

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No:	20-008
Project Title:	Evaluating community-based conservation agreements in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve (20-008)
Country(ies):	Guatemala
UK Organisation:	N/A
Collaborator(s):	Protected Areas Council of Guatemala (CONAP), Fundación PACUNAM; Asociación BALAM, Uaxactún COCODE, Paso Caballos COCODE and Carmelita COCODE, Conservation International
Project Leader:	Roan Balas McNab, WCS Guatemala
Report date:	October 31st, 2013
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website:	www.wcs.org

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)

Progress towards *Output 1: Four Community Agreements in the Maya Biosphere Reserve*

In Quarter 1, we committed to continue the implementation of the 3 existing conservation agreements (Uaxactún, Paso Caballos and Carmelita). For each of these sites, we developed a report for the burning season which details the results of Early Warning System implementation, (the method used to prevent forest fires). The conservation agreements have enabled us to assist 315 farmers of the Maya Biosphere Reserve in conducting agricultural activities at approved sites and in a safer and more sustainable manner. Not a single forest fire occurred during the season. In Paso Caballos, we were pleased to sign the second phase of the Paso Caballos Conservation Agreement for the next 2 years. In Uaxactún, we held an annual meeting and celebration of our fourth year of implementation. During the meeting, we discussed results achieved, challenges and lesson learned, and produced a Spanish-language report of the fourth year of implementation, which was delivered to CONAP and partners.

In preparation for choosing a fourth site in which to implement a community conservation agreement, we organized a meeting with CONAP and partners. The purpose of the meeting was to agree upon the best site to implement a new conservation agreement and begin the formal process for obtaining the approval of CONAP authorities.

Progress towards *Output 2: Report on the impacts of community conservation agreements*

In Quarter 2, we committed to conduct annual monitoring of deforestation and biodiversity in areas where conservation agreement are implemented. Using satellite images, we worked with the Protected Areas Council Center of Monitoring (CEMEC) to analyze the current land use in each Conservation Agreement site, using metrics such as: hectares and percentage of forest, wetlands, infrastructure, livestock presence, agriculture, etc. The analysis provides an accurate picture of the percentage of land affected by deforestations and forest fires respect the last years, which we used to produce 3 Spanish-language reports.

All reports mentioned herein are available upon request

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.

N/A

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

N/A

Discussed with LTS: no/yes

Formal change request submitted: no/yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/yes

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

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward 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 carryforward 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 to report at this moment

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**