

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	<i>This should be the project reference provided in your offer paperwork and not your application number</i> DARNV003
Project title	Locally-owned enterprise development for resilient communities and sustainable primate conservation
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Vietnam
Lead partner	Trung Khanh Forestry Protection Department
Partner(s)	Trung Khanh FPD, Trung Khanh SHCA, Trung Khanh PC, Trung Khanh SHCA MAC
Project leader	<i>Hoang Van Lam</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 October 2022 HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.facebook.com/FaunaFloraVietnam

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).

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) began implementation of this project in Trung Khanh, Cao Bang province, from 12th April 2022. This project will develop and launch an innovative, replicable and locally-owned enterprise, designed specifically to ensure PA expansion has a net-positive impact on local wellbeing, through nature-based commodity/tourism-derived income.

Within this first six months of implementation, in collaboration with project partner Trung Khanh FPD, the project focused on detailed work planning, training and beginning to conduct some of the main activities, as agreed in the project timetable.

Activity Progress

Output 1 Enterprise' product value proposition derived from natural assets and market demand secured

Activity 1.1. Enterprise design (to include asset mapping, market research – links also to Outcome 2, legal review and structuring) (planned Q1-Q4 - Apr 2022 – Mar 2023):

Facilitated by FFI staff, a consultation workshop was organized with participants - who are stakeholders in Trung Khanh, to identify and agree on the key criteria and procedure for establishing a local enterprise. A detailed plan for establishing enterprise to be done in 4.

Activity 1.2. Financial modelling and business planning (planned Q2-Q4 - July 2022 – Mar 2023)

Following discussion at the consultation workshop with local stakeholders, this activity will be done in Q4.

Activity 1.3. Stakeholder meetings with PA managers and other government counterparts (planned Q1-Q3 - Apr – Dec 2022):

Under supporting and leading by FFI staff, three separate meetings were held with stakeholders from farmer federation, culture and tourism sub-department, agriculture and rural sub-department and centre for agriculture services, to collect information on market systems of potential products. Discussions were also held with Director of Trung Khanh Forest Protection Department (Trung Khanh FPD) and Head of Species and Habitats Conservation Area for Cao vit gibbon (SHCA CVG) to get consensus in planning, collaboration and support under this project. One more meeting to be conducted in November, 2022 to discuss planning for establishing a local enterprise.

Activity 1.4. Regular, ongoing and gender-disaggregated consultation with local community members (see also 4.5 and 4.6) (planned Q1, Q3, 2022 (Apr – Dec 2022), Q1 – Q3, 2022 (Apr – Dec 2022)):

As shown by findings from the socio-economic and KAB survey, women in Trung Khanh have limited knowledge in conservation, their income is lower than men, and they have limited time to join in meetings and conservation activities. All these findings will be shared with all stakeholders to find out ways to better support and include women. Going forward in planning, these considerations will be integrated in future meetings with local partners and activities with the community.

Output 2 Sufficient investment secured / for the enterprise to commence operation

Activities 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 2.10 and 2.11 planned for later in project.

Activity 2.3. Explore products with potential for certification (e.g. organic, Global G.A.P.) – costs/benefit (planned Q2 & Q3 July – December 2022)

Through discussion with local stakeholders and communities, three potential products have been identified for further exploration through PMSD (Participatory Market System Development) to develop market systems and explore suitable certifications (organic, OCOP – One Commune One Product). These are special sticky rice (nep ong), local duck (Vit co) and eco-tourism. The detailed report to be completed in December, 2022.

Output 3 Skills and expertise exist locally to operate the enterprise

Activities 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5 planned for later in project.

Activity 3.3. Needs assessments and capacity building for FFI Vietnam team (planned Q1 – Q3 (Apr – Dec 2022))

An introductory training about PMSD was implemented for some key FFI Vietnam staff in September 2022. Under support from UK team, a needs assessment for FFI Vietnam team to be conducted in November, 2022.

Output 4 Conservation-friendly KAB of local community has improved and +ve social impact reported

Activity 4.1. Complimentary outreach and awareness raising with local communities, focussing on the PA expansion area – posters, events etc.

In May 2022, the project carried out communication activities to raise awareness about cao vit gibbon, the proposed boundaries of the cao vit gibbon species and habitat conservation area, and consulted with the community in 12 villages in 3 communes with the participation of 479 local villagers. After that, in July 2022, three communes meetings were implemented with the participation about 90 participants.

In May 2022, the annual 'Gibbon Festival' in Ngoc Con commune was implemented with 700-800 local people participating in the event (nearly 500 'commitment'/check-in sheets submitted), including around 100 members of the organizing team. Women accounted for

approx. 70% of the attendants and there were about 200 children aged between 1 (accompanied by adults) and 16 (joining with friends).

Activity 4.4. KAB surveys at project start, middle and end, demonstrate that project actions, primarily enterprise development, has improved local KAB by at least 10% by project end (planned Q1 Apr - June 2022)

Under this activity, a survey on Knowledge – Attitude – Behaviour (KAB) was conducted in October, 2022 with participation of 315 local people from 13 villages of 3 communes of project area, in which there were 44% women. One key finding from the survey shows that 88% of respondents agree with expanding protected area. A full report to be finalized in December, 2022.

Activity 4.5. Socio-economic survey at project start and end (baseline/endline) (planned Q1, Apr - June 2022; and Q4, 2024, Jan – Mar 2024).

In combining with KAB survey, the socio – economic survey was conducted through method of household interview for 315 local people. In which, 90% of total respondents said they want to increase income in the next year (2023), 84.8% of them reported that the main worry is food shortage and impact from COVID-19 in 2021. A full report on socio economic to be finalized in December, 2022.

Activity 4.6. Sex-aggregated, social impact survey and against agreed safeguards, and regular FPIC voting on project milestones and PA expansion (planned Q1, Apr - June 2022; and Q3, 2022, Q1, 2022 Apr - June 2023; and Q4, 2024- Jan – Mar 2024)

Under KAB survey, this information was collected and analysed. The report to be finalized in December, 2022.

Output 5 Community-based conservation is ongoing and part-funded by enterprise revenue

Activity 5.2 planned for later in project.

Activity 5.1. The community-based conservation teams are maintained and undertaking SMART patrols and daily gibbon monitoring (observations/data recording)

The project maintained and developed a new caovit gibbon community-based conservation model, which is built on over 15 years of experience with the previous Community Conservation Teams (CCT) and caovit gibbon monitoring team (GMT). In the first half of year 1 with the efforts of 13 persons (2 rangers and 11 GCT members), the total man-days working in forest were 816 man-days, all member travelled the distance were 10,849 km, in 4,809 hours. They detected 10 cases of human impacts.

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.

Project implementation has been smooth during its first six months of operation. FFI holds very good working relationships with project partner Forest Protection Department of Trung Khanh district, Cao Bang province.

In terms of project budget and timetable (delivery), and potential impacts that this may have later, the project is somewhat underspent during first quarter. This because of a delay because covid19, and the need to spend considerable time in detailed discussion and planning with Trung Khanh FPD, having secured the grant.

However, the project confirms that it will be able to catch up in next quarter and no significant underspend or delay is expected, hereafter.

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: No	

4a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £
<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	
5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?	
No.	

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**