



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

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	30 October 2020, HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.traffic.org/what-we-do/projects-and-approaches/jatamansi-trade-from-nepal/

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Most of planned project activities and deliverables were on track in the last 6 months, with details as follows. Draft manuscript of Jatamansi use and trade in Nepal overview (**Activity 1.1**), including the additional population distribution modelling data, is planned to be finalized by the end of October, with latest delay on research component in Nepal due to COVID-19 lockdown. Meanwhile, the re-assessment of Jatamansi against the IUCN Red List criteria (**Activity 3.1**) was initiated. To complete Jatamansi producer enterprises gap analysis, interviews were completed with two new enterprises: H-Plant Pvt. Ltd, and Abroad Export Company Pvt. Ltd, bringing the number of interviews to seven (**Activity 1.2**). These interviews, international market information (in Europe and USA), and information gathered during the marketing strategy workshop, informed the common Jatamansi value chain strategy (**Activity 1.4**), combined with the Jatamansi marketing strategy (**Activity 4.2**). Nepalese producers will be provided support with integrating the value chain strategy insights into their operations. Plans to capture the project-level information about impacts on community households from the project activities and efforts (e.g. via a questionnaire), building against the baseline survey (**Activity 1.5**) are in progress. Training materials were updated (**Activity 1.6**), following on the recommendations of the FairWild pre-audit. Following were printed and disseminated in the period: Good collection practices of Jatamansi (SD1), Occupational health and safety measures for the workers and their working environment (SD2), guidelines on i) fair trade (SD3), ii) Social responsibility (SD4), and iii) Traceability (SD5).

Trainings were delivered at the community level in July-August 2020, focussing on meeting FairWild requirements (**Activity 1.8**). 418 persons (46% women) were trained (SD6): harvesters, CF executive members, local traders, members of the Jatamansi processing centre and Jumla CFUGs members. Of these, 113 participants were trained on FairWild Standard, good collection practices (GCP), occupational health and safety (OHS) measures and sustainable forest management (SFM); 110 – on fair trade, Social responsibility and Traceability to CFUGs along with the distillation unit management; 101 - on account and record keeping and upgrading of the Jatamansi harvester's registration system; and 94 - on preparation for FairWild certification. Trainings were carried out following Government health regulations, and all the participants were provided with a face mask, hand sanitizer and soap. Along with the training, facilitation support was provided to establish a system for formal decision taking when necessary.

To support the access and use of processing/value-adding equipment (**Activity 1.9**) a meeting with Chhanchari Halna Processing Enterprise management committee in Patarasi, Jumla took place. Following the physical inspection of the enterprise and discussion with the management committee, support was provided in displaying a banner describing sustainable harvesting, health and safety precautions during harvesting and transportation to the processing site (SD7) and signals in the most

dangerous areas; fire-fighting equipment (2 buckets filled with sand and a shovel) was installed, designation of an emergency exit, fencing of the enterprise premises, provision of a first aid box; and displaying of emergency helpline numbers at the facility were completed. A plan was also developed for the processing enterprise in Mugu to re-install and maintain the distillation unit including the construction of a storage house for Jatamansi and other NTFPs/MAPs.

Continuing the policy and legislation support work (**Activity 2.1 and 2.3**), regular meetings took place with officials of the Ministry of Forests and Environment (MoFE), Department of Forest and Soil Conservation (DoFSC), Department of Plant Resources (DPR). This concerned the formulation of the export quota for Jatamansi in 2020, which was confirmed in September 2020 (of 382.7 MT of Jatamansi root). Upon their request, the DoFSC also received 500 security stamps from the CITES Secretariat (used on the containers of Jatamansi oil for exporting). ANSAB has also been in regular communication with the Ministry and DoFSC (CITES MA) for further steps to be taken for the revision of the EU Scientific Review Group's negative opinion on import of Jatamansi from Nepal into the European Union.

Jatamansi (and other associated species) resource assessment report has been finalized (**Activity 3.4**). The community forest management plans (**Activity 3.5**) for eight target CFUGs were updated based on the assessment results, and the feedback received from DFOs of both districts to previously submitted versions. As the management plans must be approved through general assembly of CFUGs and via their statutory audits, ANSAB facilitated the CFUGs in Jumla to organize their general assembly and supported their statutory audit. The final drafts of the management plans of the four CFUGs in Jumla were re-submitted to the DFO in September. Two meetings with the DFO Jumla and the FECOFUN district chapter were organized. So far, three community forest management plans have been approved by the DFO Jumla. The Baghjale CFUG (Jumla) plan is under the process of approval, due to a boundary issue with the adjoining CF. A meeting to resolve the issue has so far been unsuccessful, with next meeting planned for October. In Mugu, ANSAB has mobilized local resource persons to support the CFUGs to organize the general assembly and conduct statutory audits of each CFUG. The management plans are likely to be approved in October 2020. As part of documenting the implementation of the management plan recommendations (**Activity 3.6**), the FairWild pre-audit identified gaps. Based on these, ANSAB organized a meeting with HBTL in July 2020, and developed a checklist of the actions to be taken at different levels. During July – September 2020, a range of activities were facilitated (1.6, 1.8, 1.9, 3.5 and 4.8). In order to support the CFUGs in the implementation of the management plan recommendations, ANSAB provided an orientation to CFUGs members and harvesters on the sustainable forest management. During the training sessions, the CFUGs executive members, general members and Jatamansi harvesters were briefed on the resource inventory process, detailed maps of Jatamansi harvesting sites, annual allowable harvest of NTFPs including Jatamansi, numbers of regeneration and matured plants populations of Jatamansi and other NTFPs/MAPs, and provisions for the sustainable management of the NTFPs/MAPs including Jatamansi. The completion of the activities in target areas, and the finalization of the overview Jatamansi paper (Activity 1.1) will feed into documenting the outcomes with CITES NDF processes in the next reporting period (**Activity 3.7**).

CFUGs' harvesters registers were updated (**Activity 4.1**), incorporating the recommendations of the FairWild pre-audit (SD8). The existing system (which collected information on names, gender and age of harvesters) was extended to include: harvesting site/block, average harvesting quantity by an individual in a day, total quantity collected (kg), place/person where Jatamansi was sold, quantity sold (kg), selling price (in NPR) and total income from Jatamansi (in NPR). This system will help in tracing the actual Jatamansi quantity harvested and sold from a particular CF, which should have a positive impact on monitoring and controlling harvesting of resources.

At the level of Jatamansi producer enterprises/companies, the marketing strategy and plan (**Activity 4.2**) was completed, including the recommendations for Nepalese exporters to access European/US markets with sustainable Jatamansi. Outcomes will be shared with the suppliers in online session. A range of actions took place in furthering the trading relationships to ethical companies in consumer markets (**Activity 4.3**). Calls with the main brands involved in the project (Neal's Yard Remedies, Pukka Herbs, Primavera), were held in June. A new trader was identified through participation in in-cosmetics trade fair, who is interested in sustainable Jatamansi and would like to join in networking activities. Further brands were also informed about FairWild and the benefits of using FairWild certified ingredients via two webinars organised by the FairWild Foundation in May and September 2020 (attended by >210 attendees in total), and established groundwork for future one-to-one conversations with companies about using FairWild certified ingredients, including Jatamansi. The FairWild website was developed to include a page with information on wild collection operations which were near or working towards FairWild certification. HBTL has been listed on the FairWild website, as a supplier of [a potential FairWild ingredient](#). Jatamansi was also a featured ingredient in FairWild [July 2020 newsletter](#). FairWild Week 2021 took place 22-26 June. Posts were themed around the prevalence of wild plants in everyday products, the role of wild plant collectors, threats facing wild plants and actions for consumers.

Project partners' capacities in the implementation of the FairWild Standard continued to be developed (**Activity 4.5**). Six ANSAB staff attended the FairWild webinar for brands in May 2020, three ANSAB

staff, two ProFound staff and four TRAFFIC staff joined the FairWild hosted webinar for collection operations in September 2020. This covered the application for FairWild certification and the process of preparing for a FairWild audit. The FairWild Foundation also organised training for TRAFFIC staff on FairWild in August 2020, attended by 28 people. All webinars were also recorded and distributed online after the events. ANSAB has been providing support to producer enterprises on the implementation of FairWild minimum certification requirements (**Activity 4.7**) through training, coaching, and encouraging them to attend webinars conducted by the FairWild Foundation. Six Nepalese companies attended the FairWild webinar in May 2020; and six attended a webinar in September (11 were invited). The Nepali translation of FairWild Standard and Performance indicators (Version 2.0) was disseminated to the producer enterprises, associations (Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association – NEHHPA and Jadibuti association of Nepal - JABAN), and local FECOFUNs. Furthermore, ANSAB developed the draft operational guidelines on the FairWild Premium Fund, discussed with target CFUGs in Jumla (SD9).

Support was provided to facilitate the FairWild certification audit of HBTL (**Activity 4.8**). ANSAB **supported CFUGs** in the preparation of: i) documentation and establishment of traceability systems; ii) documentation of social responsibility and fair trade, including establishing a system of fair pricing of Jatamansi and other Non-Timber-Forest Products (NTFPs) and access to benefit sharing; iii) documentation of traditional uses of Jatamansi; iv) calculation of living wages in the CFUGs; v) development of a mechanism for grievance resolution, vi) upgrading of Jatamansi harvesters registration systems to comply with FairWild certification; vii) development of maps of Jatamansi harvesting sites in each CFUG that are displayed in CFUG offices; viii) documentation of inventory methods and procedures in each CFUG; ix) maintenance of specimens of ecologically and economically important NTFPs/MAPs in each CFUG; ix) development of a CFUG-level Jatamansi harvesters sub-group policy (SD11); and x) development of the operational manual for the FairWild premium fund management for Jumla. The processes and outputs have been recorded in CFUG meeting minutes so that the practice is institutionalized at the group level. **At processing enterprise level**, the project facilitated: i) Public display of the health and safety and quality measures in the processing centre; ii) establishment of a dispute/grievance resolution mechanism; iii) development of codes of conduct related to health and safety measures and a format for accident records; iv) a record book for cleaning and sanitization of the processing machine, storage house and its premises; v) development of formats for procurement and sales records and product labelling requirements; vi) development of a human resource policy that includes mode of payment, terms and condition of the workers, payment of receipt/invoices of the workers and working hours; and vii) development of an operational policy of the processing enterprise. HBTL submitted an application to the FairWild Foundation to undertake the risk analysis and initiate the certification process. A request was made for a quote from accredited certification bodies, and decision was made by the FairWild Foundation to allow the remote audit, exceptionally in 2020.

An online webinar will be further planned with Nepalese companies and the Nepal Herbs and Herbal Products Association (**Activity 4.9**) to discuss the outcomes and recommendations of the value chain strategy and marketing strategy. Further FairWild training will be planned at that time. In the previous reporting periods, 10 producer enterprises were identified for FairWild gap analysis (SD10). Up until the end of this reporting period, individual meetings were organized with seven enterprises (two in the last 6 months) to complete the gap assessment questionnaire, identifying the major gaps of the producer's enterprises (**Activity 4.10**). The project and certification pilot were promoted widely to a range of stakeholders (**Activity 4.11**). This included an article on [Mongabay](#), Darwin Initiative [COVID-19 newsletter](#) contribution, as well as update on [ANSAB website](#) and [TRAFFIC website](#).

Project experience and case-study to date was documented in CITES and CBD contexts in the reporting period (**Activity 5.1**). It was included in the [CITES Secretariat document prepared for the Plants Committee](#) (p. 5 para 15) on the implementation of the Decisions 18.300 - 18.303 Trade in medicinal and aromatic plant. The Plant Committee being delayed, CITES Secretariat will convene an Intersessional Working Group on the implementation of the Decision, which the Project Leader will participate in. In the CBD context, the report on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020 was launched alongside the Global Biodiversity Outlook-5 in September 2020 by the CBD Secretariat. This Global Plant Conservation [report](#) includes the case-study of the project (p. 45, first para).

With regard to sharing the 'business' case for sustainable, FairWild-certified, CITES-listed ingredients (**Activity 5.2**), a draft of a document summarising the business case for using FairWild certified ingredients was developed in the lead up to a webinar in May 2020. This included 9 topics, including quality assurance, traceability, marketing opportunities, and attracting investors. This will be further augmented with CITES and Jatamansi specific information and developed into a professionally designed flyer during the next reporting period and disseminated to Jatamansi-using companies. The document was also used to inform a FairWild authored [article](#) for an industry publication (July 2020). Plans are being made on developing a roadmap (**Activity 5.3**) in support of sustainable trade in wild plants, likely to be (at least in-part) virtual, in early 2021.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

TRAFFIC's staff member Ms. Bryony Morgan was replaced by Ms. Emily King, who joined TRAFFIC's team in full-time capacity from 1 April 2020. Ms. King fulfils the tasks outlined in the project proposal for two roles: to provide trade data analysis; support in CITES context and provides FairWild expertise.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

In target communities, collection and trade of NTFPs halted, due to limitations on the harvesting of Yarsagumba (*Ophiocordyceps sinensis*), Banlasun (*Fritillaria cirrhosa*) and Morel mushroom (*Morchella* sp.) coinciding with the lockdown period. Yarsagumba and Banlasun are usually harvested by groups of collectors, which meant that these activities were banned, due to the restrictions on gatherings. Some activities were affected by the country-wide lockdown and travel restrictions, with adaptations:

- **Support to revise relevant community forest management plan including the species and area management plans for Jatamansi based on completed resource inventories, and yield/regeneration studies, including the population monitoring plan** was slightly delayed due to the nation-wide lock down and travel restrictions. The movement of the staff was not possible from March to July 2020, resulting in delay in the approval process of the management plans.
- **Deliver trainings to target Jatamansi harvesters, harvesters' households, and producer enterprises.** Trainings and orientation at Mugu were delayed due to the restriction over the movement between districts but the situation is improving and the ANSAB field staff and LRPs are planning to move to Mugu by Mid-October and deliver the CFUGs level trainings.
- **Facilitate the FairWild certification audit of at least one enterprise.** FairWild Certification audit has been delayed, and adapted to remote audit (meaning the outcome is likely to be achieved).

During the lockdown the project team worked virtually with municipalities and mobilised local staff in target districts to share information on Covid-19 prevention approaches, based on the WHO recommendations and government regulations, and to deliver critical supplies. Virtual training and planning continued with local staff once the initial restrictions had been lifted to restart capacity building.

During the community level training, the participants were informed about COVID-19 preventive measures. Face masks, gloves and soap was provided and participants with high temperature were screened out; training arrangements involved physical distancing, limiting the number of participants, and equipping the trainer with PPE. The list of materials provided is presented in SD13.

These adaptations increased the budget for operational costs and national travel, with a delay in the implementation of the trainings against the project timetable. However, it is anticipated that Y3 activities will be delivered. Remaining project activities may have to be moved online, including meetings planned under activities 4.9, 5.2, 5.3 The situation is continuously monitored.

2c. 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 (concerning 2a)

Formal change request submitted: Yes (concerning 2a)

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes (concerning 2a)

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. 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, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no

guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

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

n/a

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 DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to 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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**