

Darwin Initiative Main Project Annual Report

Important note: *To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders:
it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes*

Submission Deadline: 30 April

Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	20-008
Project Title	Evaluating community-based Conservation Agreements in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve
Host Country/ies	Guatemala
Contract Holder Institution	Wildlife Conservation Society
Partner institutions	Protected Areas Council of Guatemala (CONAP); Asociación Balam; Uaxactún COCODE, Paso Caballos COCODE and Carmelita COCODE; Center for Evaluation and Monitoring of CONAP (CEMEC); Organización, Manejo y Conservación (OMYC); Fundación ProPetén, Center of Conservation Studies/University of San Carlos, Guatemala (CECON/USAC); Asociación Bioitzá; COCODE Corozal; Conservation International (CI)
Darwin Grant Value	£ 269,681
Funder (DFID/Defra)	
Start/end dates of project	April 2013 to March 2016
Reporting period (e.g., Apr 2015 – Mar 2016) and number (e.g., Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2014 to March 2015 (Annual Report 2)
Project Leader name	Roan Balas McNab
Project website/blog/Twitter	www.wcsguatemala.org
Report author(s) and date	Roan Balas McNab & Miriam Castillo, April 13 th 2015

1. Project Rationale

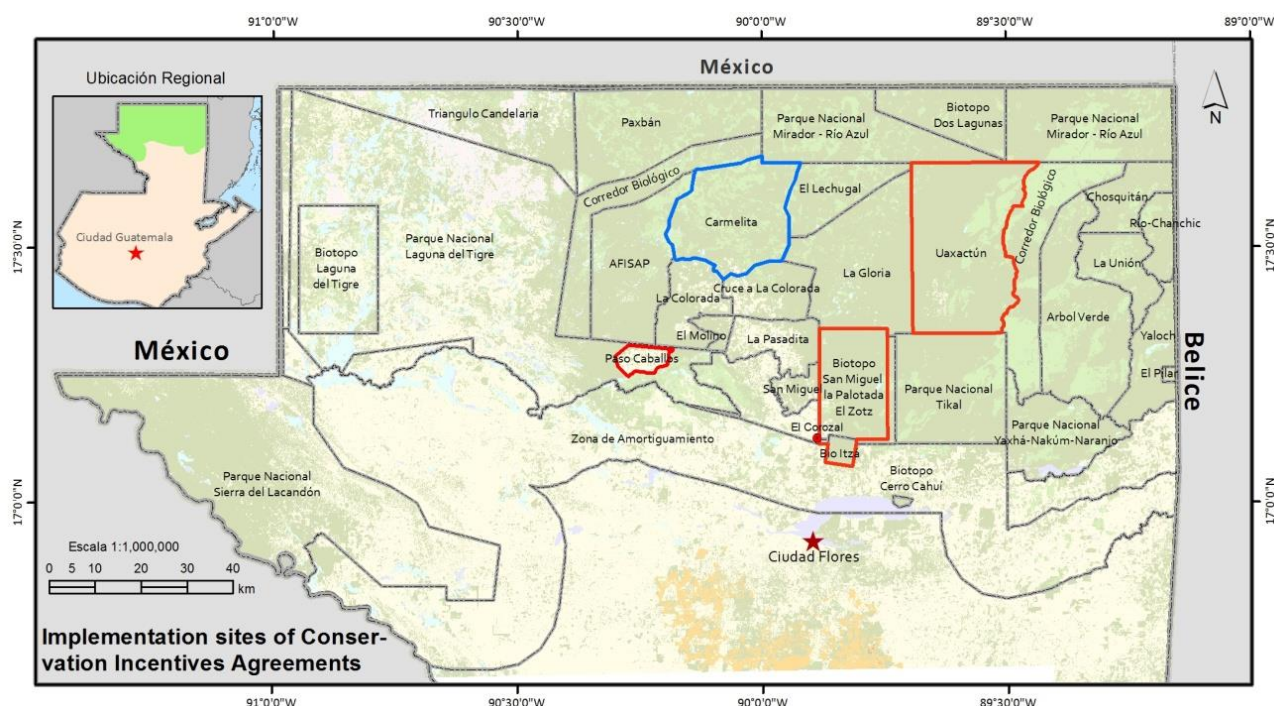
The Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR), Guatemala's largest protected area, embodies the challenge of balancing conservation with the natural resource use needs of local inhabitants. The 2.1 million hectare reserve contains a unique assemblage of animals and plants, and is also home to approximately 180,000 people. In 2009, WCS and partners began implementing an innovative community-based conservation incentives system in the MBR, known as "Conservation Agreements". These agreements provide clear contracts between local communities, government, and NGO partners to protect biodiversity through economic incentives that are designed and managed with local communities. To date, four have been implemented in the MBR: 1) Uaxactún (initiated in 2009); 2) Paso Caballos (2010); 3) Carmelita (2012); and 4) Bioitzá-Corozal-Zotz (2014) (See Map 1).

The Conservation Agreement model was developed to ensure an efficient, effective, and transparent methodology for engaging rural inhabitants in guiding financial and technical

support aimed at promoting the dual goals of environmental stability and socioeconomic development. The evaluation of the Conservation Agreement model currently underway is relevant to four important sectors of stakeholders in the MBR and beyond. First among them are community leaders and members, who often fail to see significant dividends of philanthropic investments in well-being and conservation, and who are often excluded from decision-making processes. Second are civil society partners, who often serve as conduits for international and development aid. Third are governmental entities since in many cases aid is provided without any governmental coordination at all. Finally, the evaluation is of relevance to bilateral, international and philanthropic donors alike, as the results will help determine the viability of replicating the Conservation Agreement model approach across the developing world, particularly at rural sites where there is an important interface between the “Last of the Wild” and marginalized rural populations who lack significant governmental investment and support.

One of the challenges faced by the project is the need to break the cycle of paternalistic “giving” that lacks both the participation of local people in helping to define *their* development priorities, as well as clear commitments from the participants (i.e. *not* beneficiaries, but participants) in terms of contributing to both the social development and environmental goals. In short, the project is focused on increasing transparency and participation to test a model for socially and ecologically sustainable development.

We identified these problems through years of engagement with rural communities and donors related to the MBR. Years of monitoring have revealed, for example, that deforestation and fire are the major threats to the landscape, so Conservation Agreements have thus far focused on reducing those threats. Similarly, due to the rural nature of the MBR communities, social investments were guided by community members towards urgent social needs (i.e. education, medicine) and viable/ sustainable economic alternatives (i.e. xate palm)



Map.1. Sites in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve where Community Conservation Agreements have been implemented, including the Uaxactún and Carmelita community forest concessions, Paso Caballos located inside Laguna del Tigre National Park, and Biotzá-Corozal-Zotz

2. Project Partnerships

During the second year of the project, we focused on maintaining existing alliances and incorporating new actors to implement a new community Conservation Agreement. Local organizations such as Uaxactún's Organization for Management and Conservation (OMYC)

and leaders of each community development council (COCODE) continued to be our main community partners in rural villages. We also worked in close coordination with the Protected Areas Council of Guatemala (CONAP) and implementing NGOs (Asociación Balam) and added a new strategic partner (ProPetén). Our annual evaluation was undertaken in coordination with all the aforementioned institutions.

The most recent and fourth Conservation Agreement is that of Bioltzá-Corozal-Zotz, led by the national NGO ProPetén. This agreement engages the community of Corozal and the managers of the Bioltzá Indigenous Reserve. The focal area spans 39,101 hectares, including the agrarian landscape of Corozal, the Bioltzá Reserve, and a vulnerable section of the El Zotz protected area managed by the Center of Conservation Studies (CECON) of the University of San Carlos, Guatemala (another local partner).

Tikal National Park and Rainforest Alliance were selected as witnesses of honor (i.e. collaborators) due to their commitments to the communities and protected areas in the vicinity of Tikal National Park, which is adjacent to the Bioltzá-Corozal-Zotz area (see Section 3.)

Working in alliances has helped us gain CONAP's interest in the current agreements, thereby increasing their focus on the administration of each project area. One clear example of this is the renewed interest by all partners in the conservation area managed by the Asociación Bioitzá, which has been facing challenges since December 2014, when the number of Bioltza guards had to be reduced as the result of funding shortfalls.

With more than 20 years of experience monitoring indicators across the MBR, CONAP's monitoring center (CEMEC) continues to inform the Conservation Agreement evaluations by producing baselines and annual reports on land use changes (deforestation and forest fire; see section 3.1.), and socioeconomic indicators developed through the Basic Necessities Surveys.

3. Project Progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Output 1: Four community agreements in four sections of Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve (Uaxactun, Carmelita, Paso Caballos, Cruce a la Colorada)

Activity 1.1 Implement the three existing Conservation Agreements in the MBR.

As previously reported, a two-year phase of the Carmelita agreement was successfully completed, and the final evaluation yielded positive impacts and significant social support within the community (Annex 4). Despite community interest in continuing the agreement to address remaining challenges, the full agreement was not extended due to a change in the funding priorities of the principal donor for that agreement (PACUNAM).

Despite this setback, the basic focus of the agreement with Carmelita remains relevant. The national partner implementing organization, Asociación Balam, was able to continue providing modest funding for key priorities (i.e. fire prevention and control, technical support for the village tourism committee, education and health), helping to maintain their bond with the community and assist with key needs. As a result of their determination, Balam subsequently identified additional partial funding for 2014 and 2015, providing a total of \$23,000 of support through two Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with the Carmelita Cooperative and COCODE (Annex 1). The unexpected lack of funding to invest in a second phase of the Carmelita Conservation Agreement became an opportunity to evaluate CONAP's ability to continue providing leadership and technical guidance for the key issues identified during the original agreement, including land planning inside the forest concession, reduction of the standing herd of cattle in the concession, and improvement of the administrative management, among others. As a result, CONAP has been leading these matters directly with the community members and local authorities, and through the engagement of other civil society partners.

The Paso Caballos Conservation Agreement continues in its second phase of implementation. A participatory evaluation was undertaken with CONAP, community leaders and witnesses of honor (AFISAP, Asociación Balam) in October 2014 (Annex 7).

Activity 1.2 *Prepare a feasibility analysis for a new agreement, in a community with a different context.*

Buen Samaritano, the original site proposed for the new Conservation Agreement, was rejected because the feasibility evaluation indicated inadequate conditions for agreement implementation. The second site evaluated was the Yaloch Forest Concession, managed by community members from Melchor de Mencos. This feasibility evaluation indicated that implementation was indeed viable, and project staff subsequently invested three months to define the commitments and responsibilities of each party. Regrettably, when the agreement was close to being finalized, Yaloch Forest Concession leaders indicated that they were no longer interested in any agreements that required them to implement CONAP's patrolling protocols. CONAP and WCS subsequently visited the community to terminate the negotiations with a formal meeting (Annex 5).

Finally, a third option was selected for the fourth Conservation Agreement: the village of Corozal and the Bioitzá Municipal Reserve, located adjacent to the San Miguel La Palotada Zotz Biotope (see map on Section 1). This agreement advanced throughout all the steps and is now being implemented with a focus on reducing threats to the El Zotz Biotope and protecting the Bioitzá Municipal Reserve.

ProPetén was selected as implementer of the Bioltza-Corozal-Zotz agreement due to their excellent working relationship with the aforementioned partners, and their 20-year experience with issues related to human wellbeing and conservation. In October 2014, ProPetén concluded the feasibility evaluation after full consultation with the other partners involved (Annex 6).

Activity 1.3. *Develop a new conservation agreement in a participatory manner with the selected community, accompanying NGOs and government representatives.*

After a positive response to the feasibility evaluation of Bioltzá-Corozal-Zotz, the Conservation Agreement contract was designed and negotiated between all parties. The greatest challenge faced consisted of determining the boundaries of the "shared landscape" between the Bioltzá Indigenous Reserve (a municipal forest reserve spanning 3,603 hectares managed by the Maya Itzá people), the agrarian landscape of Corozal, and the vulnerable southeastern section of the El Zotz protected area (managed by CECON). Implementing organization and national partner ProPetén led this participatory process, and in late January 2015 the Conservation Agreement was signed by all parties. The signature ceremony was held in the Community of Corozal on March 13th, 2015 (Annex 3), with the participation of 150 community members, and 8 representatives from CONAP, CECON/USAC, ProPetén, Rainforest Alliance, Asociación Bioitzá, Tikal National Park, and WCS.

This Conservation Agreement will strengthen the capabilities of partners (the Corozal COCODE, Asociación Bioitzá, and CECON) to prevent forest fire, and implement surveillance and protection activities in their shared landscape (see Section 3.2).

Output 2: Report on the impacts of community conservation agreements synthesizing experiences in the distinct community contexts, evaluating biodiversity and poverty reduction impacts, and demonstrating value for money.

Activity 2.1 *Develop baseline and annual socioeconomic monitoring to measure the social impact of existing conservation agreements.*

ProPetén was selected to develop the socioeconomic baseline of the new Conservation Agreement. Due to the engagement of two distinct social groups, they will develop two reports: one for Bioitzá (a traditional Petén Maya linguistic group) and one for Corozal (an agrarian and migrant Q'eqchí Maya community). Baseline information for socioeconomic indicators is currently being collected using the Basic Necessities Survey (BNS) methodology and will be finished in April 2015 (Annex 13, contract).

To ensure proper implementation of BNS methodology and comparability with the other BNS socioeconomic baselines, a meeting was held between CEMEC, WCS, Balam and ProPetén technicians to exchange experiences from previous socioeconomic surveys undertaken during the Darwin project and the DFID/GTF project.

Activity 2.2. *Conduct annual monitoring of deforestation and biodiversity in areas where agreements are implemented.*

The Center for Monitoring and Evaluation of CONAP (CEMEC) conducted annual monitoring of deforestation and biodiversity in Uaxactún, Paso Caballos and Carmelita during the second quarter of 2014. CEMEC used satellite images to analyse land use changes within each conservation agreement site. Each report (drafted in Spanish) provides a precise description of the area of land affected by deforestation and forest fires as compared to last year (Annex 12).

Using satellite images, CEMEC also estimated land use and forest fire scars in the Bioltzá-Corozal-Zotz area. The results will be used as baselines against which to compare the results of future monitoring. Having a baseline is fundamental to measuring the impact of project activities to reduce the threats that are currently affecting the forest (Annex 11).

Output 3: Synthetic outreach materials to disseminate lessons learned, each uniquely targeted toward a different audience.

Activity 3.1. *Hold annual meetings in each community implementing a conservation agreement to present and discuss results achieved, challenges and lesson learned.*

On September 10th, 2014, twenty people participated in an annual OMYC meeting to celebrate the fifth year of the Conservation Agreement in Uaxactún. On March 12th, 2015 a formal evaluation was carried out to review the agreement's fifth year implementation with all partner organizations involved, including CONAP, Rainforest Alliance, and the Asociación de Comunidades Forestales de Petén (ACOFOP). OMYC authorities presented the results of the agreement to date, after which CONAP utilized a new evaluation format developed recently to standardize their evaluations into the agreements (the results of the meeting and the evaluation undertaken by CONAP are available in Annex 6). On May 17th, 2015 a General Assembly will be held with all the community members.

In the case of Paso Caballos, an annual evaluation was held in November 2014 with community leaders and partner institutions including CONAP, Asociación Forestal Integral de San Andrés Petén (AFISAP), Asociación Balam and WCS. The evaluation analysed the commitments of each party to the agreement, and determined the steps required for improvement (Annex 9).

Activity 3.2. *Develop informational material highlighting results and lessons learned from conservation agreements to share with institutions working in and impacting the MBR*

Annual reports were developed in Spanish, outlining the results, challenges, and lessons learned during the implementation of the Uaxactún and Paso Caballos Conservation Agreements. Both reports were delivered to CONAP, as the government authority responsible for protected area management (Annexes 4, 5).

International presentations were made in July 2014 by project leader Roan Balas McNab. These included a presentation at the Bronx Zoo in New York City, and a subsequent presentation at the Conservation International (CI) headquarters in Arlington Virginia, with 80 and 30 attendees respectively. The presentations examined the challenges of community Conservation Agreements within the context of WCS Guatemala's country program strategy. Conservation Agreements were highlighted as an example of Payment for Environmental Performance Systems, a mechanism to promote improvements in livelihoods and conservation within communities. In March 2015, Margarita Mora, Manager of the Conservation Agreements program of CI in Latin America, participated in a REDD+ and Carbon projects workshop in the CI headquarters that focused on the role of Conservation Agreements and how this model could be used to promote the financial sustainability of community-based conservation investments. She used Uaxactún as an example (Annex 16).

Activity 3.3. *Share information about Conservation Agreements more widely in electronic form on social networks, websites, and through partner institution networks.*

Information on the Darwin Project was integrated into the WCS-Guatemala website (www.wcsguatemala.org), and is available in Spanish and English.

Public dissemination of the results obtained through Conservation Agreements was undertaken throughout the second year of the Darwin project implementation. Four newsletters containing general information about the approach as well as specific data for each site (Carmelita, Uaxactún, Paso Caballos), were produced and distributed via e-mail to diverse stakeholders. Examples of recipients included CECON, Asociación Balam, CONAP Guatemala and Peten offices, Mesoamerican Reef Fund and the Rainforest Alliance's main Guatemala and regional offices (Annex 17).

The newsletters were also disseminated through the social networks of the following institutions: Instituto de Agricultura, Recursos Naturales y Ambiente/Universidad Rafael Landívar (IARNA), the Biological Monitoring Roundtable of the Maya Biosphere Reserve, National Roundtable on Climate Change, Asociación Balam, and the webpage of CONAP, Colegio de Químicos y Farmacéuticos de Guatemala (Annex 17).

Output 4: Policy recommendations including analysis of opportunities for, and limitations to the replication of conservation agreements across the MBR and the Guatemala protected areas system.

Activity 4.1 *Organize a workshop with key players in the MBR (GOs, NGOs and civil society) involved in the implementation of conservation agreements, in order to analyze the potential for and limitations to their replication.*

During this second year of the project, we made great strides in increasing public awareness about Conservation Agreements with personnel from both the regional and national CONAP offices. These advances, in combination with other outreach mechanisms focused on civil society partners and the general public, will pay dividends as we gear up to ensure conservation agreements are evaluated for inclusion within national conservation and sustainable development policies during the final year of Darwin implementation.

After conducting several presentations at the CONAP Guatemala office, a workshop conducted by the Technical Director of CONAP Petén was held during March 2015 in the CONAP Petén office. Stakeholders involved in the design, implementation, and monitoring of Conservation Agreements were invited and a total of 20 people attended. The activity involved representatives and technicians from ProPetén and Asociación Balam (Annex 18).

Activity 4.2. *Develop at least three proposals to ensure the financial sustainability of the four conservation agreements implemented.*

During the last year we prepared two proposals to sustain and expand the conservation agreements in the MBR. The first consisted of a preliminary proposal sent to the Tinker Foundation on January 2015. This proposal unfortunately received a negative response (Annex 19).

The second proposal was presented to Conservation International to continue working on conservation agreements in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. Happily, this proposal was approved in February 2015, providing important counterpart funding of US\$300,000 to provide partial support for the ongoing agreements in Uaxactún, Paso Caballos, and Bioltza-Corozal-Zotz through 2018 (Annex 20.)

3.2 Progress towards project outputs

All of the identified assumptions for each of the Outputs remain valid.

Output 1: Four community agreements in the Maya Biosphere Reserve

During the second year of this Darwin Project, we have accomplished 75% of our commitment; due to an unexpected lack of funding in the Carmelita site we have been unable to continue implementing the full agreement during a second phase (see Section 3.1). Despite this setback, some of the original Conservation Agreement activities continue being implemented in Carmelita with the financial support of the original implementing partner organization, Asociacion Balam.

The Conservation Agreements in Uuxactún and Paso Caballos continue being implemented according to the initial work plan. The results of each conservation agreement are detailed within the quarterly and annual reports (Annexes 4 and 5). The fourth community Conservation Agreement in Bioltzá-Corozal-Zotz has been signed and implementation has now begun, providing us with the opportunity to evaluate the approach where multiple actors share a landscape and resources.

Output 2: Report on the impacts of community conservation agreements

The main activities related to Output 2 will be carried out during the third year of the project. At present, however, the project is well underway in gathering the ecological data, socioeconomic data, and partner feedback required for the integrated evaluation. By late May 2015, all the socioeconomic baselines will be ready, and by September CEMEC's final evaluations on the impact of deforestation and forest fires will be available.

The integrated evaluation will be carried out by an independent consultant, who will be provided with a framework for the report, as well as the products developed in years one and two and all the input gathered throughout the project implementation. We expect to have a draft of the report on the impacts prepared by November 2015, and make adjustments to such as we receive feedback from the external evaluation, to be held as we approach the end of the project. The updated timeline can be found at the end of Annex 2.

Since year two began, more rigorous annual evaluations of community Conservation Agreements have included an "evaluation format" produced by CONAP and implemented with the assistance of local partners. Three annual reports on the ecological impact of Conservation Agreements at implementation sites (Uuxactún, Paso Caballos and Carmelita) were prepared by CEMEC, based on indicators of deforestation and forest fires.

For the fourth Conservation Agreement, CEMEC collected baseline information, as mentioned in section 3.1. Three complementary reports were produced regarding the results during burning season in Uuxactún, Paso Caballos and Carmelita (Annex 10).

Following the Darwin Initiative's advice, a deep analysis to measure the impacts on poverty alleviation was conducted for Paso Caballos and Uuxactún. A summary table regarding general impacts and administrative improvements was prepared to support the report, and more detailed tables were developed in Spanish (Annex 14).

Furthermore, the incentives system provides direct benefits to improve livelihoods. An example is the incentive for the collection of quality xate palm. 60% of families (300 people) receive direct benefits and temporary jobs related to xate. The impact of implementing a community Conservation Agreement in Uuxactún has been reflected in the strengthening of OMYC. As the managing institution of the forest concession, its solvency is key to ensuring the efficiency of community business. Efficient management and transparency has led to more empowerment and willingness to increase social investments, such as education. In the case of Paso Caballos, the community has seen a strengthening of its leadership and a better relationship with CONAP. The most significant benefit is the investment in the improvement of education facilities, with direct impact on 100 children, and the recent opening of the Typing Academy, as a first step towards cultivating the students' computer skills (Annex 14).

Output 3: Synthetic outreach materials to disseminate lessons learned

To increase the impact of the newsletters (see section 3.1) a distribution plan was implemented to raise awareness of the Conservation Agreement model in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. As a result, we subsequently made formal presentations at ten institutional meetings in Guatemala, and three meetings in the CI HQ and WCS HQ offices, reaching at least 120 people. The participation in international meetings helped us reach different audiences to discuss integral topics, such as community incentives, financial mechanisms and the carbon market, among others (Annex 16).

As a complementary and strategic method to disseminate the results, field visits were conducted to Uaxactún and Paso Caballos. The first were carried out in September 2014, with Julie Kunen, Executive Director of the WCS Latin America and Caribbean Program. These visits allowed for direct discussions between the local authorities (OMYC) and community leaders about the major challenges of the Conservation Agreement implementation and lessons learned. During February 2015, the Uaxactún community received two Trustees of the WCS Board of Directors, and two representatives of the WCS HQ. Uaxactún leaders and local WCS staff presented them with the results and guided them in visits to the community incentives program sites. This was possible thanks to the support of donors such as the Darwin Initiative/Defra and Conservation International (Annex 17).

Output 4: Policy recommendations including analysis of opportunities for, and limitations to the replication of conservation agreements across the MBR and the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas.

The main activities related to Output 4 will be carried out during the third year of the Project (see Section 3.1.)

To increase the acceptance of the Conservation Agreement model as a tool, and in order to be able to make policy recommendations in year three, the following steps were undertaken during the second year:

- a) Meetings held with key partners active in the MBR and through our newsletters. As awareness of the model increases, we hope the procedures for agreement authorization will become more streamlined and efficient to ensure the potential for widespread replication.
- b) We involved the diverse levels of CONAP (the Honorable Council, the Executive Secretary, and Directors and Technicians), in informative meetings, signature ceremonies and field visits. As CONAP involvement and understanding increases, we expect that interest in the agreements will increase, thereby facilitating the inclusion of the resulting policy recommendations.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Purpose/Outcome: “Community Conservation Incentive agreements are successfully implemented in four communities of Guatemala’s Maya Biosphere Reserve and impacts are rigorously tested, providing an innovative scalable model for reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity, while providing value for money”

Despite the lack of continued financing for the Carmelita Conservation Agreement, we remain on track to rigorously test the ability of the agreements to reduce poverty, conserve biodiversity, and provide value for money. Our evaluation will still include the Carmelita area, as it will allow us to investigate the effects of discontinuing implementation of the complete agreement after two years.

With respect to **Outcome Indicator 1**, we have engaged about 4970 people through conservation agreements in Carmelita, Corozal San Jose, Paso Caballos, and Uaxactun and expect to reach additional people in Bioltza. We are therefore on track to achieve our target for this indicator, and will be able to clarify the overall results for this indicator in the final report.

For **Outcome Indicator 2**, deforestation rates within the Conservation Agreement areas have remained extremely low since the Darwin Initiative project began. Please see Annexes 8 and 9 for more details on deforestation, provided by CONAP’s Center for Monitoring and Evaluation (CEMEC) as a result of their systematic monitoring.

For **Outcome Indicator 3**, we aimed to reduce forest loss as a result of fire by 10% compared to the historical 10-year average for all four areas (Annex 12.) To date, project activities designed to prevent forest fires have provided excellent results, and areas with conservation agreements remain free of fire.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

At project inception we identified two key assumptions that remain extremely relevant, both of which are related to governmental commitment. Specific details on each are as follows:

- The government of Guatemala will remain committed to the MBR as Guatemala's most emblematic protected area

Thus far, the current government has had (in our opinion) a positive record in the MBR, largely as a result of the leadership provided by CONAP. Statistics substantiating this claim include 61% reduction in the rate of deforestation across the MBR between 2009 and 2014 (see: <http://goo.gl/N95JE6>), allowing gains made by the previous government (President Colom) to largely be consolidated. It is also worth noting that the current government (in office through January 14th, 2016), has taken full advantage of the Conservation Agreement model in the MBR, and has expressed interest in replicating this model in other sites. To mitigate any potential risk of backsliding from governmental commitment during the upcoming election cycle, WCS, Asociación Balam, ProPetén, and other civil society partners will continue to raise awareness about the importance of the MBR, the ecosystem services it provides, and its economic importance for Guatemala (Annexes 16,17).

- After election year 2016, CONAP authorities will be willing to support Community Incentives and particularly conservation agreements in Petén

To mitigate the risk of a radical change in strategy by the new government elected, we will undertake introductory workshops with community participants, partner institutions and new governmental allies to present the methodology of conservation agreements, the achievements to date, and any timely requests on behalf of the rural communities and implementing partners (Annex 18).

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

The Conservation Agreement Model has been an efficient tool in reducing forest fires and deforestation, thereby lessening threats to the MBR's biodiversity (Annexes 7, 9, 18).

Because each Conservation Agreement site is unique and has different needs when it comes to poverty alleviation, we have developed specific goals and designed appropriate interventions for each community (see Section 5 and Annex 11). Through the Conservation Agreements, rural participants have obtained improved access to education (Uxactún, Carmelita, Paso Caballos, Corozal) and health services (Paso Caballos). It is important to note that investments in education have been focused on primary and secondary education, which does not directly benefit the entire community. However, these investments do provide a pathway to prosperity for the younger generations, thereby helping the rural needy break the vicious cycle of dependence on small-scale agriculture for daily sustenance (Annex 14).

4. Project support to the Conventions (CBD, CMS and/or CITES)

This project is helping Guatemala to address Aichi targets 2, 5, 7, 14, 15, and 19 through the following strategic goals:

Strategic goal A: address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society;

Strategic goal B: reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use; and

Strategic goal D: enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.

At a national level, this project is supporting the accomplishment of:

- National Policy on Biological Diversity, through its goal: Promote compliance in effective management of Guatemalan Biological Diversity, focusing in conservation and sustainable use, with recognition of its strategic value as a component for national development.

- National Strategy for Biological Diversity:

Strategy 3: Productive landscapes and territorial planning for conservation: establishing activities related to conservation, restoration of biological diversity and ecosystem services, sustainable use, mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Strategy 4: Attention of Biological Diversity threats:

Includes activities regarding conservation and restoration of biological diversity, mitigation and adaptation of climate change. Involving aspects such as socio-economic index, analysis of drivers of loss in diversity, promoting activities to reduce threats to biological diversity and ecosystem services.

Additionally, the impact of community conservation agreements has been considered by the Focal Point of CBD in CONAP (Technical Office of Biodiversity), and proposed in the fifth report presented to CBD by CONAP (Annex 12).

5. Project support to poverty alleviation

Final, unequivocal evidence for the project's contribution to poverty alleviation will only be available after the final BNS (socioeconomic) survey is completed in late 2015, and data are processed. However, intermediate results provide compelling indications that conservation agreement investments are indeed yielding positive results for poverty alleviation. For example:

- Uaxactún: Xate palm production has increased steadily during the agreement. The number of xate bundles (i.e. "paquetes"; each with 600 fronds) exported during the first, second, and current third two-year phases of the agreement are 10,333, 12,000, and 15,500, respectively. During this period, the number of xate fronds that have generated an extra "incentive payment" has risen from 6.2 million to 9.3 million. This benefit has been captured directly by a minimum of 90 xate collectors – the most impoverished social group in Uaxactún.
- Paso Caballos: Whereas the Uaxactún agreement is partially focused on alternative economic income, the Paso agreement is designed to ensure that villagers retain permission to cultivate their agricultural products without impacting the surrounding national park environment. Thus far, fire has been well controlled and there has been no deforestation in prohibited areas. This contrasts dramatically with the impacts imparted by the village prior to the agreement. By preventing deforestation and fire in the adjacent park the village fulfills the terms of its formal agreement with CONAP, thereby ensuring both their homesteads and their agricultural livelihoods in the future.
- Carmelita: During the implementation of the Conservation Agreement, the school was repaired, benefitting at least 100 children; the teachers and students received supplies and educational materials. The entire community obtained benefits through the improvements in infrastructure and equipment acquisition in the health center ("Centro de Salud").

Notable achievements obtained over the last year include: a) in Paso Caballos, the village obtained a commitment from the Municipality to build a new Health Center ("Centro de Convergencia") to improve health facilities within the village. This was a direct result of conservation agreement resources invested in covering the transportation costs of the Community Development Council (COCODE), as they travelled repeatedly to lobby for and demand improved governmental investment in their village; b) In Paso Caballos, the Conservation Agreement supported the construction of new classrooms, providing direct benefits to more than 300 children 6 to 15 years of age. Thus far, the community has invested 200 person/days of labour in school construction, an estimated value of \$1,973; c) The communities are now better prepared to prevent forest fires, thanks to the purchase of specialized equipment, with funds from the conservation agreements, aimed at supporting

farmers in the correct use of fire during the burning season. Currently, Paso Caballos is the best-equipped community in the prevention of forest fires within the Laguna del Tigre National Park.

6. Project support to Gender equity issues

Since the Conservation Agreement began in the Uaxactún community, women have comprised at least 30% of the administrative accountants led by the Administrative Manager of OMYC (Julio Gamboa). The board of OMYC has maintained at least 1-2 women (out of 7 elected positions) in the OMYC General Assembly (Annex 11).

Despite the fact that the harvest of xate palm is an activity mainly performed by men (75 men), all 24 people engaged with the sorting of fronds for export (“seleccionadoras”) in the xate sorting house are women (Annex 14). Xate activity generates additional income to improve the livelihood of women and families. The number of women involved in the sorting of xate palms for export has increased from 8 (in 2009) to 24 (in 2015). OMYC scholarships, aimed at supporting high school attendance, consider gender equity issues as well as the performance of each student.

In the case of Paso Caballos, the community is made up of 99% Q’eqch’í Maya population, where culturally the presence of women in COCODEs (leaders and representatives of each community) is almost absent. Nevertheless our WCS coordinator in the community is a woman (América Rodríguez), and as technical advisor, she has worked directly with all COCODE representatives in the last 7 years, with leaders changing every year. For the first time, in 2015, a female teacher was selected by the COCODE to support activities related to conservation agreement implementation (Annex 14.)

In the Corozal community, the Assembly is represented with great participation by women, as could be seen during the signature ceremony (Annex 6)

7. Monitoring and evaluation

We are implementing multifaceted, systematic monitoring and evaluation to ensure our ability to rigorously review the impacts of conservation agreements as a tool, and make recommendations regarding the potential for replicability. Environmental outputs are being measured by CONAP’s Center for Monitoring and Evaluation (CEMEC); these include deforestation and the prevalence of fire, which are being tracked annually for each agreement, as compared to the historical 10-year averages for each management unit before initiating a conservation agreement. Basic Necessities Surveys (BNS) are being used to evaluate human wellbeing using a standardized format based on tangible material indicators, and additional data collected at the community level regarding the availability of essential services. Participant familiarity and satisfaction with the agreements is also being evaluated during the household BNS surveys. Additional stakeholder surveys are being undertaken, and participatory evaluations have been held each year to share inputs and ensure collaboration in improving work plans for the next year. Finally, in the upcoming final, third year of the project, we have also budgeted to have an independent external evaluation of the project’s impact, which will be shared with Darwin in the final report.

As in many projects, “proving” direct causality between our project’s activities and the overall outcome may be challenging. That said, in the final report we will strive to demonstrate the direct links between project interventions, and tangible improvements in wages and/or basic services within partnering communities.

Changes to the M&E Plan to date include: a) the substitution of indicators for the fourth Conservation Agreement (Bioltzá-Corozal-Zotz), in replacement of indicators developed during the project proposal, and based on the community of Cruce a la Colorada; b) the lack of a full two-year evaluation period in the case of the new agreement; due to the delay in the initiation of the fourth agreement, we will only be able to evaluate 19 months of project implementation, as opposed to the 24 months intended. (*Note: the delay resulted from the negative result of the Buen Samaritano feasibility evaluation, and the eventual rejection of an agreement with the Yaloch Community forest concession.*) Additional information is available in Section 3, and in Annexes 5,6

8. Lessons learnt

Our greatest setback during the project's second year was the delay in signing the fourth conservation agreement. This was manifest in two events. First was the negative feasibility evaluation for the Buen Samaritano agreement. The rejection of an agreement in this village was agreed upon by WCS, CONAP, and the selected implementing NGO, Asociación Balam, due to the illegal concentration of land by extremely powerful ranchers rumoured to be linked to narco-trafficking. Second, based on CONAP's guidance, we selected the community forest concession of Yaloch as the next candidate. A feasibility evaluation revealed the viability of the agreement. But during the negotiation with the concession leaders, the agreement broke down due to unacceptable demands on behalf of the community. These included investing all conservation agreement resources in equipment for the concession, and their reluctance to accept CONAP's condition of using a standardized data patrol form for protection patrols within their area.

In the case of the Yaloch concession agreement, CONAP was engaged in the process throughout. As discussions advanced, concession leaders lost confidence, apparently concerned that CONAP would use the agreement to monitor their compliance with the entire suite of commitments before the State (which in our opinion is not correct). In the future, if partners seem wary, we might have considered bringing in CONAP towards the end to make recommendations on a draft of the agreement once reached. That said, one of the important elements of these agreements is that they are 100% voluntary, and it is worth noting that this key condition has been respected throughout.

Following these setbacks, we had a wonderful experience working with the national NGO ProPetén to finally develop the fourth Conservation Agreement with Bioltza-Corozal-Zotz. Lessons learnt through this process included: a) communities residing in extremely challenged landscapes/contexts, particularly those permeated by organized crime do not make good candidates for an agreement; b) the feasibility evaluations are important first steps in developing an agreement, but a positive result does not guarantee that the agreement will be reached and/or be successful.

Another positive development was the continued investment by Asociación Balam in the Carmelita Conservation Agreement despite the lack of funding to maintain the entire agreement. This has allowed some select activities to continue (fire prevention, support for community-based tourism development), thereby maintaining the spirit of the agreement in force.

Lessons learnt will be reflected in our policy recommendations, with the aim of producing a document entitled the "Community Conservation Agreement Protocol", which is formally adopted by CONAP, as the national institution responsible for protected area management.

9. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Recommendation 1: Share more widely with global audience both positive and negative results from the project.

Actions: implemented a dissemination plan to stakeholders and partners in Guatemala City and Petén. Internationally, the project leader took advantage to present results and challenges in WCS HQ, CI HQ and by partners such as Margarita Mora from CI. The website of WCS Guatemala, includes information on the Darwin Initiative project (www.wcsguatemala.org)

Recommendation 2: Clarify who assumes the cost of the new feasibility evaluation, after the no-feasibility response for Buen Samaritano.

Actions: as reflected in the half-year report, the cost of carrying out feasibility evaluations in new sites (after a no-feasibility response for Buen Samaritano), was assumed by WCS, in the case of the Yaloch forest concession; and in Bioltzá-Corozal-Zotz, it was assumed by ProPetén, and supervised by WCS.

Recommendation 3: Clearer strategy to address needs of the youth and the marginalised.

Actions: the project's impact on the needs of the youth and the marginalised is reflected on the quarterly and annual reports, as well as the annual evaluations. However, in order to better visualize the impacts regarding poverty alleviation, we have prepared tables of impact in Annex 14 to complement the information.

Recommendation 4: Logframe should be completed more fully.

Action: the logframe was fully completed.

10. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The lack of funds for a second phase of the Carmelita Conservation Agreement was partially resolved thanks the commitment of Asociación Balam. This situation is now an opportunity to evaluate the commitment of CONAP in transcendental topics, such as territorial planning in forest concessions, and to look for different alternatives to overcome sustainability challenges.

The fourth conservation agreement was finally established in a different context (Biolitzá-Corozal-Zotz.) The delays during this process were an opportunity to streamline the internal process in CONAP.

11. Sustainability and legacy

As mentioned, a proposal was approved by CI on February 2015 to support conservation agreements in the MBR for three more years. At the end of the period, it is expected that at least two private sector enterprises will be engaged and interested in supporting the implementation of conservation agreements in the short, medium or long term.

In the medium term, we still expect that the conservation agreements could work as the template for the mechanism used to channel REDD+ under the Guatecarbon Project, led by CONAP and ACOFOP.

Over the long term, we continue working with WCS in New York to develop an innovative project that would link the village of Uaxactún and the city of New York. The project will be undertaken in partnership with the City of New York and diverse organizations (see: <http://www.brooklynbridgeforest.com/>), with the goal of simultaneously supporting community forest conservation in Uaxactún, and raising public awareness of global forest conservation issues.

12. Darwin Identity

WCS has publicised the Darwin Initiative through use of the logo and project description through:

- WCS Guatemala website, includes information of the Darwin Project, both in English and Spanish (www.wcsguatemala.org.)
- On September 5th, 2014, a third phase of the Uaxactún Conservation Agreement was signed, spanning a two-year period (2014-2016). The community was honored at the signing ceremony by the presence of Sarah Dickson, the United Kingdom's Ambassador to Guatemala and Honduras. As a result, a note was posted in the UK Embassy's website (<https://www.gov.uk/government/world-location-news/united-kingdom-supports-sustainable-development-in-petens-communities>.)
- All reports generated by WCS or our partners (CONAP, ProPetén, Asociación Balam), as well as the presentations and field visits related to this project, give credit to the financial support of the Darwin Initiative and use its logo.
- The newsletters and the public presentations related to the project, field visits and the conservation agreements and community incentives, in general, in the sites of Uaxactún and Paso Caballos, use the logo and are therefore publicly affiliated with the Darwin Initiative/DEFRA.

13. Project Expenditure

Table 1 Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2014 – 31 March 2015)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2014/15 Grant (£)	2014/15 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	102,239	102,239		

14. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2014-2015

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2014 - March 2015	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Community conservation incentives agreements are successfully implemented in community-managed forest across the entire Guatemalan Protected Areas System, leading to a significant reduction in deforestation and forest fires, and improved basic necessities and quality of life for the people in and around protected areas in Guatemala.</p>		<p>Implementation of Conservation Agreements, contribute to conserve at least 138,000 hectares in the MBR, avoiding deforestation and maintaining carbon stock especially in Uaxactún and Carmelita.</p>	
<p>Outcome Community conservation incentives agreements are successfully implemented in four communities of Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve and impacts are rigorously tested, providing an innovative scalable model for reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity, while providing value for money.</p>	<p>Indicator 1: 4000+ residents of four target communities demonstrate increased access to basic necessities, with at least 25% of the target population reporting improved access to education and/or health services and/or locally prioritised development initiatives during the three-year project timeframe.</p> <p>Indicator 2: In the four target community sections, at least 50% of forest cover will be protected, which - without intervention - would likely have been deforested, based on the historical average deforestation rate of the 3 years before community agreements.</p> <p>Indicator 3: The annual amount of forest degraded by fire in each of the four target community forest management units is reduced by 10% or more as compared to the historical average of 10 years before community agreements.</p>	<p>The analyses with satellite images are evidence of how the implemented Conservation Agreements are contributing to maintaining forest cover. CEMEC 2014 reports showed the forest cover had been maintained in Uaxactún and Carmelita. Paso Caballos was also maintained, as well the forest in the neighbouring areas.</p> <p>The socioeconomic impact has been measured in reports from 2014. This year, the baseline is being developed for the fourth Conservation Agreement (Annexes 10, 11.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan for year three is to continue with the implementation, and do a final evaluation of the land use cover, impact in forest fires scars and socioeconomic improvements for each Conservation Agreement under implementation. • The challenge during the third year will be the institutionalization of the Conservation Agreement as its own tool, by CONAP.
<p>Output 1. Four Community Agreements in four sections of Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve (Uaxactún, Carmelita, Paso Caballos, Cruce la Colorada)</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1. Three existing conservation agreements signed and maintained valid through 2015 (in the communities of Carmelita, Uaxactún, and Paso Caballos).</p>	<p>The unexpected lack of funding for the Carmelita Conservation Agreement has been an opportunity to measure advances, and evaluate different alternatives to work in communities (Annex 1.) This particular case is useful to test the commitment of CONAP to continue working in a community with less than 50% of investment, in comparison to the funds available with a conservation agreement.</p>	

	Indicator 1.2. One new Conservation Agreement developed, signed, and implemented by 2014 with Cruce a la Colorada (or another community based on feedback from CONAP), and maintained through 2015.	The fourth Conservation Agreement was implemented after evaluating two different sites. However, this particular Conservation Agreement will allow us to test the complexity of work with different communities, and a shared landscape (Annexes 2, 3.)
Activity 1.1. Implement the 3 existing Conservation Agreements in the MBR		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Agreements of Paso Caballos and Uaxactún have been implemented according to plan. See Quarterly and Annual reports in Annexes 4 and 5. • Specific actions were carried out in Carmelita, through Memoranda of Understanding between Asociación Balam and Carmelita authorities (Cooperativa Carmelita and COCODE) (Annex 1.) • During year three, the objective is to keep implementing them, undertaking evaluations on the deforestation, as well as socioeconomic aspects.
Activity 1.2 Prepare a feasibility analysis for a new agreement, in a community with a different context		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Fourth Conservation Agreement was established finally in a “shared landscape” involving three sites: Corozal Community, Bioitzá Indigenous Reserve and Zotz Bioitope. For easier reference, the agreement is known as: Bioltzá-Corozal-Zotz (Annex 3.)
Activity 1.3, Develop a new Conservation Agreement in a participatory manner with the selected community, accompanying NGO and government representatives.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the last year of the project, the objective is to implement the Conservation Agreement, and have it evaluated by CEMEC, using socioeconomic tools.
Output 2. Report on the impacts of community conservation agreements	<p>Indicator 2.1. Annual measurements taken of socioeconomic indices, deforestation, and forest fires in community-managed forests where agreements are implemented.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2. Independent, comprehensive final assessment of Conservation Agreement impacts with respect to socioeconomic development, deforestation, and biodiversity conservation conducted in Year 3 (2015).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual evaluations in each community, as well as the reports generated by CEMEC related to deforestation and socioeconomic aspects, are key evidence of the impact against deforestation and reducing the risk of forest fires in forest concessions. Since year two, we have analyzed the impact in poverty alleviation following the advice of Darwin/Defra (Annexes 7,8,11.)
Activity 2.1. Develop baseline and annual socioeconomic monitoring to measure the social impact of existing conservation agreements.		Socioeconomic reports were produced during 2014 for Carmelita, Paso Caballos and Uaxactún communities (Annex 10.) ProPetén is in the process of developing a socioeconomic report for Corozal and Bioitzá. The reports will be ready by the end of April 2015.

<p>Activity 2.2. Conduct annual monitoring of deforestation and biodiversity in areas where agreements are implemented.</p>	<p>CEMEC 2014 reports were developed to measure impacts in deforestation and forest fire scars in Paso Caballos, Carmelita and Uaxactún. As a result, there is evidence that the Conservation Agreements are conserving forest and reducing deforestation (Annex 9.)</p>
<p>Activity 2.3. Commission an independent, comprehensive final assessment of conservation agreement impacts with respect to socioeconomic development, deforestation, and biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>The independent and final assessment will be carried out during year three.</p>
<p>Output 3. Synthetic outreach materials to disseminate lessons learned, each uniquely targeted toward a different audience.</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1. A total of 12 meetings (in four communities annually, for three years) held to present and discuss results achieved, and challenges of Conservation Agreements (including initial consultations in Community No. 4) by 2015.</p> <p>Indicator 3.2. White paper on Conservation Agreements, impacts and lessons learned shared with all government institutions and NGOs working in and impacting the MBR, and more widely through social networks, websites, and through partner institution networks in 2015.</p> <p>Indicator 3.3. One paper on Conservation Agreements submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal in 2015.</p> <p>The dissemination strategy was improved during year two. A divulgation plan was carried out, as well a field visit by WCS Board Members and potential donors. The understanding of Conservation Agreements increased, especially in CONAP Guatemala and CONAP Petén (Annexes 13, 14.)</p> <p>These actions will facilitate the next activities planned through year three, and we will continue working to disseminate more information with partners and stakeholders.</p>
<p>Activity 3.1 Hold annual meetings in each community implementing a conservation agreement to present and discuss results achieved, challenges, and lessons learned.</p>	<p>Annual meetings were carried out in Uaxactún and Paso Caballos to evaluate the achieved results, challenges and define actions to be improved (Annex 6.) In the case of Carmelita, independent meetings were carried out through the implementations of an MOU between Asociación Balam and Carmelita. In the last quarter, an evaluation will be held on the fourth conservation agreement implemented (Bioltzá-Corozal-Zotz.)</p>
<p>Activity 3.2. Develop informational material highlighting results and lessons learned from conservation agreements to share with institutions working in and impacting the MBR</p>	<p>Four newsletters were developed regarding the Conservation Agreements (Annex 14.) Additionally, as a complement a divulgation plan was implemented, which included presentations for partners and stakeholders in Guatemala City, Petén, and in CI and WCS headquarters (Annex 13.)</p>
<p>Activity 3.3. Share information about Conservation Agreements more widely in electronic form on social networks, websites, and through partner institution</p>	<p>The divulgation plan helped to increase the understanding and limitations of the model (Annex 13), especially in all CONAP levels. This is a key activity towards</p>

<p>networks.</p>	<p>influencing the Government to accept the proposed policy recommendations to replicate the model in other places of the MBR and beyond. The as were shared through social networks such as the RA Monitoring Roundtable of the MBR http://www.mesaselvamaya.org/, IARNA, as well as internal CONAP networks, Asociación Balam, CECON, and Colegio de Farmacéuticos y Químicos de Guatemala (Annex 13.)</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/mesamonitorio.selvamaya?fref=ts https://www.facebook.com/iarna.url?fref=ts https://www.facebook.com/asociacion.balam?fref=ts http://www.conap.gob.gt/index.php/servicios-en-linea/noticias/741-acuerdos-de-conservacion-en-la-rbm.html http://www.conap.gob.gt/index.php/servicios-en-linea/noticias/721-acuerdo-de-conservacion-con-comunidades-dentro-de-rbm.html</p>
<p>Activity 3.4. Submit article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, focused on academic and development practitioner audiences</p>	<p>Will be carried out in year three</p>
<p>Output 4. Policy recommendation including analysis of opportunities for, and limitations to the replication of conservation agreements across the MBR and the Guatemalan System of protected areas.</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1 By 2015, a participatory policy statement developed with CONAP on the feasibility of replicating conservation agreements across the MBR and throughout the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas.</p> <p>Indicator 4.2. Three proposals submitted by 2015 to support the financial sustainability of the implementation of four Conservation Agreements, post-Darwin Initiative funding, and as a temporary measure, to ensure the sustainability of initiatives while permanent financial mechanisms are developed.</p> <p>Indicator 4.3. Policy recommendations incorporated by 2015 within the CONAP policy on conservation incentives in the MBR as a pilot policy for the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas.</p>
<p>Activity 4.1. Organize a workshop with key players in the MBR (GOs, NGOs and civil society) involved in the implementation of Conservation Agreements, in order</p>	<p>The first workshop with key partners of CONAP and partner implementers was carried out in March 2015 (Annex 15.) During year three, another workshop will be carried out to continue discussing the limits and challenges of replications in</p>

to analyze the potential for and limitations to their replication.	the MBR and other sites in Guatemala.
Activity 4.2. Develop at least three proposals to ensure the financial sustainability of the four Conservation Agreements implemented.	A profile and a proposal were submitted during year two (Annexes 16, 17.) In the case of the proposal submitted to Conservation International, this was approved with a support of US\$300,000 in February 2015. The objectives of the proposals are: a) support the implementation of three Conservation Agreements (Paso Caballos, Uaxactún and Bioltzá-Corozal-Zotz), and b) develop the relationships, structures, and mechanisms to obtain mid and long-term financing for Conservation Agreements through private, public, and volunteer-sector financing.
Activity 4.3. Prepare policy recommendations for implementation of agreements across the MBR and throughout the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas.	The activity will be carried out during year three.

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</p>			
<p>Outcome Community conservation incentives agreements are successfully implemented in four communities of Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve and impacts are rigorously tested, providing an innovative scalable model for reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity, while providing value for money.</p>	<p>Indicator 1: 4000+ residents of four target communities demonstrate increased access to basic necessities, with at least 25% of the target population reporting improved access to education and/or health services and/or locally prioritised development initiatives during the three-year project timeframe.</p> <p>Indicator 2: In the four target community sections, at least 50% of forest cover will be protected, which - without intervention - would likely have been deforested, based on the historical average deforestation rate of the 3 years before community agreements.</p> <p>Indicator 3: The annual amount of forest degraded by fire in each of the four target community forest management units is reduced by 10% or more as compared to the historical average of 10 years before community agreements</p>	<p>Indicator 1: Pre- and post- project basic necessities surveys in Carmelita, Uaxactún, Paso Caballos and Bioitzá-Corozal-Zotz, calculating poverty index using the adapted Basic Necessities Survey (BNS) methods developed by Rick Davies in 1997</p> <p>Indicator 2: (1) Remote sensing analysis using LANDSAT, ASTER, ALOS AVNIR-2, and/or ALOS PALSAR images; (2) historical land cover database; (3) annual CEMEC/CONAP land cover change reports.</p> <p>Indicator 3: (1) Remote sensing analysis using LANDSAT, ASTER, ALOS AVNIR-2, and/or ALOS PALSAR images; (2) annual CEMEC/CONAP forest fire reports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient market demand for environmentally friendly products and services will permit increased growth of sustainable forest product markets and eco-tourism • External phenomena such as El Niño events will not overwhelm capacity to manage fires and deforestation • Local communities will continue to desire improved governance and a greater role in guiding the course of their own development • CONAP will be willing to accompany a new agreement in Bioitzá-Corozal-Zotz • There will be no severe environmental conditions such as drought or flood that destroys crops, forcing local communities into desperate survival situations that could place increased pressure on natural resources of the MBR • The government of Guatemala will remain committed to the MBR as Guatemala's most emblematic protected area • After election year 2016, CONAP authorities will be willing to support Community Incentives and particularly conservation

			agreements in Petén
Output 1. Four Community Agreements in four sections of Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve (Uaxactún, Carmelita, Paso Caballos, Bioitzá-Corozal-Zotz)	<p>Indicator 1.1. Two existing conservation agreements signed and maintained valid through 2015 Uaxactún, and Paso Caballos), Carmelita Forest Concession are working through a MOU with Asociación Balam.</p> <p>Indicator 1.2. One new Conservation Agreement developed, signed, and implemented by 2014, Bioitzá-Corozal-Zotz, and maintained through 2015</p>	<p>Indicator 1.1. Signed conservation agreements, photos, annual reports, final external report, meeting minutes. MOU signed with Asociación Balam.</p> <p>Indicator 1.2. Signed conservation agreement, photos, annual reports, final external report, meeting minutes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional support and legal framework remain favourable to the implementation of community conservation agreements, including the persistence of CONAP as the lead governmental entity in regard to the MBR. • Communities are able to reach consensus and maintain an adequate amount of cohesion regarding their participation in community agreements. • External factors do not significantly change the socioeconomic or ecological context in a manner that confounds the attribution of impacts to conservation agreements (e.g. El Niño impacts on forest fires.)
Activity 1.1. Implement the 3 existing Conservation Agreements in the MBR			
Activity 1.2 Prepare a feasibility analysis for a new agreement, in a community with a different context			
Activity 1.3, Develop a new Conservation Agreement in a participatory manner with the selected community, accompanying NGO and government representatives.			
Output 2. Report on the impacts of community conservation agreements	<p>Indicator 2.1. Annual measurements taken of socioeconomic indices, deforestation, and forest fires in community-managed forests where agreements are implemented.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2. Independent, comprehensive final assessment of Conservation Agreement impacts with respect to socioeconomic development, deforestation, and biodiversity conservation conducted in Year 3 (2015)</p>	<p>Indicator 2.1. Annual reports including results of Basic Necessities Surveys, and remote sensing results</p> <p>Indicator 2.2. Final external report.</p>	
Activity 2.1. Develop baseline and annual socioeconomic monitoring to measure the social impact of existing conservation agreements.			
Activity 2.2. Conduct annual monitoring of deforestation and biodiversity in areas where agreements are implemented.			
Activity 2.3. Commission an independent, comprehensive final assessment of conservation agreement impacts with respect to socioeconomic development, deforestation, and biodiversity conservation			
Output 3. Synthetic outreach materials to disseminate lessons learned, each uniquely targeted	<p>Indicator 3.1. A total of 12 meetings (in four communities annually, for three years) held to present and discuss</p>	<p>Indicator 3.1. Meeting minutes, photos, annual reports.</p> <p>Indicator 3.2. Informational materials</p>	

<p>toward a different audience.</p>	<p>results achieved, and challenges of Conservation Agreements (including initial consultations in Community No. 4) by 2015.</p> <p>Indicator 3.2. White paper on Conservation Agreements, impacts and lessons learned shared with all government institutions and NGOs working in and impacting the MBR, and more widely through social networks, websites, and through partner institution networks in 2015.</p> <p>Indicator 3.3. One paper on Conservation Agreements submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal in 2015.</p>	<p>produced, list of institutions reached.</p> <p>Indicator 3.3. Article draft, message from peer-reviewed journal acknowledging article submission.</p>	
<p>Activity 3.1 Hold annual meetings in each community implementing a conservation agreement to present and discuss results achieved, challenges, and lessons learned.</p>			
<p>Activity 3.2. Develop informational material highlighting results and lessons learned from conservation agreements to share with institutions working in and impacting the MBR</p>			
<p>Activity 3.3. Share information about Conservation Agreements more widely in electronic form on social networks, websites, and through partner institution networks.</p>			
<p>Activity 3.4. Submit article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, focused on academic and development practitioner audiences</p>			
<p>Output 4. Policy recommendation including analysis of opportunities for, and limitations to the replication of conservation agreements across the MBR and the Guatemalan System of protected areas.</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1 By 2015, a participatory policy statement developed with CONAP on the feasibility of replicating conservation agreements across the MBR and throughout the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas.</p> <p>Indicator 4.2. Three proposals submitted by 2015 to support the financial sustainability of the implementation of four Conservation Agreements, post-Darwin Initiative funding, and as a temporary measure, to ensure the sustainability of initiatives while permanent financial mechanisms</p>	<p>Indicator 4.1. Report on the feasibility of replicating conservation agreements, meeting minutes, list of meeting participants, photos.</p> <p>Indicator 4.2. Three proposals submitted, notices of funding support from donors.</p> <p>Indicator 4.3. Report on policy recommendations.</p>	

	<p>are developed.</p> <p>Indicator 4.3. Policy recommendations incorporated by 2015 within the CONAP policy on conservation incentives in the MBR as a pilot policy for the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas.</p>		
<p>Activity 4.1. Organize a workshop with key players in the MBR (GOs, NGOs and civil society) involved in the implementation of Conservation Agreements, in order to analyze the potential for and limitations to their replication.</p>			
<p>Activity 4.2. Develop at least three proposals to ensure the financial sustainability of the four Conservation Agreements implemented.</p>			
<p>Activity 4.3. Prepare policy recommendations for implementation of agreements across the MBR and throughout the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas.</p>			

Annex 3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
Research Measures								
12A	Socioeconomic database for communities where conservation agreement are implemented			1			1	1
12 A	Socioeconomic report for communities where conservation agreement are implemented			0	3		3	4
Dissemination Measures								
14 A	Presentation regarding Conservation Agreements model, results and limitations			0	10 national, 3 international presentations (Annex)		13	20
15 B	Press release for the visit of UK Ambassador to Guatemala (Sarah Dickson).			1	0		1	1
16 A	July 2013 Newsletter 1 (introduction)			1	0		1	1
16 A	March 2014 Newsletter 2, 3, 4 (one for each conservation agreements)			3	0		3	3
16 B	Newsletters about Conservation Agreements implementation			1 network (iarna): 2000 contacts 102 contacts via institution emails	4 Distributed through social media, e-mail, internal network with partners (5473 contacts in social networks, 4386 contacts via institution emails)		5 networks 7,473 contacts 4,488 contacts via email	10 8,000 contacts via networks and 5,000 contacts via emails

16 C	Blog UK Ambassador			1			1	1
18 C	UK Ambassador in Guatemala (Sarah Dickson) Darwin Initiative on TV local news			4			4	4
19 C	UK Ambassador in Guatemala (Sarah Dickson) Darwin Initiative on radio news			4			4	4

Financial Measures

23	Other funds to implement Darwin project				Details: US\$ 5000 (or £ 3,226) for Balam for the next year they will invest US\$18,000 (£ 11,613) in Carmelita \$300,000 equivalent to £ 187,500 from CI to support activities during the third year of this project (the proposal has been accepted and we are currently in the process of signing the grant agreement)			
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Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. website link or publisher)

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Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

This may include outputs of the project, but need not necessarily include all project documentation. For example, the abstract of a conference would be adequate, as would be a summary of a thesis rather than the full document. If we feel that reviewing the full document would be useful, we will contact you again to ask for it to be submitted.

It is important, however, that you include enough evidence of project achievement to allow reassurance that the project is continuing to work towards its objectives. Evidence can be provided in many formats (photos, copies of presentations/press releases/press cuttings, publications, minutes of meetings, reports, questionnaires, reports etc.) and you should ensure you include some of these materials to support the annual report text.

Output 1

4 Carmelita Conservation Agreements

- 4.1. Carmelita MOU 2014
- 4.2. Carmelita MOU 2015

5 Process with Yaloch Forest Concession

- 5.1 Feasibility Evaluation in Yaloch Forest Concession
- 5.2 Meetings in Yaloch during design and negotiation process (letter from CONAP confirming the end of the negotiation process, meeting minutes and photos)

6 Process to establish Biotz-Corozal-Zotz Conservation agreement

- 6.1 Feasibility Evaluation to establish Biotz-Corozal-Zotz Conservation Agreement
- 6.2 Biotz-Corozal-Zotz Conservation Agreement
- 6.3 Signature ceremony in Corozal (Photos and list of participants)
- 6.4 Subcontract WCS with ProPetn as implementer
- 6.5 Report Corozal implementation (1 Quarter)

7 Paso Caballos Conservation Agreement.

- 7.1 Annual report Paso Caballos Conservation Agreement
- 7.2 Paso Caballos Conservation Agreement (second phase)
- 7.3 Quarterly reports of Paso Caballos implementation

8 Uaxactn Conservation Agreement

- 8.1 Annual report Uaxactn Conservation Agreement
- 8.2 Signature ceremony Uaxactn Conservation Agreement (third phase) - Photos
- 8.3 Quarterly reports Uaxactn Conservation Agreement.

Output 2

9 Annual meetings

- 9.1 Annual meeting in Uaxactn (internal evaluation)
- 9.2 Annual meeting in Uaxactn with partners
- 9.3 Paso Caballos annual meeting

10. Burning season reports

- 10.1 Carmelita burning season report
- 10.2 Paso Caballos burning season report

- 10.3 Uaxactún Burning season report.
- 11. Baseline report to Bioitzá-Corozal-Zotz, by CEMEC 2015
- 12. Deforestation reports CEMEC
 - 12.1 CEMEC 2014 Uaxactún
 - 12.2 CEMEC 2014 Paso Caballos
 - 12.3 CEMEC 2014 Carmelita
- 13 Socioeconomic reports
 - 13.1 Socioeconomic report Carmelita 2014
 - 13.2 Socioeconomic report Uaxactún 2014
 - 13.3 Socioeconomic report Paso Caballos 2014
 - 13.4 Contract WCS with ProPetén to develop socioeconomic report in Corozal and Bioitzá.
- 14 Impacts on biodiversity and poverty alleviation
 - 14.1 Impact tables Uaxactún
 - 14.2 Impact tables Paso Caballos.
 - 14.3 Other impact examples

Output 3.

- 15 CBD convention support
 - 15.1 V report to CBD from CONAP Guatemala
- 16. Divuligation plan
 - 16.1 Participation lists
 - 16.2 Photos
 - 16.3 International presentations
- 17 Newsletters 2015
 - 17.1 General Conservation Agreement newsletter
 - 17.2. Paso Caballos Conservation Agreement newsletter
 - 17.3 Carmelita Conservation Agreement newsletter
 - 17.4 Uaxactún Conservation Agreement newsletter
 - 17.5 Newsletter from ProPetén.
 - 17.6 Field visits to Uaxactún and Paso Caballos (agenda and photos)

Output 4.

- 18. Conservation Agreement Workshop (workshop report, participant list, photos, presentations)
- 19. Tinker profile to support Conservation Agreements in the MBR.
- 20. Proposal submitted and approved by Conservation International to support Conservation Agreements in the MBR.

Indicators

- 21. Adjustment of Indicators

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	