



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No	19-018
Project Title	Agroforests: a critical resource of sustaining megadiversity in Guatemala
Country(ies)	Guatemala
Lead Organisation	University of Greenwich
Collaborator(s)	National Coffee Association (ANACAFE); University of Valle Guatemala (UVG); Foundation for the Defence of Nature (FDN) Technical Office for Biodiversity (OTECBIO), Association of Organic Producers of Polochic (APODIP), and Association of Producers of Palajunoj.
Project Leader	Jeremy Haggar
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	HYR Year 3
Project website	

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

Progress is reported by output

Output 1. Demonstrate the importance of agroforests in the conservation of biodiversity in lower montane areas of Guatemala.

Higher level analyses of the biodiversity data have been conducted by NRI and UVG to identify an indicator of the relative biodiversity hosted by the agroforestry systems compared to forest. This has been used to estimate the role of agroforestry systems in providing connectivity between forest fragments. The UVG have developed a procedure to analyse forest connectivity with and without the presence of the agroforestry areas. We are still validating these analyses, but hope to have a final product by December 2014.

We have also entered an agreement with the PREDICTS (www.predicts.org.uk) project to share our biodiversity data for inclusion in their meta-analyses of global biodiversity.

Land-use maps have been generated for each field region (Palajunoj and Polochic) and are being printed to share with partners and stakeholders.

A paper on biodiversity in organic and conventional farms in Central America has been accepted for publication in the journal Biodiversity and Conservation.

Output 2. Identify effective support mechanisms for communities and land-owners to conserve biodiverse agroforest systems

Organic farmers in both regions have received training from NRI, ANACAFE and FDN in strategies for organic nutrition of coffee, and have received inputs for organic control of coffee rust. This has benefited about 100 farmers in each region. Monitoring of rust levels have indicated that applications in 2013 arrested development of the rust for about one-month. Levels in 2014 are once again increasing despite the control measures that have been made.

The application of the products was complicated by unpredictable rainfall that washed away some of the applied products.

FDN has developed reforestation / forest conservation incentive projects have been developed for 3 communities in Polochic (approximately 90 families benefiting), one community has started implementation of reforestation activities.

A plan for the development of the Palajunoj Private Nature Reserve Node has been developed by the Association for Private Nature Reserves with participation of about 20 farms and two small-holder associations.

Output 3. Private policies and markets provide greater recognition of biodiversity value of agroforest coffee

An evaluation has been conducted for three farms in Palajunoj (2 individual farms and one communal farm) of the changes they would need to undertake to comply with Rainforest Alliance certification. These results are being shared with the farms for their decision as to whether they are prepared to make the changes necessary for certification.

Twelve farms in Palajunoj (three smallholder associations and 9 individual farms) received technical assistance to take coffee samples for quality analysis. Farms have received the results and the technical recommendations on how quality defects may be addressed (where these occurred). ANACAFE has committed to continue this evaluation to build a coffee quality profile for the region.

The board of directors of the Association of Organic Producers of Polochic (APODIP) has received training in the dynamics of coffee markets from FDN.

Consultation on sales of Bird-friendly coffee with RSPB indicate they are currently sourcing from Nicaragua. They have only recently (mid 2014) started promoting this coffee, and need to see how much demand they have before seeking new sources.

Output 4. Recommendations for public policies that support agroforests as a biodiverse land-use

In May 2014 an event was held for stakeholders and decision makers to present the results of the biodiversity studies and advances of the project. The event was attended by the head of the Environment Commission of the National Assembly, President of ANACAFE, Ministry of Environment and Biodiveristy Technical Office of the Council for Protected Areas. The event was also used to share the newly approved National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The project also hosted an event in Alta Verapaz (Polochic) to share the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan with local stakeholders.

Project partners and stakeholders (ANACAFE, FDN, and Association for Private Nature Reserves) have been participating in the consultations on amendments to the Regulations for Protected Areas differentiating the rules for private nature reserves from public national parks. Also ANACAFE have been working with the National Forest Institute on defining those tree species that are commonly used as shade in coffee plantations so they are not included in the revision of the list of protected species.

2a. 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.

The lead person for project partner for ANACAFE Rosa Maria Aguilar went on maternity leave from June 2014, and subsequently resigned from 1st Oct 2014. ANACAFE has hired a temporary replacement Environment Coordinator from September 2014. This has led to some delays in the hiring of consultants services in certification and eco-tourism, and printing of promotional materials. Although we expect these services will be completed by the end of the project, the outcomes of these actions will not be apparent in the end-of project evaluation with farmers.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS:	No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No

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

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. 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 and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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

The review of the annual report indicated that Logframe indicators should be revised to be SMART and this should be discussed with "Darwin". The review also questions how the assumptions in the logframe are being used. Given that the project only has 5 months left (9 months at the time of receiving the recommendations) it is not clear how practical it is to make changes to indicators, that will have no base-line. An end of project evaluation is planned for between Jan-March 2015 and we will include consultation with farmers on the effectiveness of the rust control measures as recommended. Advice on who in "Darwin" we should discuss this with would be welcomed.

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 can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**