



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No	23-007
Project Title	Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico
Lead Organisation:	IUCN
Partner(s)	Comisión Nacional para Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) Mexico, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP) Mexico, Instituto de Ciencia y Tecnología Agrícolas (ICTA) Guatemala, Centro Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria y Forestal “Enrique Álvarez Córdova” (CENTA) El Salvador, Comité Nacional de los Recursos Fitogenéticos de Honduras (CONAREFIH), Oficina Regional de la UICN para Mexico, Centro América y el Caribe (ORMACC), University of Birmingham
Project Leader	Richard Jenkins
Report date and number:	HYR1
Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	We are building a website
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).

Signed agreements are in place with the two main implementing partners on the project, although the time taken to complete the necessary legal steps resulted in the official start date of the project moving to 1st August 2016.

The main activities planned for the first 6 months are all being completed in line with the original project log frame. These include:

- Signed agreements with CONABIO (Mexico) and the University of Birmingham
- A Mexican project assistant appointed by CONABIO
- The inception meeting confirmed for the 13-14 October 2016 and we have confirmed attendance from all partners and participating countries.
- Matching funding secured to support the Red List workshop in 2017
- Data gathering for the Red List workshop started in advance of the rescheduled project start date through the matching funds mentioned above
- A date has been agreed by the government of Mexico for the Red List workshop:13-17 February 2017
- The project will be featured at Defra’s side event at CBD COP13 in Cancun, Mexico. Matching funding has been secured to attending this meeting by IUCN.

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.

The implementing partner agreements between the two main partners, CONABIO and University of Birmingham, took much longer than expected. Therefore we had a delay on starting the project.

Because we requested a change on the start date and recalculated the budget, we do not expect any impacts on either the project or the budget. However, an unexpected development is the devaluation of the pound, this will impact the project's budget. The exchange rate used when we drafted the budget was 25 Mexican pesos for 1 pound, and it is now 22 Mexican pesos for the 1 pound. We are in the process of assessing to what extent this will impact the budget and what changes to the project we will have to make.

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
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Formal change request submitted:	Yes
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Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes
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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: £NA

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.

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

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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**