



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	19-001
Project Title	Conservation of the newly-discovered Burmese (Myanmar) snub-nosed monkey
Country(ies)	Myanmar
Lead Organisation	Fauna and Flora International (FFI)
Collaborator(s)	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)
Project Leader	<i>Dr Stephen Browne, Director of Operations, Asia-Pacific Programme, FFI</i>
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	<i>HYR3: 31 October 2014 (Period: April to September 2014)</i>
Project website	<i>http://www.fauna-flora.org/species/myanmar-snub-nosed-monkey/</i>

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 to end September).

The current reporting period coincide with the rainy season, during which field research is generally not possible. Therefore this project was focussed on the awareness activities and planning for the upcoming dry season (November through March). The activities and outputs in the past six months are described below by Objective. Selected images are provided in Annex 1.

Output 1: Improved knowledge of snub-nosed monkey abundance, distribution and ecological needs across its range

This Output comprises eight activities aimed at improving the capacity of local partner the Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) to conduct and publish scientific research on snub-nosed monkey abundance, distribution and ecological needs. Only one activity was undertaken during the reporting period.

Eight camera traps were set in new locations in February and Mark to help confirm the feedback from interview reports and were collected in August. A summary of the results are given in Table 1 and a camera trapping report will follow shortly. Most significantly, this survey was able to confirm the presence of the species in the part of Range 2 (see Map 1). Although only one individual snub-nosed monkey was recorded, this constitutes only the third record of the species in Myanmar and in itself gives further insights into the species behaviour, showing how unlike others in the snub-nosed monkey group, this species travels on the ground.

Table 1: Mammals species recorded during the camera trapping, March – August 2014

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ¹
Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey	<i>Rhinopithecus strykeri</i>	CR
Red Panda	<i>Ailurus fulgens</i>	VU
Gongshan Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus gongshanensis</i>	DD

¹IUCN Red List status (www.iucnredlist.org); DD = Data Deficient, VU = Vulnerable, CR = Critically Endangered.

Staff from the project attended the International Primatological Society conference (with around 900 delegates) in Hanoi in August 2014 and gave a presentation on the work funded by this project

Output 2: Snub-nosed monkey conservation strategy designed and implemented

This Output comprises eight activities aimed at formalising conservation and protection action for the Myanmar Snub-nosed Monkey, including designation of new protected area and development and implementation of multi-stakeholder collaboration for the species as defined within an Action Plan or similar strategy. One main activity was undertaken during the reporting period.

With support from the Myanmar Governments Forest Department, FFI and Forest Department staff conducted biological field surveys in February and March 2014. Additionally, they also prepared biodiversity survey reports for the National Park nomination in May 2014.

As part of the nomination process a National Park nomination consultation meeting with local communities, to hold discussions on the national park boundary was planned to be conducted in May and June with FFI, the state Forest Department and the Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division from Naypyidaw. However, this activity was postponed until the coming dry season because the permission letter from the Kachin State Government was delayed.

In late September, project staff visited the Imawbum area to assess road conditions and to inform the village leaders about the forthcoming consultations in October or November.

Output 3: Community-based constituency for snub-nosed monkey conservation programme developed

This Output comprises 11 activities aimed at raising awareness and motivation, and providing the material and technical support, for local communities to undertake protection activities aimed at the target species. Two main activities were undertaken during the reporting period.

Together with Kachin State forest Department, the project organized an open day as part of the Biological Diversity Day on 22 May 2013. The event was held in Waimaw Township in the lowland area that lies on the main route from the state capital, Myitkyina, to the project site. Approximately 126 people from local communities and organizations attended. At the event, the project used posters and talks to raise awareness on the biodiversity value and threats of the Imawbum area and Myanmar Snub-nosed monkey conservation

Working with Pidaung Wildlife Sanctuary, the project organized an awareness event at a village located near the project site, which is now home to most of the villagers originally from the project site. The project used posters and talks on the biodiversity value and threats of Imawbum area and Myanmar Snub-nosed monkey conservation to raise awareness.

From late September to early October, project staff visited the villages to which we provided grants in early 2014 to monitor activities. A report is in preparation.

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.

We did not expect to undertake any field activities during the reporting period. Although we had the permission from the state government to visit the project area, we had to postpone until coming dry season.

Due to the insecurity condition over the last two years, we have had to reduce the time for the field surveys and correspondingly have spent less of the budget than we expected. However, many local villagers have expressed interested in our small grant activity, which has increased local community participation in the conservation of Myanmar snub-nosed monkey and nomination of the national park. Therefore we would like to increase the number of small grants and total available under our small grant component.

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 currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. 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 and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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

See comment under 2a above

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 can be discussed in this report but **should also be 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 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**