



Darwin Initiative Half Year Report

Project reference	25-018
Project title	Succeeding with CITES: Sustainable and equitable Jatamansi trade from Nepal
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Nepal
Lead organisation	TRAFFIC International
Partner(s)	ANSAB Nepal, Ministry of Forests and Environment, ProFound - Advisers In Development, University of Copenhagen, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, FairWild Foundation, IUCN SSC Medicinal Plant Specialist Group
Project leader	Anastasiya Timoshyna
Report date and number	31 October 2019, HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc.	https://www.traffic.org/what-we-do/projects-and-approaches/jatamansi-trade-from-nepal/

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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).

The project progress has overall been as anticipated against the timetable of activities. Effective management and implementation of the project secured project agreements with partners for the Y2 (**Activity 0.1/0.5**). A new project staff member was identified to join TRAFFIC's team and minor changes to ProFound staff, are both subject to a change request approval (**Activity 0.2**). The monthly project coordination calls continued, focussing on the project activities planning and the project delivery (**Activity 0.5**).

The development of the overview of Jatamansi use and trade in Nepal (**Activity 1.1**) has been advanced, with the draft available. Meanwhile, Jatamansi international trade data analysis was included in the [CITES CoP18 document](#) (SD01), focusing on the potential of the voluntary certification to support CITES implementation. Jatamansi producing companies have been prioritized in the previous reporting period (**Activity 1.3**); in-depth questionnaires mapping the gaps and strength of companies in relation to implementing the sustainable sourcing practices, and international marketing efforts were completed for five out of six companies, forming the basis of the sectoral and producer enterprises gap analysis (**Activity 1.2**). It is anticipated that additional key information will be available from the FairWild pre-audit in October 2019. These combined activities will lead to the common Jatamansi value chain strategy and action plans for producer enterprises (**Activity 1.4**). Opportunities were also identified for the BioFach 2020, with Nepal government making a commitment to support producers to attend the trade show.

The household (HH) baseline survey was completed, focusing on the eight participating community forest user groups (CFUGs) (**Activity 1.5**). The survey assessed the socio-demographic characteristics, economic status of target Jatamansi harvesting households, market and supply chain of the high value non-timber forest products/medicinal and aromatic plants (NTFPs/MAPs) and the relationship with forest resource use and management. Over 300 HHs were included in the survey (over 20% of total 1,474 households). Methods included Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews. The results demonstrate that Jatamansi harvesting, collection and trade provides crucial employment opportunities and income to the local people, especially to disadvantaged groups, such as ultra-poor and marginalized households. The baseline survey estimated that over 1,400 HHs in both project sites are actively engaged in the harvesting of Jatamansi which contributes on average 20-25%

of their annual income. Harvesting is driven by market demand and the time available for harvesting. There is a clear need of strengthening sustainable harvesting practices, with populations facing multiple threats, including forest fire, uncontrolled grazing in the pasturelands, pre-mature and over-harvesting. There is inadequate information on sustainable production and annual allowable harvest volumes, contributing to over-harvesting of Jatamansi and other high value NTFPs/MAPs. Whenever market demand and price increase, pre-mature and over-harvesting become common practice.

Based on the training needs assessment, the project team designed training material and a strategy for the Training of Trainers (ToT) on *FairWild Certification, Sustainable Forest Management, Harvesting and Value Addition complying with the FairWild Standard* (**Activity 1.6**). Following this, a four-day ToT was organized (**Activity 1.7**) in June-July 2019 to build the capacity of project staff, staff of local forestry offices, local forestry graduates, local stakeholders working on sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. 16 CFUG members, as well as divisional forest offices and local partners, ANSAB field staff and local-level forestry graduates were trained in FairWild certification and on how to fill the existing gaps in the current operation plans of CFUGs (the list of participants is available at SD02, and detailed session plan in SD03). Following the ToT, six participants have become trainers/local resource persons (LRPs) (**Activity 1.8**). Since the ToT, 300 Jatamansi harvesters from Jumla and 320 from Mugu were trained on sustainable harvesting practices of Jatamansi and FW certification, ~40% of these participants were women (list of participants – SD04). The scope of training included post-harvesting methods, storage, processing and marketing of Jatamansi. The trainings included theoretical sessions, group work and discussions. Project supported the repair of the processing unit (**Activity 1.9**) of the “Chancharihalna Jadibuti processing enterprise” in Furkisalla CFUG (Jumla), leading to the resumption of production after closure for some years, with trial distillation successfully completed. Five CFUG members were trained on handling and processing, and will assume this role. The processing enterprise was formally inaugurated by the high-level official of the Karnali province ([press-release](#) SD05).

The activities around Nepal’s CITES Act were the main policy interventions in the reporting period, while the overall policies gap analysis have been complete as well, identifying further, longer-term options for interventions (**Activity 2.1**). While the CITES Act itself has been successfully amended, which project actively supported (**Activity 2.2**), including through convening stakeholder meetings and discussions (**Activity 2.3**), the Regulations to enable it coming into force and being implemented have been delayed. The initial plans were to finalize by July 2019, however it remains unresolved. This delay does not directly affect the project activities timetable, as this risk was factored in, however it hinders the potential for the 2019 Jatamansi trade, which will affect harvesters and producers. ANSAB supported the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE) to develop a task force under the leadership of the Joint Secretary of MoFE. A three-day regulations development workshop was organized, to discuss current regulations. Project supported a national-level workshop for sharing the draft CITES regulation to stakeholders. ANSAB participated in meetings organized by CITES MA and SA, to support the formulation of the new CITES regulation between May and August, 2019. CITES CoP18 established the zero quota for exports of Jatamansi from Nepal, and CITES MA were requested to provide the conservative quota for 2019. This is in process of being completed.

The collation of up-to-date information about the conservation status of Jatamansi is ongoing (**Activity 3.1**), linked to activities 1.1, 3.4 and 3.5. Recent scientific [article](#) co-authored by a project partner identified Jatamansi as most ‘vulnerable’ among species traded from Nepal. The plant profiles preparation work is ongoing (**Activity 3.2**). The situation analysis have been completed and reported in the previous period (**Activity 3.3**), while the resource inventories methodology have been confirmed (**Activity 3.4**). As Jatamansi reaches full maturity in September-December, the inventory is planned for this period, ongoing at present, scheduled to be finalized in October. Its methodology is based on the participatory inventory of NTFPs toolkit (ANSAB) and the inventory guideline by GoN. Project team reviewed the status of the eight community forest operational plans (CFOPs) (see SD06) (**Activity 3.5**). In Jumla, two CFUGs have a valid tenure that needing partial revision to include resource inventory data, and FairWild requirements; two CFOPs need a full update of resource inventory information, and additional provisions to comply with the FairWild Standard. In Mugu, two out of four CFOPs are

now under a revision process, one has a CFOP with a validity for three more years and one needs a complete revision incorporating resource inventory and FairWild elements.

In order to properly document the ongoing harvest, the project has developed a harvester registration system that includes the name, age, sex, ethnicity and address, average harvest quantity, distance to collection site and years of experience in Jatamansi harvesting in the target CFUGs (**Activity 4.1**). At least one member from each household involved in Jatamansi harvesting has been registered now (SD07). Each project CFUG has now a database which it maintains. After developing the registration system, the CFUGs have already started discussions on coordinating the harvesting season to ensure sustainable harvesting of Jatamansi and other MAPs. **Activity 4.2** is tightly linked to the completion of 1.4, and will be advanced in the next period. Direct follow-up with the ethical companies in consumer markets has been supported (**Activity 4.3**), including through the group calls, 1-2-1 meetings, to ensure the continued interest and commitment of companies in purchasing Jatamansi FairWild certified. **Activity 4.4** have been completed, the dissemination of materials is ongoing. 1,000 copies of the FairWild Standard and Performance indicators in Nepali were distributed to the relevant government bodies FECOFUN chapters, local CFUGs, Producers enterprises, JABAN chapters, local traders and local forestry graduates. A boost in the FairWild capacity for key project implementing partner in Nepal – ANSAB – was delivered through the participation in the [FairWild Forum](#) in Hungary in April 2019 (**Activity 4.5**), see SD08. Plans are developed to support the development of the [FairWild auditing capacity](#) in Nepal (**Activity 4.6**), with the course planned for October 2019 (SD09). In conjunction with the auditor training, consultant has been identified to undertake the FairWild pre-audit of the Himalayan BioTrade Ltd, and the CFUGs, to prepare the company for the FairWild audit in 2020 (**Activity 4.7 and Activity 4.8**). Other Jatamansi producers will be part of the October trainings to have the support with the implementation of FairWild requirements (**Activity 4.7, Activity 4.9 and Activity 4.10**).

Activities are supported to promote the project experiences to date to stakeholders in Nepal and globally (**Activity 4.11**). There was an opportunity to showcase the Jatamansi case-study at the CITES arena during CoP18 (**Activity 5.1**). ANSAB liaised with CITES MA for preparations. Upon the request from the Government of Nepal, Jatamansi profile was developed and distributed at CITES CoP18, alongside the project flyer (see SD10 and SD11). There have been an overall boost to the importance of [medicinal and aromatic plants trade in CITES context](#) with the new decision adopted by CoP18, which touches directly on Jatamansi trade regulations (SD12). Plans are being developed for the BioFach 2020 to showcase the project and make the case for sustainable, FairWild-certified CITES-listed ingredients (**Activity 5.2**)

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.

A change request was submitted (minor staff changes), decision expected

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?

Not applicable

Please send your **completed report by email** to Darwin-Projects@Itsi.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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**