

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects

Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2022

Project reference	29-001
Project title	Embedding Sustainable Pollination Management into Nepalese Agricultural Systems
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Nepal
Lead partner	Department of Biological Sciences, University of Bristol
Partner(s)	HERD International, Nepal Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Nepal Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC), Karnali Province Agriculture and Forest University (AFU), Nepal Central Department of Zoology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Nepal Nepal Agriculture Research Council (NARC) PACE, Nepal
Project leader	<i>Professor Jane Memmott</i>
Report date and number	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	<i>NA</i>

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).

Our project launched in June 2022 and in the 4 months since then (up to end September 2022), we have completed all activities scheduled for this period in the project implementation timetable. A progress summary of each completed activity is shown below:

1) Staff recruitment [completed by end Aug 2022]

In addition to the senior technical staff named in the project proposal, project partners HERD and LI-BIRD have hired and inducted 13 full-time project staff: 1 Program Officer; 1 Senior Technical Assistant; 3 Agriculture Technicians and 8 Field-level Facilitators.

2) Provincial-level Pollination Workshop [4-5 Sept 2022]

A two-day event was hosted by our project partners: Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC) in the Karnali Province headquarters (Surkhet).

There were two components to the workshop: 1) a high-level stakeholder coordination meeting to share the aims and objectives of our project and discuss the collaborative roles that we can play with the provincial government departments; and 2) a technical training workshop on pollination management and policy development for technical government officers.

Participants included: the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC) & and the Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forest and Environment (MOITFE). There were also a range of other technical staff from provincial government departments.

The participants were overwhelmingly positive about the Darwin Initiative project as it aligns very closely with their mission to transition the whole province to organic agriculture.

3) District-level Stakeholder Engagement Workshop [7 Sept 2022]

A one-day event in Jumla District headquarters to share the aims and objectives of our project and seek feedback and buy-in from key local-level stakeholders.

Participants included: representatives from the District Agriculture Development Office, District Forest Office, Office of District Development Committee, District Public Health Service Office and the Agriculture Research Station, Jumla.

We received a highly positive response to our project aims & objectives, particularly regarding the management of apple pollination (apples are the backbone of the agricultural economy in Jumla). The District Agriculture Office requested that its staff (extension workers) join some of our Farmer Field School sessions to learn about the management of pollination services. This request can be accommodated within our current budget.

4) Training of Trainers (ToT) Course [8-12 Sept 2022]

We conducted a 5-day Training of Trainers (ToT) course for all field-based project staff in Jumla. The ToT was coordinated and led by Field Coordinator Sujana Sapkota, Project Coordinator Dr Tom Timberlake, LI-BIRD Team Leader Dr Shree Neupane and Technical Advisor Dr Kedar Devkota.

Course content covered technical pollination topics, education techniques (pedagogy), M&E requirements & community mobilisation. Participants demonstrated substantial improvements in technical understanding and capacity over the course of the training.

5) Project coordination meetings [31 Aug – 3 Oct 2022]

Project Coordinator Tom Timberlake visited Nepal for 5 weeks during the main project implementation phase. The project team held a number of productive coordination meetings during this time.

2. 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.

Whilst not a problem, the Ministry of Land Management, Agriculture and Cooperatives (MoLMAC) have become highly engaged with our project and requested some additional training resources which will slightly increase the project workload.

MoLMAC view pollination management as integral part of their organic agriculture mission and requested us to provide them with a prescriptive Training of Trainers curriculum and a Farmer Field School curriculum on pollination management. They also requested guidance on developing a new pollination syllabus for their provincial training centres.

Given that these requests align very closely with our project aims and will contribute to meeting our overall project outcomes, we have agreed to fulfil them. These additional activities require

no additional budget, only an allocation of staff time, which we can accommodate. We are confident that these additional activities will not detract from our ability to meet all other project outputs. We therefore believe that **no formal change request** is needed.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS-LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: Yes/No

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

Change request reference if known: NA

4a. 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: £0

4b. 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 re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget 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.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

We would like to inform NIRAS-LTS that the finance contact at the lead partner (University of Bristol) has changed from Danny Bedford;, a new person has not yet been appointed to the post, but in the interim period, Danny's line manager, Cath Pullinger is your contact, Email:

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If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response 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 NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to BCF-Reports@niras.com. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**