

Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No	21-004
Project Title	Sustainable Ranching and Participatory Land Use Planning in Bolivia and Paraguay
Country(ies)	Bolivia and Paraguay
Lead Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society (Bolivia and Paraguay Programs)
Collaborator(s)	CIPTA – CIPLA – IDEA
Project Leader	Lilian Painter Ph.D.; Maria del Carmen Fleytas MSc.
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR3
Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc	www.wcsbolivia.org www.wcsparaguay.org
Funder (DFID/Defra)	DFID

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: 20 projects to improve livestock management (Activities 1.3 and 1.4).

BOLIVIA: The three indigenous cattle ranching plans for each region were reviewed and complemented with monitoring instruments. Their implementation continued during this reporting period and has included the establishment of cattle balances, with additional funds from DANIDA, as well as training on animal husbandry and pasture management. DANIDA funds will permit us to establish rotational grazing using electrical fences by mid-November. Technical support has continued on the management of the seedling nurseries and pasture management in the cattle ranching modules, and training was provided through communal visits to 14 of the 17 beneficiary communities. We also responded to a request by an additional 5 Leco communities for training on small domestic animal husbandry. In total, 302 Leco families participated in these trainings, and results of recent training workshops at T'simane Mosekene communities will be reported in the next period.

Initial impacts include: increased survival of calves reducing losses from 19% in 2014 to 3.97% in 2016 in the Lecos indigenous land; zero retaliatory killings of jaguars in this reporting period, and reduced frequency of fires in comparison to surrounding areas.

PARAGUAY: Ranch management plans were completed in previous periods, as previously reported. WCS is now focusing its monitoring efforts to ensure that each ranch is properly implementing its management plan in the field. And at the same time, we are also continuing biodiversity monitoring activities to evaluate proper implementation of the ranch plans. One of the most visible results so far is the significant reduction in cattle losses to jaguar attacks after the implementation of anti-predation measures, which are part of the management plan elaborated with each ranch.

Based upon the management plans jointly developed by WCS and landowners, targeted measures were rolled out in 4 ranches during this period. For instance, electric fences were

installed to enable rotational grazing in those ranches, increasing efficiency in the use of grass areas that were already deforested, and diminishing the need to convert further forest area into pasture. This has considerably lowered the impact of ranching in forested areas by restricting it to reduced areas and therefore making cattle ranching more sustainable. This positive impact is easily visualized through remote sensing monitoring activities carried out in these 4 properties, showing no change in forest cover.

Output 2: 5 blueprints for municipal land use plans and 8 ranch zoning plans (Activities 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5).

BOLIVIA: During this reporting period, policy recommendations guiding current cattle management practices to the proposed sustainability model being implemented by the indigenous communities were included in the municipal development plans of both the Apolo and Ixiamas municipalities. Information from this project provided critical policy guidance to both municipalities during the establishment of their municipal integral development plans (PTDI), which were submitted by the municipal governments to the Vice-ministry of Planning in September. In July 2016 the Mayor of Apolo and CIPLA indigenous authorities visited Tupili and committed their support to the efforts of indigenous communities to promote sustainable cattle management practices in Apolo. The Municipality of Apolo has already supported the establishment of the tree nursery and water reservoir next to the corral, and the Rurrenabaque municipality has supported the improvement of the dirt access road to the Puente Yucumo cattle management module. In this period, we also carried out satisfaction questionnaires with representatives of the 7 working groups that were established during the development of the Ixiamas Municipal Plan Diagnostic; participants reported 86% satisfaction on the level to which their concerns were taken into account. Survey results on satisfaction with participation during the Apolo municipal planning process are still pending and will be concluded by mid-November.

PARAGUAY: Due to change in municipal authorities, the necessary process to reestablish those relationships, and thanks to the project extension, this activity was rescheduled for the next reporting period. New authorities at Carmelo Peralta Municipality were also approached by WCS staff and a working relationship is off to a promising start, with commitments from both sides to develop collaborative activities. Other advances include an exchange of expertise between the Puerto Casado and Luque municipalities, both located in the Central Department. Given Luque's very advanced solid waste treatment capabilities, WCS facilitated a workshop and field visit where municipal staff shared best practices with Puerto Casado. In total, 11 municipal authorities and employees from Puerto Casado attended this training workshop, where they also discussed issues such as the necessary amendments to environmental regulations in order to tax waste collection and disposal and corrections needed in the management of the municipal garbage dump. The Luque trainer brought in by WCS also provided draft legal regulations to be used in the process towards a more sustainable solid waste treatment.

In the next period, two new municipal by-laws will be created in the Puerto Casado district. They will 1) formally create and assign functions to the municipal environmental unit, and 2) regulate the solid waste treatment system.

Output 3: Report on the impacts of sustainable ranching projects (Activities 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5).

BOLIVIA: During this period, we began measuring biomass in both natural and improved pastures in Puente Yucumo, Alto Colorado, Tupili, and Chirimayo, and carried out exit surveys with beneficiaries in all 17 communities on livestock mortality and calving rates. We have also analysed the frequency of fires in the Apolo region, as our deforestation analysis was hindered by lack of satellite images without clouds, and are concluding the deforestation analysis for the Tsimane Mosekene indigenous land. Some encouraging preliminary results indicate less than 50% presence of fires within the Lecos Apolo indigenous land compared to the municipality overall during the 2014-2016 period, while fires between 2011-2014 showed the same frequency. Changes in the conservation status of wildlife corridors will be evaluated in the next months. A first draft of a working paper outlining the effectiveness of sustainable ranching

interventions by indigenous people in Northern La Paz has been drafted and will be finalized in conjunction with the final exit evaluation on deforestation, fires, and wildlife presence before the end of 2016.

PARAGUAY: No changes in forest cover were detected through remote sensing analysis in the 8 targeted properties of the project. A working paper will be drafted in Paraguay, evaluating the impact of sustainable ranching by private landowners; this document will be combined with the Bolivian document to submit a paper to the Agricultural Systems international journal within the next 6 months.

Output 4. Outreach materials to disseminate lessons learned (Activities 4.1 and 4.2).

BOLIVIA: WCS presented on sustainable ranching in indigenous lands at the XXI Congress of ABOPA (Bolivian Association of Animal Production). Advances achieved to date with sustainable ranching have been presented to the Ixiamas and Apolo municipalities, and a final evaluation of impact will be presented to both these municipalities in the coming months. To tailor information to their needs, results were framed to respond to the national development plan and planning instruments. A manual for indigenous communities in Bolivia has been completed and is being formatted for printing before the end of the year.

PARAGUAY: The manual on sustainable ranching, already completed in the previous period, is now in the process of being adapted for different audiences including NGOs, local government officials, the general public, and others.

Output 5. Policy recommendations (Activities 5.2 and 5.3).

BOLIVIA: A review of the relevant national policies was previously carried out and reported on. Policy recommendations have been incorporated into two municipal governments and recommendations at the national level will be developed in the next six months once the final exit impact evaluations are concluded.

PARAGUAY: The consultant hired by WCS finished the policy recommendations for sustainable ranching practices and participatory land use processes at the national level last period, and the pending task is now to share them with the 3 municipal governments and other related government authorities. As a result, we expect to obtain an agreed set of policy guidelines that can be shared through social networks, websites, and partner institution networks to facilitate its replication.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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.

We requested and received approval for a six-month extension due to delays resulting largely from the different priorities of municipal authorities and the need to respond to their timeframe.

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

Formal change request submitted: YES

Received confirmation of change acceptance YES

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

in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

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

N/A

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

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