

## Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2015)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	21-007
<b>Project Title</b>	Livelihoods in the Balance – protecting Cambodia’s remaining seasonally-inundated grasslands
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Cambodia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Wildfowl & Wetland Trust (WWT)
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Mlup Baitong, Chamroen Chiet Khmer, Forestry Administration of the Royal Government of Cambodia
<b>Project Leader</b>	Tomos Avent
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2015. HYR2
<b>Project website/Twitter/Blog /Instagram etc</b>	N/A
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	DFID

### 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).

#### Output 1

Full report produced detailing land-ownership and utilization in and around Anlung Pring (AP) complete. Members of Boeung Prek Lapouv (BLP) Sustainable Farming Groups interviewed to refine land-use boundaries and generate finer-scale maps. Map to be presented to District Governor within next reporting period.

#### Output 2

Agreements signed for vegetable demonstration plots with the three village schools surrounding AP. Initial rice trial at BPL generating significantly increased yields from 5 tonnes/ha to 7.5 tonnes/ha. Additional sites selected for expansion of programme, and a Farmer Association formed to ensure standardised production for wildlife-friendly rice.

Kampong Kransang Community Fishery (CFi) legal designation fully endorsed by government. Management Plan completed but not yet implemented. Koh Andet CFi draft map produced by Fisheries Administration and Management Plan to be approved within next reporting period. Fishery yield analyses completed for both sites. One BPL fish sanctuary created by Chamroen Chiet Khmer (CCK) and a habitat restoration scheme planned for Feb/March 2016 (after flood water recedes).

AP ecotourism marketing strategy completed and potential agents identified and consulted. Products and packages defined and agent familiarisation trips planned for start of next crane season in December 2015.

Community Information Points (CIPs) agreed for the three schools around AP and adjacent to the newly created Chres Wetland area.

### Output 3

Wetland Apprentices recruited from local communities and training programme in process. New handheld electronic data collection and management system created and field tested to enhance biological monitoring and law enforcement patrols. Results from Local Community Group (LCG) monitoring presented to project partners.

Digital elevation models completed and trial plots for discrete hydrological cells proposed for next dry season. Small-scale drainage management interventions tested around Dei Leuk village, where buffalo grazing protocols have also been drafted – also to be implemented after flood waters recede.

### Output 4

Multi-stakeholder workshops facilitated by WWT and meetings held with the Department of Water Resources & Meteorology to discuss repairs to sluice gates at Anlung Pring. Consultation with bordering shrimp farm owners to understand current and potential external anthropogenic influences to water levels and quality. Extent of water level monitoring increased in BPL to assess effectiveness of water retention in newly created fish sanctuary – results to be used to inform decisions on discrete hydrological cell creation.

### Output 5

Following on from meetings with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Forestry Administration (FA), a discussion document was prepared and circulated by the project outlining a process to build national capacity on wetland management and develop national policy in this area. Next steps will be to formally agree this process and constitute an inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral working group.

### **2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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 project is still slightly behind schedule due to the delay in recruiting key in-country project staff in Year 1 of the project but there has been no further slippage or budget implications of this in H1. This has especially influenced the progress of Output 5, but significant ground is expected to be made up in this area over the next reporting period.

The project intended to work on output 5 with the Cambodian delegation to the Ramsar Conference of Parties at/around the CoP in Uruguay in June. Unfortunately the Cambodia delegate withdrew at short notice due to illness and we are in discussion to find suitable dates to reschedule those discussions. We do not expect any material impact on timescales or budget as a result of this issue.

### **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
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Formal change request submitted:	No
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Received confirmation of change acceptance	No
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### **3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., 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?**

Partners CCK and Mulp Baitong (MB) both have limitations in financial management capacity. CCK is a small organisation with a lack of internal human resources to call upon in this area, whilst MB have a large number of projects spread throughout the country, making consolidated financial management difficult. This is an ongoing issue with our partners but all parties are working closely together to ensure the stated activities and outputs are not in any way compromised for this project.

**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](mailto: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 e.g., Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**