



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2018)**

Project reference	24-024
Project title	Integrating Biodiversity and Elephants into Peace and Development
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Burma
Lead organisation	Elephant Family (EF)
Partner(s)	Compass Films, Grow Back for Posterity (GBP), WCS Myanmar
Project leader	<i>Ms. Belinda Stewart-Cox, OBE</i>
Report date and number	31 st October 2018 – HYR2
Project website	http://elephant-family.org/what-we-do/where-we-work/myanmar-burma/biodiversity-and-elephants

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April-Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project

Output 1: Families across Tanintharyi area (5,400) are empowered and knowledgeable about bottom-up land use management processes that incorporate ecosystem functionality and local land use needs under current development, and under future effects of resettled migrants

1.1 Review existing land use plans

Ongoing: The WCS field team has conducted participatory reviews of 10 land use plans in the reporting period, four adjoining villages in one township, and six villages in another township area, both inside the Myitmoethket Key Biodiversity Area. The reviews are supporting communities to refine and implement their management plans, as well as explore the options for formalising their plans, through Permanent Forest Reserves, Community Forestry, or the newly approved Community Protected Area designation.

1.2 Complete participatory land use planning in at least an additional 21 villages

Ongoing: During the reporting period, WCS field teams have completed the participatory land use planning process in a further three villages, involving a total of 227 community representatives, in close collaboration with four¹ government departments, as well as support through the local CSO, the Karen Development Network (KDN). This brings the total number of completed bottom-up land use plans to 54 villages, across five townships, covering over 236,000 ha of community land with seven of these land use plans completed since the beginning of the Darwin project. The team also did preparatory work, together with the Forest Department, in two further villages, with 41 community elders and leaders participating in the meetings. The land use planning process is expected to follow, once the communities have considered their options, and agreed on the approach.

1.3 Feed learning from local level into regional and national land use policy reform

Ongoing: During this period, the revised Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas Law was passed by the national parliament. For the first time, this includes Local Community Protected Areas (CPAs) as a land designation, linking with the international standards for Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs). WCS is now facilitating a broad dissemination and consultation process for the development of the detailed Rules which will specify how the law is to be applied on-the-ground. The WCS team in Tanintharyi was closely involved with the Forest Department and regional government in a workshop in Dawei to consult on the development of the Rules, along with strong collaboration from UNDP, UNESCO, and other conservation organisations (including WWF and Fauna and Flora International). Three additional workshops have occurred in other regions of the country, and over 700 public comments have been received, which are now undergoing consolidation and consideration by the government, with technical support from WCS. The field teams were able to provide feedback on their experiences of applying land use planning at local level with indigenous communities, and make recommendations on the rules and regulations for the development of Community Protected Areas. It is expected that pilot CPAs will be developed in Dawei district, as part of this project in the coming years.

1.4 Monitoring of livelihoods and wellbeing, completed in a representative sample of target villages.

Ongoing: As an integral part of the Participatory Land Use Process (PLUP), WCS field teams collect baseline data on livelihoods and wellbeing, from both women and men (separately and together), such as seasonal resource use, perceived trends in resources, and future aspirations. During the reporting period, this was completed in three villages, and resulting data were reviewed in 10 villages.

The project is also involved with broad-scale monitoring of trends in livelihoods and wellbeing through engagement with larger groups, such as the Joint Peace Fund, the 'LIFT' funded project led by Covenant Consult, and indigenous representation groups, the Takapaw and Ban Chaung committees. In particular, WCS engaged with the youth group of the program for resettlement of Karen refugees during the reporting period.

¹ The Forest Department, General Administration Department, Department of Agricultural Land Management, and Department of Land Records and Statistics

Through co-funding, WCS piloted beekeeping training for communities from four villages in the Kanyin Chaung area, in an important wildlife corridor. This also involved basic data collection on existing and potential livelihoods.

Output 2: Spatial plans completed and adopted in villages in Tanintharyi area based upon existing knowledge of important wildlife corridors and economically productive zones and available as examples and learning tools for other regions in Myanmar and other Asian countries.

2.1 Through combining all 40 village plans into a broader landscape plan, incorporate this into district and regional development planning

Ongoing: WCS has compiled village plans into a landscape scale plan, though some gaps remain, which are a priority to address. This process has been done together with the government, and the plans are thus considered in regional planning, though not yet formally protected in law. WCS has recently received parallel financing from the French Development Agency (AFD) to extend this process, and work on both marine and terrestrial spatial planning with the regional government.

2.2 Present plans to regional government for acceptance and recognition

Ongoing: The WCS team have presented the findings at a Karen Indigenous Workshop, an important vehicle to discuss and present progress on indigenous people's land use planning, customary tenure issues, and natural resource management. The outcomes of the consultation workshop will be provided to regional and national level planning departments for their consideration, and to incorporate into ongoing land tenure reforms. The Dawei/Myeik District secretary from KNU, Director from Regional Forest Department and relevant government staff, CSOs, CBOs, MNSP, INGOs were all participating, with over 100 people engaged in this consultation workshop.

2.3 Develop and distribute reports on the benefits of the approach for community land tenure and livelihoods

Ongoing: WCS worked with partners to support the creation (in both Burmese and English) of the USAID Land Tenure Reform Project's guide for Participatory Land Use Planning. On the strength of this work, WCS has been invited by the Swiss Development Cooperation's Gulf of Motama project to provide technical support for their process of participatory spatial resource planning.

2.4 Attend and support Land Core Group workshops to mainstream this approach with other local communities in Myanmar.

Ongoing: This major consultation workshop focused on Karen land and forest management in Kamawthwe Area. This workshop was led by the Land Core Group, Tanintharyi River Indigenous People Network (Trip-Net), Mekong Region Land Governance (MRLG) and the KNU, with strong participation from regional government. WCS has also coordinated with the Land Core Group to work on initial stages of consultation on the Indigenous Community Conservation Area (ICCA) legislative reform, including a consultation session in Dawei (1.3 above).

Output 3: Important areas of connected habitat for elephants and for biodiversity intactness are identified in relevant villages in Tanintharyi area such that HEC can be mitigated.

3.1 Local communities actively engaged with elephant movement/presence surveys and mapping.

Ongoing: WCS conducted further interview surveys for human-elephant conflict (HEC), elephant presence/absence and possible movements, to identify current and future hotspots areas in four villages. Typically, seven key informants were interviewed in each village.

During outreach and land use planning reviews, WCS conducted ad-hoc surveys of elephant presence, absence, and HEC, in 10 villages during this reporting period, with between two and seven informants in each village.

3.2 Hotspots of likely HEC under current and future scenarios identified

Ongoing: Data has been compiled, and current and likely hotspot areas for HEC have been mapped. WCS is currently working with data from the Smithsonian Institute to identify predicted areas of elephant occurrence, based on climate, topography, and all existing landscape data. WCS will then use their data to verify the model, as well as identify other potential areas outside our data collection.

3.3 Delivery of HEC awareness/mitigation work in hotspots

Ongoing: Outreach activities were completed by WCS in nine villages in April-May 2018, with a total of 419 adults participating, as well as over 450 students involved in the school program. The WCS team used and further developed education materials, such as the Elephant board game and exercise books, to target high school and middle school students, and teachers.

3.4 Regular Forest cover monitoring via GIS and remote sensing.

Ongoing: The WCS team continues to monitor forest cover change, as well as further develop a bespoke online tool for simple access to recent satellite monitoring data and deforestation information.

To embed this knowledge into the local region, WCS has provided training on basic GIS for 14 trainees from local CSOs, and a more detailed training course, over a 10-day period, for 59 research students at Department of Geography of the University of Dawei.

3.5 Team members from KNU and civil society groups, trained in HEC awareness and PLM

Completed: A WCS team member worked with six staff from the KNU and Karen Forest Department, to discuss HEC, and present the HEC awareness program, as well as land use planning, and community land tenure, at the KNU liaison office at Dawei. WCS also delivered a one-day training in HEC awareness to 22 rangers and staff from the Tanintharyi Nature Reserve.

Output 4: 40 village representatives are empowered in HEC mitigation in Tanintharyi and awareness about HEC is created across all 190 villages in five areas such that vulnerable groups are able to co-exist peacefully with elephants and have the facility to mitigate elephant encounters.

4.1 Production of educational kits for HEC awareness/mitigation

Ongoing: GBP and Compass Films produced 10,000 education kits during the reporting period. Each educational kit consisted of a DVD, an educational game and information booklet about human-elephant conflict. 5,500 kits were distributed to students during the reporting period.

Following the production of the WCS education kits, 10-15 sets of materials (including the Elephant board game) were provided for the teachers in each school, as well as elephant exercise books for students, and T-shirts awarded to the most outstanding students who fully engaged with the program.

4.2 Training workshop held for new GBP educational teams and WCS team

Ongoing: To be held in second half of Year 2.

4.3 Introductory workshop for teacher/headmasters to introduce campaign material.

Ongoing: GBP held a training workshop for 150 teachers of the Yangon Teacher Training College. Meetings were also held in the Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Mandalay divisions to introduce the HEC awareness campaign to a total of 54 officials. In each division, GBP met the Township General Administration Officers, Forest Police and Forest Departments. Aung Myo Chit (GBP) also met Man Win Khaing Than, the President of the Burmese Parliament who was very supportive of the awareness campaign.

4.4 Hold school outreach conferences at 40 schools annually each year

Ongoing: GBP held 30 school outreach conferences during the reporting period across the Ayeyarwady, Yangon and Mandalay regions. A total of 5,500 students attended these conferences.

WCS held a school outreach campaign for "World Elephant Day" on 12 August 2018. This event took place in the middle school at Mayan Chaung village near the Tanintharyi Nature Reserve, with 87 students and nine teachers participating in this event, which was covered by local media, and widely disseminated across social media.

4.5 Conduct impact surveys to analyse effectiveness of the HEC awareness campaign

Ongoing: Impact survey forms for the GBP outreach conferences were filled in by 493 students (236 males and 257 females) representing 8.9% of the total audience.

4.6 Monitor and evaluate campaign progress

Ongoing: An M&E consultant has been hired by EF to visit the project sites and judge M&E processes for the whole Darwin project in early 2019.

4.7 Adapt content of educational kits to meet new and changing requirements and realities as needed.

Ongoing: No content changes were required during the reporting period

4.8 Hold workshops for NGO and media representatives.

Ongoing: No workshops were held during the reporting period.

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.

Access to KNU areas continues to be somewhat problematic, with no free access granted to areas closer to the Thai border. There was a flare-up of conflict earlier this year in Karen State (far north of the project area) between the Karen National Liberation Army, the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, in conflict with the Armed Forces of the Government of Myanmar. This led to the death of several people, including a noted environmental activist. This has increased tensions between the KNU and the Burmese government, including in the project area.

Project target areas and activities have been slightly revised to account for the security situation, with an increased focus on some of the more accessible villages, and an emphasis on working through partners for the more restricted areas nearby. There will, necessarily, be some data-gaps in restricted border areas but WCS will use predictive modelling and remote sensing to fill those gaps. Using this adaptive approach, there are no substantive changes to the budget and timetable of project activities.

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 (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.

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

No

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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**