Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No 19-021

Project Title Values and valuation: new approaches to conservation in Mongolia

Country(ies) Mongolia

UK Organisation University of Leicester, Roy Bradshaw, Plan Vivo/ Bioclimate,

(International Wildlife Consultants (IWC)- not receiving Darwin funds)

Collaborator(s) Mongolian Society for Rangeland Management (MSRM); Mongolian State

> University of Agriculture; Centre for Ecosystem Studies, Mongolian Academy of Agricultural Sciences; Mongolian Nature Protection Civil Movement Coalition, (Mongolian Ministry of Nature, Environment and Tourism –now Ministry of Nature, Environment and Green Development –

not receiving Darwin funds).

Project Leader Dr Caroline Upton, University of Leicester

Report date 30 October 2012

Report No. (HYR HYR 1

1/2/3/4)

Project website (under construction)

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).

The project is on track, against the agreed timetable (Section 18 of project document). Since April 2012 and until the end of Quarter 2, the following activities have been completed in accordance with the agreed timetable:

Activity 01: Project inception and start up meetings. These meetings were held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in May 2012 and attended by partners, government ministry staff and academics. Thus, activities under 4.2 have been initiated and will be followed up throughout the project and with new ministers coming in after the summer 2012 elections, as per the agreed timetable. MOUs were agreed and signed at and in the aftermath of this meeting.

Activity 02: Preliminary field visits and finalisation of case study sites. This activity was completed through field visits by C. Upton and MSRM to forest steppe, steppe and desert steppe areas and meetings with local herders groups in May 2012, with follow-up meetings in July 2012, the latter also including N Nyamaa, as part of the inception of baseline socioeconomic surveys under Activity 3.3. The following sites have been chosen: Ikh Tamir soum (Arkhangai aimag); Undershireet soum (Tov aimag), Ulziit soum, Dundgov aimag, plus one further site - Bogd soum, Bayankhongor aimag, to build on established networks and enable further exploration of critical cultural issues. Specific herders' groups have been identified for participation in the project, following meetings with members and leaders of MSRM Pasture User Groups.

Activity 2.1. This was undertaken through MSRM and C Upton in May and July 2012, and through additional MSRM field visits and meetings in August 2012. Outcomes will now be shared with Plan Vivo, and built into the Project Information Note and PES planning through the Plan Vivo system. This also links to Activity 4.1.

Activity 2.2. This activity is in progress, in accordance with the agreed timetable and through the field visits and meetings outlined for **Activity 2.1** (above).

Activity 4.5: aspects of the project and its proposed activities were introduced at the following conferences/ meetings. 1) National University of Mongolia/ International Association for Mongolian Studies conference on contemporary anthropological / environmental contemporary research in Mongolia. 2) 'Community, place and pastoralism: nature and society in post-Soviet Central Asia'. Dr Upton and Professor Nyamaa were both involved as organisers of this workshop, attended by donors, policy makers and members of herding community. It is also proposed to present aspects of the work related to valuation and cultural services at the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) 'Conservation & Human Wellbeing' event in December 2012, as part of a joint presentation by Dr Upton with the Director of the Cultural Values and Conservation Programme at Flora and Fauna International.

Work on **Activities 2.3, 3.3, and 3.4** has already been initiated, ahead of schedule. Specifically this relates to baseline surveys of wellbeing and biodiversity using established indicators at project sites, to be complemented by participatory indicators developed under 3.1. In summer 2012 Professors Undarmaa and Nyamaa completed extensive surveys in selected study areas. A socio-economic database has been constructed; analysis of vegetation/biodiversity survey data is ongoing. Professor Undarmaa is working with Plan Vivo/ Bioclimate on development of the technical specification under **Activity 2.3**. Of the other activities scheduled to begin in the first half year, it is only with **Activities 1.1 and 1.2** that we have experienced any delay (see below). These activities are underway, but have not yet been completed.

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.

The UK environmental economist, Roy Bradshaw, who plays a key role in **Activities 1.1 and 1.2** was very ill and hospitalised over the summer. He is now well on the road to recovery and working remotely with the Mongolian economist, Professor Nyamaa Nyamsuren and Dr Upton to advance **Activity 1.1**. It is expected that selection and development of methodologies will progress over Q3, with trialling in Q4. **Activity 1.3** will commence in Q4 on completion of the trials. **Activities 1.3 and 1.4** will then be completed by the end of Q2, Year 2, in accordance with the original timetable.

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

No – the overall completion date of **Activities 1.1-1.5** will stand. It is only **Activities 1.1 and 1.2** that have been affected and strategies have been put in place for dealing with these, as set out above.

Discussed with LTS:	<u>no</u> /yes, in (mo	nth/yr)	
Formal change request submitted: <u>no/yes, in(month/yr)</u>			
Received confirmation of change	acceptance (N/A)	no/yes in(month/yr)	

	you ex et for th	•	have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your
Yes		No	
possi	ble. It v	would l	n to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an nuch you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: 4

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

No. An earlier question over MOUs, invoicing and evidence of expenditure with in-country partners was raised with and answered by Eilidh Young. We are following this guidance.

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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form 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