

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

| | |
|---|--|
| Project Ref No | 19-015 |
| Project Title | Equitable access to pasture use for beekeepers in Kyrgyz Republic |
| Country(ies) | Kyrgyz Republic |
| Lead Organisation | Bees for Development |
| Collaborator(s) | The Rural Development Fund (RDF) and the Republican Association of Beekeepers (RAB), Kyrgyz Republic |
| Project Leader | Dr Nicola Bradbear |
| Report date and number (e.g. HYR3) | 31 October 2013 HYR2 |
| Project website | http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/featured-project/2012-04-19015/ http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/what-we-do/internationalprojects/kyrgyzstan/ |

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 1. Community Dialogues

- 1.1. RDF conducted four community dialogues on importance of beekeeping for economic development. This was used to identify potential participants for the training program.
- 1.2. A meeting took place with the Pasture Committee on understanding their position concerning permission of access for beekeepers to pastures, with the head of local government.

Activity 2. Legal and institutional review to develop recommendations to institutionalise access and use rights of beekeepers to pastures.

- 2.1. *Legal and institutional review.* This activity is continuing. RDF reviewed the legal framework for beekeeping in the Kyrgyz Republic which informed its draft recommendations.
- 2.2. *Collaborative meetings to draft recommendations.* RDF participated in the Working Group on preparation of a new Beekeeping Law under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture. The draft law was discussed several times at various round table meetings and RDF provided its comments related to secure access for beekeepers to pastures.
- 2.3. First draft of amendments was circulated to stakeholders in October 2013. Final draft recommendations for legal framework will be completed in November 2013.

Activity 3. Work with the pasture communities to improve de facto access for beekeepers.

- 3.1 *Beekeepers' map of forage areas and migratory routes.* RDF collected information on bee forage in Chong Kemin valley. This consists of photos and brief descriptions compiled with corresponding carrying capacity of various areas in the territory, and the quality of forage for bees. A list of beekeepers from within and beyond Kok Oirok community was completed. RDF trained local community representatives in participatory mapping techniques to enable map production. These maps include information on: bee forage, migratory routes for beekeeping (historical routes and current routes), potential migratory routes for local community beekeepers, and separate routes for beekeepers from three villages (Kaiyndy, Karal Dobo, Tegirmenty), pasture condition, including degraded areas where it is crucial to ensure optimal pollination, areas creating conflict between various pasture users, and areas with potential for camping for beekeeping.
- 3.2 Incorporate maps into the Pasture Use Plan. The local community will be further consulted concerning the maps before incorporation into the Pasture Use Plan.

Activity 4. Beekeepers' associations able to effect changes at the national and local levels

- 4.1 *Training in advocacy for RAB members.* Training needs identified include bee pollination services to wild pastures and Kyrgyz agriculture; European Union market requirements for Kyrgyz honey and beeswax export, including consumers and buyers preferences and food.

Activity 5. Training programme for young herders in beekeeping as an alternative livelihood

- 5.1. *Apiculture apprenticeship scheme.* The BfD Project Coordinator visited the project in June 2013 during the planning phase for the Training Scheme. BfD developed a training module to be

delivered by a Kyrgyz-language trainer. Unfortunately RAB could not identify a Kyrgyz-language trainer available when needed, so an external trainer was hired. The young herders were absent from the villages until later in September due to grazing their cattle, leading to a delay in implementation of this activity.

5.2. *Seed grants program to start up/support beekeeping.* A BfD intern (Li Murphy) assisted RDF in conducting a value chain analysis for honey production in Kok Oirok valley to better understand markets, constraints and opportunities for local producers. The results of the analysis will be used to develop strategy and plan for the small grant program, scheduled for Spring 2014.

Activity 6. Awareness raising campaigns among land users and executives of state institutions

6.1: Some common misconceptions about honey bees have been identified through consultations, and materials to counter these are being developed.

6.2: The National Honey Fair - will take place in November 2013. RDF is preparing a brochure for this event, and a schedule of further public competitions, press releases and press conferences.

6.4-6.5 During the BfD Project Coordinator's June visit, RDF prepared an information and awareness raising booklet on the importance of beekeeping for livestock and pasture development. The booklet is designed as comic style book for innovative delivery of messages in Kyrgyz language. The comic will be printed and distributed in target community and through RAB.

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.

There is an underspend in the RDF staff salaries budget in Year 1. This was fully transferred to RDF and therefore not included in the above carry forward request. RDF request that we seek a change proposal to re-allocate these funds however we are still in the process of clarifying exactly how these will be spent given that we are in the final year of the Project. Once this is ascertained a change request will be submitted.

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

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance NA

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

Yes No

3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carry forward 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 carry forward request: £0

All funds were sent to Kyrgyz Republic as per the budget.

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

Martin M. Jones is appointed as the permanent replacement for Elizabeth McLeod as BfD Project Coordinator.

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.