



Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2017)

Project Ref No 22-004

Project Title Collaborative Conflict Management for Community Livelihoods and Conservation

Country(ies) Mongolia, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan

Lead Organisation University of Aberdeen

Collaborator(s) Snow Leopard Trust (SLT), Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (CEH)

Project Leader Prof. Steve Redpath, Chair in Conservation Science, University of Aberdeen

Report date and number (e.g., HYR3) 30 October 2017, HYR3

Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc NA

Funder (DFID/Defra) Defra

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).

In red are the agreed baselines from our timetable for Q1 and Q2, with progress towards each:

1.2. Field implementers work with community leaders to agree suite of conservation programmes, sign new/update existing conservation contracts.

At the end of Year 2, we were working with 47 communities (Mongolia 34, Pakistan 10, Kyrgyzstan 3). Seven of these communities signed new contracts in Year 2 while 40 of them maintained/renewed previous contracts. No new communities have joined since April 2017. This autumn in Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan, contracts will be renewed and we will be notified of any changes or new communities joining. Similar to the end of Year 2, 36 communities are taking part in handicraft schemes (30 Mongolia, 3 Pakistan, 3 Kyrgyzstan); 12 communities are taking part in insurance programmes (6 Mongolia, 6 Pakistan); and 12 communities have corrals (6 Mongolia, 6 Pakistan). We have 10 communities engaged in multiple programmes (6 Mongolia, 4 Pakistan).

1.3. Field implementers secure materials, communities secure labour and corrals constructed in relevant communities.

Two new corrals have been built over the past six months for a total of 27 corrals (8 Pakistan, 19 Mongolia). The two new corrals were built in Khyber Valley, Pakistan in July 2017. Another corral in Pakistan is expected to be completed before March 2018. A quick correction to our baseline of 26 corrals that we reported at the end of Year 2: it should have been 25 corrals as we learned a herder in Mongolia that had wanted to build a corral and who received corral materials ended up transferring his corral materials to another herder who has not yet constructed the corral but is expected to do so. In Kyrgyzstan, the building of 14 corrals in Year 3 is still underway (the corral materials will be ordered soon and the materials are planned to be transported to the villages in 2017). The first 3-4 corrals are planned to be built by December 2017 and the remaining 10-11 corrals by March 2018.

1.5. Orders (O) for handicrafts placed by SLT via field implementers; field implementers collect products twice/yr and bring to SLCF, SLFK, SLFP headquarters to ship (S) to SLT for distribution

In the last six months, 20,888 handicraft products (16,291 Mongolia, 1,488 Pakistan, 3,109 Kyrgyzstan) were produced by herders, collected by project partners, and shipped to SLT. A total of 348 herders made crafts worth over 24,094 USD for an average earning per household of approximately 69 USD.

2.3. Baseline (yr 1) and final yr (yr 3) survey data collected in sample of communities on livestock losses, income and attitudes.

All questionnaires have been finalized and distributed to countries to collect YR3 comparative data. Year 3 survey data in representative and control communities are currently being collected in Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan. All surveys are projected to be completed by December 2017. Year 1 survey data is currently being analyzed.

3.6. Local champions are identified and sensitized in programme communities through meetings with SLCF, SLFK and SLFP field implementers and toolkit.

At the end of YR2, a total of 37 local champions had been identified (16 Mongolia, 8 Kyrgyzstan, 13 Pakistan).

In May, a SLCF staff member in Mongolia conducted a handicraft trip to the South Gobi. While she was making product purchases she met with four local champions (out of the 16 total) to get updates on the local conservation context.

In Pakistan all of the local champions have been visited by field staff two to three times during various project and field activity trips.

In Kyrgyzstan, SLFK staff have been in contact with each local champion individually and have consulted them about various activities including: the preparation of handicraft products, handicraft bonuses, anti-poaching and camera trapping. Several calls in particular were made with the champion from Enilchek village about ongoing and future work including the potential purchase of a wool processing machine and predator proof corrals, and new potential small grant funding.

4.1. Any killing of snow leopards and wild ungulates recorded Yrs 1-3.

No records of poaching have so far been recorded directly in representative communities in Mongolia and Pakistan in Year 3. In Mongolia, SLCF will receive further updates on any evidence of poaching from

local community representatives and environmental park officers in December 2017. In Kyrgyzstan there is no record of any snow leopard killing. However, the SLFK team in Kyrgyzstan received report of an argali killed in one community, Ak-Shiyrak. The handicraft bonus for this community was not disbursed based on the evidence of this ungulate killing.

4.2. Snow leopard abundance surveys in representative programme and control landscapes undertaken in Yr 1 and Yr 3 through camera trapping

In Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and Pakistan, snow leopard surveys are underway. In Kyrgyzstan, camera trapping abundance surveys were completed in Koiluu Valley (control landscape) between July and September 2017. The camera trapping of Sarychat Nature Reserve (representative landscape) is currently underway and will be completed by December 2017. In Pakistan, camera trap surveys are underway in Terich Valley (control landscape). Camera trapping in Hoper and Hisper valleys (representative landscape) will be completed in December 2017 and January 2018. In Mongolia, camera trapping efforts are underway in Tost (representative landscape) and will be completed in October or November 2017. Camera trapping in Noyon (control landscape) will be completed between November-December 2017.

4.3. Wild ungulate surveys undertaken in representative habitats in programme and control landscapes in Yrs 2&3 through double observer techniques

Wild ungulate surveys will take place between October 2017 and January 2018 in all countries. In Pakistan, Terich Valley (control landscape) ungulate surveys will be completed between October – November 2017, while Hoper and Hisper valley (control landscape) ungulate surveys will take place between December 2017 - January 2018. In Mongolia ungulate surveys in Tost (representative landscape) and Noyon (control landscape) will take place in November 2017. In Kyrgyzstan ungulate surveys will take place in Koiluu Valley (control landscape) and Sarychat Nature Reserve (representative landscape) between October and November 2017.

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.

In Kyrgyzstan we have taken more time than anticipated to prepare for the building of the 14 corrals, including reviewing design parameters, assessing costs, and taking data from communities related to need, size requirements, etc. Our partners in Kyrgyzstan have been moving cautiously considering this is their first time building corrals with communities. Based on weather and community schedules, we will be able to start corral building early this winter before major snows, and then continue in spring with the goal of completing the construction of 14 corrals by March 2018. We therefore would like to increase the amount of time spent on corral construction in our timetable to include Q4 of Year 3 and have submitted a change request accordingly..

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| 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: | No |
| Formal change request submitted: | Yes |
| A change request to amend our timeline has been submitted with this report. | |
| Received confirmation of change acceptance | Not yet |

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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 <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Estimated underspend: | £ |
| <p>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.</p> <p>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:</p> | |

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| 4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? |
| No thank you. We are grateful for the support and appreciate the 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 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 e.g., Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**