

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	29-006
Project title	People, Primates, Plants: Co-managing Biodiversity and Improving Livelihoods in Vietnam
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Vietnam
Lead partner	Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)
Partner(s)	International Center for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF), World Agroforestry – Vietnam Center for Highland Natural Resource Governance Research (CEGORN) – Vietnam Langur Voluntary Conservation Group (VCG), Tuyen Hoa district – Vietnam
Project leader	Joachim Gratzfeld
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 Oct 2022 HYR1 (1 Jun – 30 Sep 2022)
Project website/blog/social media	BGCI: https://www.bgci.org/our-work/projects-and-case-studies/people-primates-plants/ ICRAF: https://worldagroforestry.org/project/people-primates-plants-co-managing-biodiversity-and-improving-livelihoods-vietnam

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).

Responses by the Project Team to the Darwin Expert Committee on their comments to make the project (application) stronger

The logframe is broadly good but could be strengthened in the following ways:

- the langur survey is in the logframe as a means of verification, but should also be included as an activity (both in the logframe and in the implementation timetable):

Comment: This is well-taken. Whilst the langur survey carried out by the Center for Indigenous Knowledge Research and Development (CIRD) in 2020 provides some data, the Project Team has added an additional activity **2.5 Collect additional langur population information (incl. poaching) to establish a comprehensive baseline in year 1, and design and conduct a langur population survey in year 3** as an endline. This will require reallocation of some funds which will be articulated in a formal change request.

- Indicator 0.3 (Reduction of langur poaching in the conservation area by at least by 20% between 2022 and 2025): it would be helpful to indicate the existing baseline;

Comment: As mentioned above, the study undertaken by CIRDI in 2020 will be drawn on to collect further information as a baseline to measure the impact of the project on langur poaching. These data will be collected as part of the baseline survey of the project, which is being designed and will be carried out in November 2022.

- Indicator 1.3: the Means of Verification for the "market opportunities" (1.3 Adopted market guidance and agroforestry models by community members) is not clear;

Comment: This is well-taken. Adopted market guidance and agroforestry models by community members will be corroborated via the household surveys conducted in years 1 and 3, with the base- and endline data and findings serving as MoV.

- Indicator 3.3 (At least 30 community members (at least 50% women) are employed in nursery management, tree planting and restoration activities by the end of the project (2025) and beyond as the nurseries continue to generate incomes through production of seedlings for restoration and agroforestry): it is unclear how employment will continue and be measured "beyond" the project end. For example, will the project develop business plans for the nurseries?

Comments: Major pledges and efforts are underway by the [Vietnamese government to plant millions of trees](#) over the coming years. However, there are major gaps in the provision of tree saplings, not only as regards the magnitudes needed, but importantly also concerning the species selection *to plant the right tree in the right place for the right purpose*. The restoration and agroforestry components under this project will fill an important niche to continuously provide trees for new planting initiatives, by developing sapling stocks of native species. As the demand for the continued provision of saplings is not expected to diminish over the years to come, the Project Team is expecting that employment in the nurseries will continue beyond the project. To this end, business plans will be prepared to guide and measure the further, continuous and long-term development of the nurseries.

Report on Activities initiated during the reporting period (Jun – Sep 2022)

Overarching, project management level: A project steering committee will be established to oversee project implementation, monitor progress and enable adaptive management.

Following the project approval, the Project Management Team (PMT) was established consisting of representatives from project lead (BGCI) and implementing partners (ICRAF, CEGORN and VCG). The key role of the PMT is to undertake monitoring and evaluation of project progress. The first PMT meeting was held online on 6th September 2022 (Annex 1 for PMT meeting agenda).

On 16th September 2022, the project inception workshop was held in Quang Binh province attended by the project partners, and local authority and community representatives. The workshop served to introduce the project aims and to obtain feedback from the participants on the project's plan of work (Annex 2 for inception workshop report).

1. The socio-economic status, income sources and market situation of households in Tuyen Hoa district are assessed and market-based agroforestry practices are established.

1.1. Design and conduct household surveys (years 1 and 3) to characterise and assess the project's impacts on local livelihoods, farming systems, and forest uses (years 1 and 3).

During the reporting period, the project team reviewed existing literature and data from the project site and prepared a draft questionnaire for the baseline survey (presently in Vietnamese only). The baseline survey, which is planned to be undertaken in November 2022, will provide input for the selection of agroforestry practices for characterisation under Activity 1.2, and information for design of market opportunities and value chains of key agroforestry products under Activity 1.3.

1.2. Characterise good local agroforestry practises in the 4 communes of Dong-, Son-, Thach- and Thuan Hoa, as options for agroforestry interventions (year 1).

The questionnaire survey drafted under Activity 1.1 will also be drawn on for characterising agroforestry interventions in the third and fourth quarters. A draft of questionnaire for the characterisation of agroforestry practices for Activity 1.2 has been prepared (at the moment only in Vietnamese).

1.3. Design and conduct market opportunities and value chains, with a special focus on gender roles and equality, of at least 4 key agroforestry products (year 1).

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

1.4. Implement participatory development of market-led agroforestry pilots with local communities in the 4 project communes (years 1-2).

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

1.5. Provide ongoing support to local communities for monitoring and evaluation of agroforestry pilot farms (years 2-3).

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

2. The SUF community co-management plan is jointly developed and implemented with community members and local authorities.

2.1. Organise multi-stakeholder, participatory workshops (years 1-3) to develop the community co-management plan, including options for ecological connectivity of SUF patches through as a key measure to regenerate the Hatinh langur's habitat.

An initial discussion among project partners on co-management of the SUF was held during the project inception workshop. Further exchanges are scheduled for the third and fourth quarters of 2022/23.

2.2. Carry out an eco-geographical survey of the SUF and surrounding areas (year 1).

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

2.3. Assess the potential of human-langur interaction and associated risks of zoonotic infection (years 1 and 2).

A preliminary list of key questions to assess the human-langur interaction has been drawn up and will be further refined in consultation with the zoonotic disease expert in third and fourth quarters.

2.4. Carry out forest restoration (years 2 and 3) engaging local communities and local authorities, including enrichment planting with native tree species raised in the new nurseries to demonstrate implementation of the SUF co-management plan.

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

3. Knowledge of and capacities and capabilities of local communities in Tuyen Hoa district in forest restoration, sustainable and income generating agroforestry, small-scale farm businesses, and prevention of zoonotic diseases from close animal-human interaction, are increased

3.1. Conduct a gender disaggregated needs-assessment, and develop training materials and programmes for training of trainers (TOT) and farmers engaged in new agroforestry models development (years 1 and 2).

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

3.2. Provide TOT training for community representatives and local officials on market, small-scale farm businesses, forest restoration and sustainable agroforestry (years 2 and 3).

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

3.3. Support TOT participants to provide on-site trainings for community members on forest restoration and sustainable agroforestry (years 2 and 3)

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

3.4. Establish and maintain 2 community-based nurseries for production of seedlings of native tree and crop species, and assess of their market potential (years 1-3).

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

3.5. Undertake public awareness campaigns using local and national outreach channels on SUF biodiversity conservation needs and opportunities, and prevention of diseases from zoonotic transmissions (years 1-3).

With the ongoing development of the new Land Law, the project team from ICRAF and CEGORN have been involved in various meetings at national level. The community-based langur conservation in the project site has been used for lobbying at the national level (e.g. at meeting with Ethnic Committee of National Assembly on 18 August 2022).

Similarly, the project team from ICRAF and CEGORN have also been using the case of community-based langur conservation in the project site to lobby for SUF biodiversity conservation needs in the revision of the Government Decree guiding the implementation of 2017 Forestry Law, e.g. at meeting organised by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development or MARD on 14 September 2022.

4. Best-practice of development and implementation of community-based management of SUF, including forest ecological restoration and sustainable agroforestry models, is promoted for integration in national and sub-national policies by the end of the project (2025).

4.1. Conduct participatory suitability mapping for upscaling sustainable agroforestry models from the project site to the district scale (years 2 and 3).

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

4.2. Document project best practices of community-based management of SUF, and incorporate in the SUF co-management plan (year 3).

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

4.3. Produce policy recommendations for local, provincial and national authorities on community-based management of SUF, as well as public awareness materials, and share them widely through local and national media channels (years 2 - 3).

No scheduled action during the reporting period.

4.4. Promote the integration of policy recommendations on best-practice models for SUF community co-management in ongoing and future policy frameworks and strategies for sustainable forest management at meetings with local, provincial and national authorities (years 2 and 3).

No scheduled action 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.

No notable challenges during the project period. As commented above on including the langur survey as an activity, this will require a reallocation of some funds, an estimated GBP 2,000 – 3,000). However, this can be absorbed by the project without impacting on scheduled activities. A change request will be submitted before the end of the third quarter.

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: Yes/No n.a.

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes/No Will be submitted before end of Q3.

Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No n.a.
Change request reference if known:	

<p>4a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p>
<p>N.a.</p>

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**