

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2011)

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Project Ref No</b>  | 17-013   |
| <b>Project Title</b>   | Building capacity and resilience in the conservation sector in Tajikistan  |
| <b>Country(ies)</b>    | Tajikistan   |
| <b>UK Organisation</b> | Fauna & Flora International  |
| <b>Collaborator(s)</b> | International Centre for Protected Landscapes (UK), University of Central Asia, National Academy of Sciences, Institute of Professional Development (Tajikistan) |
| <b>Project Leader</b>  | Alex Diment  |
| <b>Report date</b>     | 25 October 2011  |
| <b>Report No.</b>      | HYR 3  |
| <b>Project website</b> | <a href="http://www.fauna-flora.org/explore/Tajikistan/">www.fauna-flora.org/explore/Tajikistan/</a>   |

## **1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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).**

All project components have progressed according to plan during the reporting period, and the project is now set to deliver all outputs by the time of completion in March 2012.

Four complete training modules have been delivered during the reporting period, to 49 trainees. The modules also helped develop the skills of 9 Tajik national specialists to deliver similar courses in future. The project partners have been engaged with the training and the broader project, and have also contributed to the development of this report. In addition a major benefit of the training is the wide range of people from many organisations and government bodies who have been trained, and formed strong informal links through the residential, intensive training courses. A good number of new collaborations have been formed between NGOs and various government departments and regions.

The final three modules intended to be delivered in Year 3 are planned; one will be delivered in October, another in November, and the final one in March 2012. A “training of trainers” event is also scheduled for November, where national specialists will share their experiences of working alongside UK experts, and also learn tips and tricks for delivering successful and engaging training courses.

The Darwin Scholars are, and are preparing to present the key results of their work at a International Biodiversity Conference in Tajikistan in October. This conference is part-funded by the Darwin Initiative, and it’s logo will feature prominently at the event and in the printed materials. One of the postgraduate student has deferred her studies for one year due to a family bereavement; the other 4 are on track to finish in 2012 as planned. Extensive fieldwork by the scholars (a main aim of their booster scholarship), has been undertaken, and is either complete or will be completed this autumn. The final year will be dedicated to writing-up their findings, and as such, will require no additional funding.

Funds have been secured for a Protected Area development project in Zorkul Reserve, a protected area and Ramsar site in the eastern Pamir region of Tajikistan. This project is linking with several of the trainees whose capacity has been developed through the Darwin Initiative project, and is providing on-the-job training and mentoring to a number of conservation practitioners. Furthermore, this project will develop a training module linked to the National Training Programme, in field-level Ranger Training. This will complement the existing, more technical training which has been developed by the National Training Programme.

**2. 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.**

A proposal submitted to the Darwin Initiative for post-project funding was not successful. Furthermore, additional co-funding for the overall project has not been secured. This has meant that the scale and ambition of the project has been scaled back, and it has also stretched in-kind contributions from several of the partners to continue to deliver agreed components, albeit at a lesser scale and impact than might have otherwise been possible.

To ensure the project leaves a legacy, certain additional activities have been planned, and separate funding is being sought. While none of this is yet confirmed, it is hoped this additional funding will:

- Provide continuation funding to teach relevant modules developed during this project to further conservation practitioners within Tajikistan and neighbouring countries
- Extend the training modules into University courses for emerging conservation scientists
- Provide on-the-job training and mentoring for conservation practitioners in the field.
- Create "Environmental Resource Centres" for interested students and practitioners to access books, reports and basic field equipment for future work
- Encourage nature-clubs in Schools and Universities for those students interested in nature, and support any aspirations to develop careers working with the environment
- Liaise with other Central Asian republics, beginning with Kyrgyzstan, to deliver training in those countries, using materials and approaches developed during this project in Tajikistan.

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

Not applicable. No changes to outputs etc. anticipated.

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

Yes  No

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

No

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto: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**