

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	19-018
Project Title	Agroforests: a critical resource of sustaining megadiversity in Guatemala
Country(ies)	Guatemala
UK Organisation	Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich
Collaborator(s)	National Coffee Association (ANACAFE), University of Valle (UVG), Foundation for the Defence of Nature (FDN)
Project Leader	Jeremy Haggar
Report date	5,11,12
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
Project website	

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

The projects advances can be summarized in two areas; administrative and initiation of the projects activities.

In administrative aspects contracts have been signed between each of the Guatemalan partners and the University of Greenwich. Based on this staff have been assigned and hired as foreseen in the proposal. Additional to the named staff in the proposal the project staff now include Diego Pons a biologist and Oscar Gonzalez in SIG from UVG, and Eduardo Francisco Pacay and Keben Delgado technical staff with FDN and ANACAFE respectively. Two biologists have also been contracted for identification of insect diversity, Laura Saenz and Pablo Bolanos.

In May 2012 we held a launch event for the project attended by the British Embassy and the Technical Office for Biodiversity of the Council for Protected Areas who are responsible for the CDB in Guatemala.

At the same time the project objectives were reviewed with the two collaborating producer organizations and their interest in collaboration confirmed. With APODIP in the Sierra Las Minas region six indigenous communities on the southern side of the Polochic valley have been visited and selected for receiving support from the project, covering about 103 small scale coffee producers. In the second region of Palajunoj we have agreement to work with the 25 medium to large scale land-owners of the Association of Palajunoj, Association of San Dionisio with 14 members and the Association of Loma Linda with 110 small-scale coffee producers.

Progress on activities:

1.1 The project is building upon an existing collaboration between ANACAFE, UVG and INAB (National Forest Institute) for more accurate maps that differentiate between shaded coffee an forest. The project has used preliminary maps to help define the work areas of the project, at the same time providing ground thruthing of the maps to improve their resolution.

1.2 Based on revision of previous studies, and knowledge of the spatial mosaic of land-uses in the study areas has been designed that focuses comparative insect biodiversity under coffee, forest and either rubber, macadamia or cardamom plantations (depending on the area). Insect biodiversity is being assessed from leaf-litter layer and herbaceous/shrub vegetation quantifying the diversity of different insect orders, and then identification to

genera or where possible species for ants, and hemipteran plant suckers. One sampling (240 samples) has been completed from 10 representative farms from the six communities in the Sierra Las Minas and samples are in the process of being identified and quantified. In the process both project personnel and forest rangers of the Sierra Las Minas Biosphere Reserve were taught about methods for sampling biodiversity, and the farmers where the studies were conducted also accompanied the sampling.

1.3 The study of tree population and vegetation structure has been combined with the assessment of insect biodiversity. Although not foreseen until the second-six monthly period forest inventory and vegetation structure has been characterized for the 10 farms representative of the 6 communities in Polochic.

4.1. We have also met with the head of the Technical Office for Biodiversity (OTECBIO) to review the outputs and activities of the project. OTECBIO are very happy to accompany and support the project. We have agreed there is a need to review output 4, as since the submission of the proposal and its approval a new Biodiversity Strategy and Action plan has been developed. At the moment we do not have specific proposals for changes to output 4, but over the next six months will be reviewing the areas of the action plan that the project can contribute to.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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.

As indicated above we foresee the need for adjustments to output 4 but we are still in discussions with the CDB representatives in Guatemala to develop a more appropriate content for this output which will maintain the overall aim of contributing to the implementation of the CDB.

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

No

Discussed with LTS: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/yes in.....(month/yr)

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) under spend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carry forward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carry forward request:

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

None

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 or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**