

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	20-007
<b>Project Title</b>	Developing a pro-poor, sustainable bushmeat harvesting model in Cameroon
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Cameroon
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Bristol Conservation and Science Foundation (Bristol Zoological Society)
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Living Earth Foundation, University of Bristol, Fondation Camerounaise de la Terre Vivante
<b>Project Leader</b>	Neil Maddison
<b>Report date</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> October 2014
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 2
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://livingearth.org.uk/projects/developing-a-pro-poor-sustainable-bushmeat-harvesting-model-in-cameroon/">http://livingearth.org.uk/projects/developing-a-pro-poor-sustainable-bushmeat-harvesting-model-in-cameroon/</a>

## **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 key focus of the last six months has been the completion of the socio-economic and biological data collection to inform the development of the sustainable wild-caught meat hunting model, the validation of this data (by local stakeholders – community members, hunters, meat traders, government and international experts) and the presentation of the data findings and conclusions with local stakeholders in order to collaboratively plan the way forward.

The full reports of the data are available (in French), but some of the headline findings have been summarised below:

The socio-economic study covered 259 households across 26 villages in the Lomie district of south-eastern Cameroon. It followed 34 hunters on a daily basis over a period of 5 months (with MSc students living in the villages during this time).

- The average monthly income of the hunters is 14,032 FCFA (£17) (the minimum wage in Cameroon is 36,000 FCFA)
- 20% of the meat is consumed locally within the households (subsistence); 80% of it is commercialized.
- Amongst the villages surveyed, the average amount of meat caught per month is 5600Kg, equivalent to 3,060,680 FCFA (£3674) of revenue per month. These figures represent the amount of animal protein and income equivalents that would need to be replaced in the event of all hunting activities being banned.
- The area in question is in proximity to a protected area, the Dja Biosphere Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage Site where all hunting is illegal. The study showed that 73% of the meat caught was caught inside the Reserve itself.
- The biological survey identified 17 mammal species in the target area, with the most abundant species being duiker (55% of all species). There was also evidence of protected species - chimpanzees and gorillas (10% and 14% of sightings respectively).
- Analysis of the data shows a comparatively low number of animals present in the southern part of the target area, compared to what 'should' be there in terms of habitat quality. Analysis indicates that there are an insufficient number of animal to support even a small offtake of animals in this area as the thresholds for sustainable take appear to already have been exceeded.

Following the process of presenting and discussing the studies' detailed findings to various

stakeholders, the communities, and MINFOF, have proposed the following courses of action:

- Establishment of a Community Hunting Zone in the northern part of the target area where there are higher levels of animal populations;
- Establishment of a core protection zone where the potential for ecotourism (based on the presence of great apes) will be explored. [Note: whilst this is not within the Darwin Initiative project, the partners will work with the various stakeholders on this proposed course of action, but it must be emphasized that the partners recognize that it is **highly unlikely** that great ape tourism can be established under current conditions, and that *significant* changes would have to take place before any investment were considered]
- Support income generation activities which will provide alternative and new sources of income, as well as theoretically increasing food security to poor people by providing new, alternative sources of animal protein to illegal hunting.

This Darwin project will continue to support the first action (in line with the original proposal). The project partners will also explore the feasibility of, and potential for supporting the other activity streams as part of our wider Dja programme, and which are key to establishing sustainable change to address biodiversity conservation and wide-spread poverty.

**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.**

The biological surveys showed that animal populations outside of the protected Dja Biosphere Reserve have been greatly impacted by hunting activity, with the southern part of the proposed target area being very low in animal presence. The project will thus work with the local communities and MINFOF to establish the limits of a Community Hunting Zone in areas where there is greater animal presence and a realistic potential for agreeing targets.

The level of dependency of local communities on bushmeat for both income and provision of protein is significant. The need to support the development of alternatives is paramount to avoiding a future food security crisis in the region. The project partners will be working to identify funders to support these activities (which are outside the scope of the main Darwin project).

The project partners are monitoring the potential impact of Ebola on the project. Whilst there have not been any cases of Ebola in Cameroon at time of reporting, concerns about Ebola are impacting the bushmeat trade in Cameroon. In a time of heightened concerns about Ebola, this could impact on government providing authorisations to support legal hunting (eg. Supporting the establishment of the Community Hunting Zone). At present, this is a hypothetical risk, but one that we feel prudent to signal at this early stage. That said, the current Ebola crisis has had an unexpected benefit, in that the fear of disease has led local people to consider alternatives to wild-caught meat. The partners are looking to build on this opportunity for behavioural change, as we are aware it will not last in the long-term unless the knowledge, attitude and practices (KAP) of local people becomes tacit understanding of the dangers of eating wild-caught meat.

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

No; the objectives and results of the project remain the same and there is no anticipated impact on budget at this stage. That said, the project is scheduled for a mid-term review with an LTS-employed consultant, and the project team will take the opportunity to discuss results to date and any drivers for project change during the assessment.

**Discussed with LTS:** no

**Formal change request submitted:** not at present

Received confirmation of change acceptance      n/a

**3. Do you expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend 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?**

No

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](mailto: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**