



Darwin Initiative/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2019)

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 2019 –HYR3
Project website/blog/social media etc.	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 (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

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*
Activity completed in Year 2.

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

Ongoing: During the reporting period, two additional villages participated in reviews of their existing land use plans, along with additional awareness activities on customary land tenure to support their efforts to gain this tenure under anticipated changes to land law. In total, 16 government employees and 63 community members (30 female, 33 male) participated.

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

Ongoing: In the past month, WCS has facilitated 12 workshops and consultation meetings to develop the regional Environmental Management Action Plan. 447 male and 270 female participants gave feedback and input into this regional policy, which includes important provisions on natural resources and land management.

WCS is also leading national consultations on the Forest Rules; the supporting legislation to the recently revised Forest Law. 16 major workshops are planned during this project year and WCS's Dawei team was involved with three workshops that took place during the reporting period, recording feedback from 137, 60 and 217 participants respectively (62, 25 and 97 female).

WCS continues to support the development of Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs) as part of the Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Area rules that they helped develop last year. WCS anticipate using the Land Use Plans developed within this project to start pilot ICCA sites in the project area.

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

Ongoing: During a series of township level, Dawei District level and Tanintharyi regional level community forestry networking group meetings, WCS collected baseline data on livelihoods and wellbeing. The resulting data was reviewed in two villages. In addition, WCS are supporting basic data collection on natural resources with 17 community members in the Kalonehtar village area, so that they can perform their own participatory natural resources and livelihoods assessment.

WCS conducted a survey on livelihoods in the Tayet Chaung area to provide a baseline against which to measure the success of their pilot community-based eco-tourism work. Baseline livelihood and wellbeing data is also being collected along the Dawei river between Launglone and Thayet Chaung, working with local groups and government staff from the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism.

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 supported the Yebyu Township in seeking recognition for their Land Use plans from the regional government as progress towards developing a broader landscape plan.

2.2 *Present plans to regional government for acceptance and recognition*

Ongoing: The Yebyu Township plan was presented to Township level officials, in collaboration with the Tanintharyi Nature Reserve, with 46 male and 14 female participants.

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

Ongoing: WCS contributed to a three day training workshop on technical aspects of REDD+, proposed policies and measures, and developing skills in advocacy, networking and monitoring, and built stronger relationships and networking with CSOs/NGOs in order to promote effective implementations of the REDD+ project.

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

Ongoing: WCS has participated in and contributed to a series of bi-monthly technical knowledge-sharing meetings to support land use policy and customary land tenure with OneMap Myanmar, WWF, RECOFTC and the Department of Geography. They continue to engage with the Land Core Group to develop Forest Rules, as well as a national workshop on Forest and Land Tenure.

With match-funding support from Elephant Family, WCS is now applying the lessons learned through this project to a new site around the Rakhine Yoma Elephant Range, on the West Coast of Myanmar. Through participatory mapping of Elephant presence and HEC hotspots, predicting likely future HEC areas, working with communities on local land-use planning, and engaging with Protected Area authorities, WCS is replicating this project, to prevent HEC before it happens and support broader elephant conservation in this important landscape.

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: This work was largely completed in Year 2. In this half-year, WCS have continued to involve local communities from connected KBA areas in biological monitoring activities to follow-up elephant movement surveys from last year. During this period, the field team encountered several other wildlife species, including 15 mammal species and over 200 bird species, of which three were globally endangered.

3.2 *Hotspots of likely HEC under current and future scenarios identified*

Activity completed in Year 2.

3.3 *Delivery of HEC awareness/mitigation work in hotspots*

Activity completed in Year 2.

3.4 *Regular Forest cover monitoring via GIS and remote sensing.*

Ongoing: WCS has continued to develop online tools for regular forest cover monitoring which are now available for final testing (see <http://myanmar-geotools.appspot.com>). This portal for deforestation cover assessment was tested by Tanintharyi Nature Reserve staff, and will be further tested with community members this quarter, with a fully Burmese version launched in early 2020.

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

Ongoing: During this half-year the team focused on capacity building and training for local partners, giving advanced training in participatory mapping, GIS and land law to 12 male and 8 female community participants. The aim is for them to take this work forward in ceasefire areas that the central government cannot access. Advanced training was also given to 18 male and 6 female forest rangers through the National Forest Training and Development Centre.

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: During this reporting period, GBP printed 5000 booklets, 5000 DVDs and 2500 games. HELP education teams have distributed 3016 booklets, 3016 DVDs, 1500 games and 55 colour posters. In addition, Flora and Fauna International (FFI) requested 200 H.EL.P. kits for their education team in Tanintharyi, Bokeypin to distribute, which GBP provided.

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

Ongoing: Training was given to three new GBP team members. The WCS team members that GBP trained in the first year of the programme have kept in regular contact with GBP, submitting comments and suggestions on local language use in education materials. These have been incorporated into GBP's training programme.

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

Ongoing: On every monthly education trip, the GBP team meets district and township level officers and authorities from both the Forest and Education Departments to get permission for their educational workshops. Tailored presentations were given to nine headmasters in the Yangon and Ayeyawady regions along with ten General Administration Department staff and two Education Authority officials.

- 4.4 Hold school outreach conferences at 40 schools annually each year**
Ongoing: GBP held conferences at the universities of Yangon and Dagon for 328 students. Educators also visited four villages in Thaikyi township in Yangon division and five villages in Tharpaung township in Ayeyarwady division which were attended by a total of 2,528 adult villagers. 576 students aged 7-16 participated in nine outreach workshops in nine villages in Yangon and Ayeyarwady.
- 4.5 Conduct impact surveys to analyse effectiveness of the HEC awareness campaign**
Ongoing: Of the 3,291 people provided with education training during the reporting period, 533 (16.2%) were surveyed. The surveys found 80% of respondents knew how to keep themselves safe in the event of an elephant encounter following the workshop. In 2019, upon returning to previously surveyed villages, there was an average increase of 17% in general knowledge about elephants
 As a result of a workshop held at Yangon University, a zoology student was recruited to help analyse the villagers' change in attitude towards HEC after participating in the educational workshops.
- 4.6 Monitor and evaluate campaign progress**
Ongoing: Survey questions remain unchanged but following the annual review meeting between GBP, Compass Films, Elephant Family and an M&E consultant, a second survey with multiple choice-style questions was also implemented.
- 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. In addition to existing videos, the team added an additional video focusing on Asian elephant issues to be played at the beginning of the educational workshops.
- 4.8 Hold workshops for NGO and media representatives.**
Ongoing: At the request of the US Embassy Library Yangon, GBP held a presentation on HEC conflict management and safety for their members. At the request of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, GBP provided audio-visual support to the museum and gave a presentation to the media and members of the public, where it distributed education kits.

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.

Participatory land use planning fieldwork has been delayed by flooding and landslides throughout the project area. Attempts to validate data on HEC hotspots have also been delayed by weather constraints preventing access to key areas. This was anticipated and factored into planning, and field activities to complete the work will accelerate from November - February. Overall, progress and spending has been on track and no problems are anticipated in completing the project objectives.

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:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	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: N/A

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.
 N/A

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

No