

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	DARCC043
Project title	Living with snow-leopards:enhancing capacity for ethical conservation and livelihoods
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	12 Snow Leopard Range Countries of Asia, with a focus on Nepal, Kyrgyzstan, and Mongolia
Lead Organisation	International Snow Leopard Trust
Partner(s)	Snow Leopard Foundation - Kyrgyzstan, Snow Leopard Conservation Foundation (Mongolia), Global Snow Leopard Ecosystem Protection Program
Project leader	Dr. Charudutt Mishra
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>Oct 31, 2024, HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	<i>www.snowleopard.org</i>

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

The project has progressed well in our assessment.

An online survey was conducted inviting conservation practitioners interested in becoming PARTNERS principles trainers through the SLT-managed Ethical Conservation of Alliance, the Snow Leopard Network, and through some of our conservation partners such as the Whitley Fund for Nature early in the year. As a brief reminder, the PARTNERS principles, are a set of principles and guidelines for ethical and effective community-engagement in conservation, developed based on the extensive experience of the Snow Leopard Trust partner network, and with inputs from senior conservation practitioners around the world. They comprise a set of eight key principles described by the acronym PARTNERS. Nine individuals (4 men and 5 women) were selected to be trained as trainers in Issyk-Kul, Kyrgyzstan from September 12-15, 2024. This training was also attended by the UK Ambassador to Kyrgyzstan, Excellency Nicholas Bowler who presented participants with certificates of completion at the end of the workshop. Trainees were from India, Uzbekistan, Bhutan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, UK and

Indonesia. The trainees included two of our new Scientists who have joined our team recently, attend the trainings. The next trainings are expected to held in Mongolia in February 2025 and in Nepal in March 2025. The participation of one trainee each from Indonesia and Mongolia was supported financially by the Whitley Fund for Nature.

Additionally, we are working with our audio-visual partner to create toolkits sustainable economies and livelihoods, conflict management, and participatory monitoring and evaluation, and valuation of ecosystem services. In 2025, we expect to publish and disseminate these resources.

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.

We have not faced any such issues at this time.

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

Discussed with NIRAS:

No

Formal Change Request submitted:

No

Received confirmation of change acceptance:

n/a

Change Request reference if known:

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)

Actual spend: £ [REDACTED]

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 No Estimated underspend: £

4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should 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.

n/a

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

n/a

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report. If your project was subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment please use this space to comment on any changes to international human rights risks, and to address any additional mitigations outlined in your offer letters. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.

We are not aware of any pending feedback at this time. If NIRAS and/or Defra has any such feedback, we are eager to respond pertinently and thoroughly.

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)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	
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.	
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	