



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects **Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus**

Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

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 2024

Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Project reference	29-001
Project title	Embedding Sustainable Pollination Management into Nepalese Agricultural Systems
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Nepal
Lead Organisation	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)
Project leader	<i>Professor Jane Memmott</i>
Report date and number	24/10/2024 (HYR3)
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.herdint.com/our-work/darwin/ https://libird.org/projects/pollination/

During the last 6 months (since the time of the annual report), we have made the following progress, in accordance with our original project implementation timetable:

- 1) Pollinator awareness classes – a further 122 pollinator awareness classes have been held since the last reporting period (April 2024); these have reached a total of 3662 participants (60% women). Whereas the Year 1 awareness classes focused primarily on farmers, the more recent awareness classes have included many school children.
- 2) Farmer Field School (FFS) sessions – A further 39 FFS sessions have been held since the last reporting period. These have been attended by 180 newly recruited FFS participants (all farmers and c.80% women). In September, our M&E team held another feedback

<p>workshop with participants of the FFS program to hear about their experiences. We have documented all of this feedback and will now incorporate this information into the final FFS syllabus document which will be published as a publicly accessible document by the project end.</p>	
<p>3) <u>Stewardship Scheme monitoring</u> – Between April and October 2024 regular monitoring surveys were carried out by project staff to record plant and pollinator diversity and crop yields on farms that are implementing our Pollinator Stewardship Package. Surveys were also carried out on control sites and results will be analysed and presented in the final project report.</p>	
<p>4) <u>Capacity-building workshops</u> – one final capacity building workshop was held in Karnali Province since the last reporting period. We have now covered all districts of Karnali reaching approximately 200 government agriculture officers and extension workers from 82 different institutions. Following the classes we have conducted follow-up surveys with all class attendees to find out how they have been using the materials, how many farmers/students they have disseminated the information to and whether they have incorporated any pollination content into their regular course program. Results from this follow-up survey will be presented in the final report.</p>	
<p>5) <u>Digital pollination library</u> – insect specimens collected from the 8 study crops (cardamon, coffee, citrus, mango, avocado, soyabean, eggplant and tomato) have now been identified, photographed and a short taxonomic and ecological description has been written for each one. This information is now in the process of being uploaded to the Digital Pollination Library platform which will be publicly launched before the project end.</p>	
<p>6) <u>Pollinator Action Plan progress</u> – following multiple consultations with the Technical Working Group (TWG), the Karnali Pollinator Action Plan has been drafted and circulated amongst all TWG participants for comment. Comments have been incorporated and a revised draft has been produced. This has been circulated amongst national-level stakeholders for final feedback. Once feedback has been gathered, the document will be finalised and formally published and endorsed by the provincial ministry (this will happen before the project end date).</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>One problem encountered during the last six months was the major flooding event that occurred in the capital Kathmandu during September. This resulted in all transport routes in and out of the capital being blocked and as a result the national-level project workshop (scheduled for 29 September) had to be postponed. Instead the workshop will take place in mid-November. This will not impact the project outputs, but it leaves us with less time to write up the workshop proceedings after the event. Everything should still be completed by the project end date however.</p>	
<p>3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p>	
Discussed with NIRAS:	No
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	NA
<p>Change Request reference if known: NA</p>	

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (1 April– 30 Sept 2024) Actual spend:
4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2025)? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend:
4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully.
5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?
No issues

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report.
In our last annual report (Y2), the report reviewer made the following comment which they asked us to address in the next half-year report: <u>Comment:</u> Investigate the opportunity for Public Private Partnerships between commercial crop producers and farmer groups as a way to attract post-project finance, boost farmer income, and increase prospects for long term scaling-up and sustainability. <u>Response:</u> In response to this comment, we have held discussions with a few public and private institutions in Nepal including the Federation of Nepal Beekeepers, National Farmers Group Federation (NFGF) and the Centre for Industrial Entomology Development (CIED). In partnership with these organisations and our existing project partners, we have developed and submitted a proposal for a Darwin Extra award to scale up our existing project activities using in-kind co-finance from some of these groups. If successful, this project would enable us to scale-up what we have learnt to deliver a national-level regime-shift in pollinator awareness, farming and beekeeping practices, research capacity, and conservation policy in Nepal.

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1st April 2024)	
Have you responded to any additional feedback (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at HYR (including safeguarding points)?	NA
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	NA
For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1st April 2024)	
Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	Yes
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	Yes
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	Yes
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	Yes
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	Yes
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	Yes