

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	DARCC001
Project title	Mainstreaming livelihoods, health, poverty, and wellbeing into EDGE species conservation
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Nepal, India, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Malawi, Madagascar, Kenya, Nigeria
Lead partner	Zoological Society London
Partner(s)	NA
Project leader	Paul Barnes
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.edgeofexistence.org

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).

In Q1 (for output one) we have consulted three EDGE regional project managers, four external project partners, and four EDGE fellow alumni to develop the learning objectives and training schedule for the new livelihoods, health, poverty, and wellbeing in conservation training module. We have used the information gathered during these discussions to iteratively produce all the training materials required to deliver six days of training either online or face-to-face.

Also in Q1 (for output one), we have updated all our advertisement, review, and selection materials for the competitive fellowship application process to account for the increased emphasis on LHPWC for the 2023 Africa and 2024 Latin America fellowship cohorts.

In Q2 (for output two) we trialled the LHPWC training module online with the existing 2022 Asia cohort comprising eight EDGE fellows. First, this involved updating and extending our standardised monitoring and evaluation procedures. These included updating before-course and post-course confidence assessments, updating feedback questionnaires to be distributed after every session in the course, and producing qualitative interview guides dedicated to evaluating the new module.

Second, we delivered the online course to eight EDGE fellows from Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia in August building on our experience in delivering online courses. The course used role play games, short lecture videos, group discussions, problem based learning, quizzes, and case studies using platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Miro, and Wonder.me. All the content was based on the most up-to-date research and was specifically developed to be relevant to the course attendees and their conservation work.

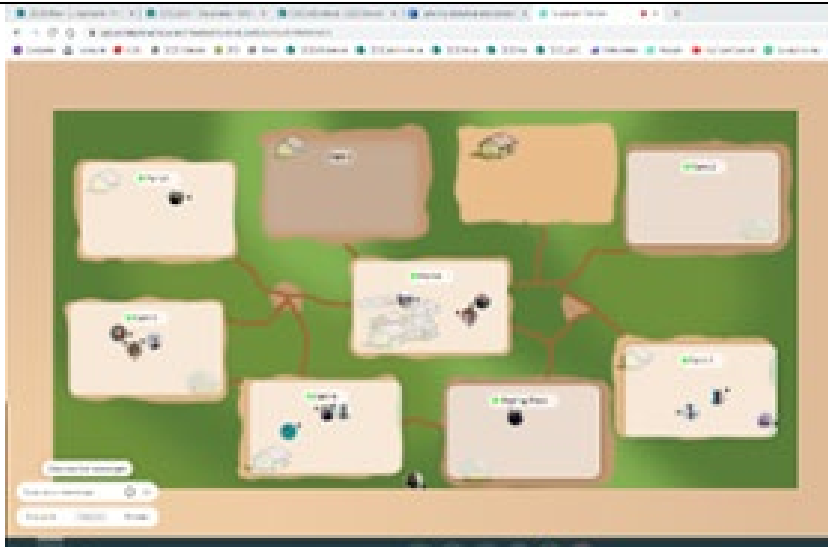


Figure 1 - Kupanda role play game delivered on Wonder.me platform. Fellows had to manage their own farm over one growing season to understand decision making among the rural poor

The first day of the course included a day on decision making for the rural poor delivered through a role play game known as Kupanda by an external trainer (Leejiah Dorward from Bangor University). This was the first time the course had been delivered online and various adaptations were made to ensure it would work. In session feedback the game scored an average 8.71 out of 10.

Day two of the course focused on poverty: understanding the fundamentals and history of our understanding of poverty; global patterns of poverty and biodiversity; links between poverty and biodiversity, both in rationale and history; and how to measure poverty in conservation projects where several case studies were explored. In session feedback this day scored an average 9.1 out of 10.

Day three of the course focused on well-being: understanding what constitutes the good and bad life for people in the global south; understanding well-being frameworks and how they have been used in conservation; and how and why well-being is measured using several case studies. In session feedback the day scored an average 9.3 out of 10.

Day four focused on livelihoods: the history of livelihood approaches; livelihood frameworks; vulnerability frameworks; livelihood strategies; and exploration of case studies of livelihood intervention in conservation delivered by Dr Juliet Wright from Oxford University. In session feedback the day scored an average 9.3 out of 10.

Day five focused on environmental and social management systems and Dr Micaela Camino, an EDGE fellow alumni delivered the afternoon session on engaging with Indigenous people and local communities. In session feedback the day scored an average 9.1 out of 10.



Also, in Q2 and ongoing (for output four) fellows in the 2022 Asia cohort have incorporated LHPWC objectives into their project plans and they are receiving technical supervision and mentorship as their fellowship and projects progress. For example, fellows have objectives that seek to incorporate species important for livelihoods into community forest management plans, others have objectives that seek to understand the ethnomedicinal uses of different species, another is seeking to understand the temporal trends in offtake and shocks impacting fishers.

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.

We have adjusted the timeline for part of activity 1.1. Specifically, where we send out a questionnaire to all EDGE alumni to ask them about training requirements related to LHPWC. We have taken the decision to delay the implementation of this questionnaire until Q3Y1. Delaying the implementation of this questionnaire will allow us to ask additional questions about when during the fellowship each session is best delivered and in what format (online or face-to-face). This coincides with our annual strategy sessions that took place in September where one of the outputs was a full review of our training materials. This change is minor and has no financial implications but will prevent the duplication of efforts and questionnaire fatigue among our EDGE alumni.

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 No 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?

No

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**