cohort of farmers will be recruited to participate in the next round of sessions. In late September, our M&E team held a feedback workshop with participants of the FFS program to hear about their experiences. We have documented all of this feedback and will adapt our next round of sessions accordingly. A widely applicable FFS manual for pollination management is in the process of being developed; this will be published within the next year.
- 3) Stewardship Scheme monitoring – Between April and October 2023 regular monitoring surveys were carried out by project staff to record plant and pollinator diversity and crop yields on farms that are implementing our Pollinator Stewardship Package. Surveys were also carried out on control sites and results will be analysed and presented in the Y2 annual report. Additionally, farmer surveys have been conducted on a subset of the farmers attending our awareness classes to record the uptake and impact of our sessions.
- 4) Pollinator awareness video – In May 2023 we published a professionally edited and translated YouTube video on the value of pollinators for agriculture in Nepal. This was aimed at farmers, policy-makers and the general public. So far this has received >400 views and can be accessed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ts3l0Kd7ttc>
- 5) Capacity-building workshops – a further two capacity building workshops were held in Karnali Province since the last reporting period. These covered the districts of Jajarkot, and Salyan (together with West Rukum) and were attended by a total of 71 participants (16% women).
- 6) Crop-pollinator visitation surveys – visitation data and pollinator exclusion experiment data has been collected for a total of 6 crops (Avocado, Cardamom, Coffee, Citrus, Mango, Soybean ) across Nepal. The insect specimens have been identified and the students conducting the work are now writing their theses.
- 7) Pollinator Action Plan progress – the Technical Working Group (TWG) for the formulation of a pollinator strategy for Karnali Province has met twice in the last 6 months. This group includes representatives from the Karnali ministry, as well as academics and practitioners from a range of relevant sectors. Together they have compiled an outline of the pollinator strategy which will now be developed into a comprehensive strategy document. We have developed a questionnaire which will be distributed to 106 agricultural officers and other stakeholders from across the province to seek their feedback on the pollinator strategy and ensure wide participation and ownership of this process.

**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.**

<p>In the Year 2 budget of the original project proposal, we had allocated £3,125 to conduct a small piece of nutritional analysis on some crop samples from our project sites. However, when we received an updated quote from a Nepalese laboratory for the nutritional analysis of these samples, the price was far higher than originally budgeted, making the work unaffordable. We have submitted a change request (in a separate email) requesting to utilise these funds for some alternative activities that will add greater value to the project.</p>	
<p><b>3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</b></p>	
Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes/No
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No
Change request reference if known:	
<p><b>4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)</b></p> <p>Actual spend: ██████████</p>	
<p><b>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)?</b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: NA</p>	
<p><b>4c. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.</b> Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p>NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.</p>	
<p><b>5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</b></p>	
NA	

**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**