

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No	EIDPO043
Project Title	Participatory management and sustainable use of walnut-fruit forests in Kyrgyzstan
Country(ies)	Kyrgyzstan
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Collaborator(s)	Kyrgyz NGOs Bioresurs and JFDF
Project Leader	Liesje Birchenough
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	HYR1
Project website	

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

Activity 0.1 & 0.2: We held the Inception meeting and have negotiated and signed agreements with project partners. Steering groups have been established at the project sites.

Output 1: Field research is underway, with two field trips completed over the summer, to gather information about the numbers and location of herders and livestock, as well as the biological condition of the pasture. As part of a wider exploration of livelihoods in the communities, information on livestock raising has been collected through surveys, interviews and participatory discussion groups. Specific focal group discussions with livestock farmers are planned for Q3.

Output 2: It was decided to establish a woodlot of fast growing trees in one village in Year 1 and a second in Year 2 (to match budget availability). A suitable plot has been identified in Kyzyl Unkur and agreement reached with the local forest service to take responsibility for establishing and maintaining the plantation for the benefit of the community. The trees (*Salix nigra*) will be planted in autumn.

Output 3: A series of community and small group meetings have been conducted at the two project sites to jointly explore current livelihood strategies and opportunities. The scheme to support community-led initiatives was announced, and workshops held to explain how to complete the application and give training in developing a workplan and budget. Applications from community groups have been received, assessed and 40 initiatives selected for support (with Darwin and match funding). Initiatives include bee keeping, fruit growing, and a variety of other micro business enterprises such as bakery, hair dresser, poultry, and sewing shops.

Following identification and prioritisation of training topics at community meetings, training has been provided in community-based nature tourism; processing of fruits and berries; preparation, use and cultivation of (wild) herbs; and gardening.

Output 4: Training and resource needs assessments were conducted with the local forest service at Kara Alma and Kyzyl Unkur, with reports produced outlining the current situation and detailing the training and equipment identified by the forestry teams as necessary to effectively perform their duties. These plans have now been costed up, and training will be provided in forest legislation and computer skills in Q3.

Output 5: Climate adaptation measures appropriate for the project site were identified at a workshop with stakeholders. These will now be discussed with the communities.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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 problems encountered April – September. An issue has arisen in October, which will shortly be communicated to and discussed with the Darwin Secretariat.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

3a. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible through the formal Change Request process. However, it would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication now of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**