

## Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

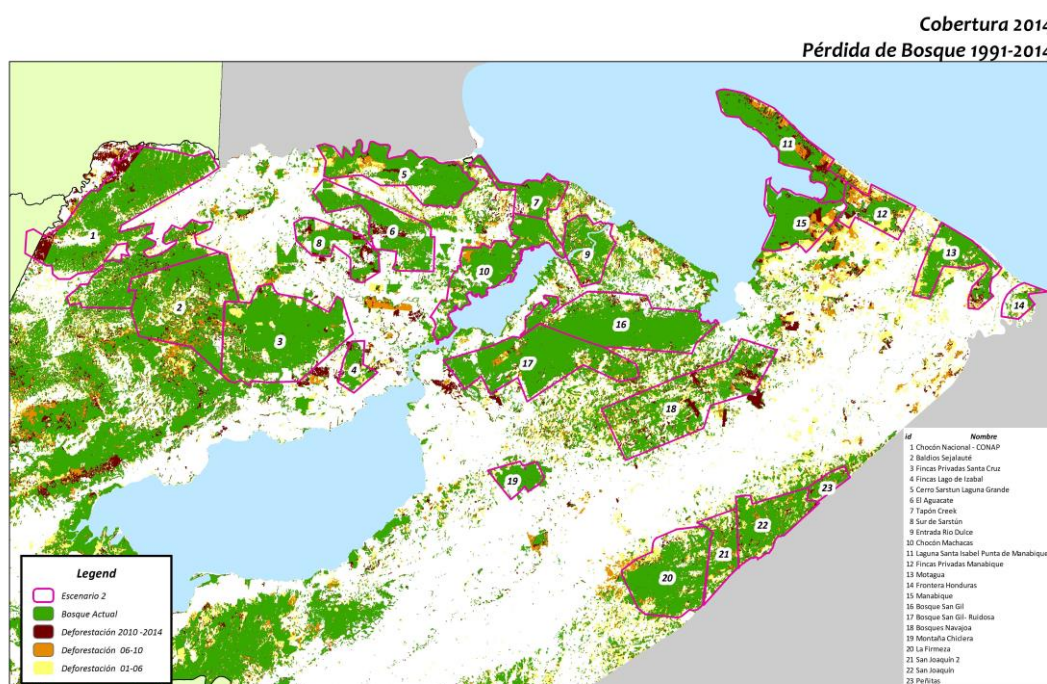
(due 31 October 2014)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	20-025
<b>Project Title</b>	Scaling Up biodiversity Conservation and Ecological Connectivity in Caribbean Guatemala
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Guatemala
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación –FUNDAECO-
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	CONAP and INAB
<b>Project Leader</b>	<i>Byron Villeda</i>
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR3)</b>	<i>October 2014, HYR2</i>
<b>Project website</b>	<i>The project has no website. FUNDAECO website is <a href="http://www.fundaeco.org.gt">www.fundaeco.org.gt</a></i>

### 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).

Output 1. Through GIS technology, field monitoring and data analysis, high priority forest fragments for biodiversity conservation, ecological connectivity and environmental services provision have been identified across Caribbean Guatemala, and are informing protected area management and habitat protection decisions.

- This year the project has updated the analysis to identify high priority forest fragments, using forest cover 2014, and forest loss analysis for the period 2001-2014. The next map shows high priority forest based on threatened forests, and social and technical feasibility to implement management and protection decisions.



- Amphibian monitoring was carried on in two different priority sites Sierra Caral and Sierra Santa Cruz.

Output 2. The Regional Network of Protected Areas of Caribbean Guatemala has been completed and strengthened- through the establishment and Management Planning of two additional Nature Reserves; the analysis of Financial Gaps and the proposal of "Payment of Environmental Services" mechanisms for the entire Regional System; the Production of a Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan for the Regional Network of Eight Protected Areas; and the strengthening of participatory Governance Mechanisms

- A new protected area Water and Forestry Reserve Sierra Caral has been legally declared by the National Congress in May this year. The new protected area adds more than 19000 ha to the Guatemalan system of Protected Areas.
- As part of the process to prepare the Conservation and Sustainable Management Plan for the Regional Network of Eight Protected Areas, one technical workshop was held with biologist from the OTECBIO (Biodiversity Department of the National Council of Protected Areas) and the Conservation studies Center of the National University (CEMA). The plan has as progress of 50%.

Output 3. Selected high priority forests fragments are being protected and restored by communities and small forest owners through the provision of direct incentives in at least 5,000 additional hectares across the biological corridor of Caribbean Guatemala; these incentives will provide significant income to local communities at least over a five year period.

- FUNDAECO is working on the revision of the files presented to the Forestry Incentives Program Last Year. If revisions are accepted 375 ha will be approved in forest protection, and 300 as agroforestry corridors.
- This year the project is preparing this year files for 1700 additional hectares that will be presented next year.

Output 4. A sustainable funding facility for small scale productive projects - The "Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund"- has been established, replenished through corporate donations and other sources, and is funding 5-7 projects over the duration of the project.

Six projects are under execution under The "Caribbean Protected Areas Sustainable Community Development Fund".

- Agroforestry in Cerro Blanco Community
- Agroforestry in San Martin Community
- Agroforestry in Lampara Community
- Handcrafts with the women of Cerro San Gil
- Cardamom in La Palmilla Community
- Cardamom in Rubel Ho Community

Output 5. In collaboration with the Althelia Fund, a REDD "Project Design Document" (PDD) has been produced for the Caribbean Region of Guatemala and an "Emissions Reductions Purchase Agreement" (ERPA) has been drafted and negotiated, with the endorsement from local participating communities, through an adequately documented "Free, Previous and Informed Consent" process;

- The Final Term Sheet for the ERPA has been approved by FUNDAECO and Althelia Managing Director, and will be revised for its final approval in November.
- A Draft on the Methodology for the "Free, Previous and Informed Consent" has been prepared and is being revised with the social teamwork of FUNDAECO.

Output 6. In conjunction with the CONAP, Natural History Museum of the National University, and local newspapers and radio stations, the high value of Biodiversity and protected in Caribbean Guatemala will have been communicated and disseminated at the regional and national level.

During this semester our communication strategy was focus on written dissemination in the local news papers:

- Jaguar protection: A special press note was published to promote Jaguars protection of in the Caribbean Biological Corridor, the press note presents the compensation given to two farmers for the killing of two cows, by jaguars.



- Declaration of sierra Caral as a Protected Area
  - ✓ Siglo 21  
<http://m.s21.com.gt/nacionales/2014/05/13/declaran-area-prottegida-sierra-caral>
  - ✓ soy502 Diario Digital  
<http://www.soy502.com/articulo/congreso-declara-area-prottegida-sierra-caral-en-izabal>
  - ✓ Prensa Libre  
[http://www.prensalibre.com/revista\\_d/Reserva\\_Hidrica\\_y\\_Forestal\\_Sierra\\_Caral-Area\\_Prottegida-Fundaeco-Conap\\_0\\_1166883513.html](http://www.prensalibre.com/revista_d/Reserva_Hidrica_y_Forestal_Sierra_Caral-Area_Prottegida-Fundaeco-Conap_0_1166883513.html)
  - ✓ Prensa Libre  
[http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/politica/Regalias-Jefes\\_de\\_Bloque-Congreso-Area\\_Prottegida-Sierra\\_Caral\\_0\\_1137486360.html](http://www.prensalibre.com/noticias/politica/Regalias-Jefes_de_Bloque-Congreso-Area_Prottegida-Sierra_Caral_0_1137486360.html)
- A press note was published showing the importance of the region for hydrobiology resources, and focusing on a new shrimp specie founded in Rio Las Escobas.  
<http://digital.nuestrodiario.com/Olive/Ode/NuestroDiario/LandingPage/LandingPage.aspx?href=R05ELzlwMTQvMDUvMTk.&pageno=Njl.&entity=QXlwNjlwMA..&view=ZW50aXR5>
- A video camera trap video presenting the fauna of Caribbean Guatemala was disseminated through our social nets.  
<https://www.facebook.com/video.php?v=594944390617860&set=vb.400029040109397&type=2&theater>

**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.**

No notable problems have affected the project.

**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: Yes/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:

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

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**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](mailto: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**