

Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2017)

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| Project reference | 23-007 |
| Project title | Safeguarding Mesoamerican crop wild relatives |
| Country(ies)/territory(ies) | El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico |
| Lead organisation | IUCN |
| Partner(s) | Comisión Nacional para Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO; Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity) and 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 and IUCN |
| Project leader | Richard Jenkins |
| Report date and number (e.g., HYR3) | October 2017, HYR2 |
| Project website/blog/social media etc. | www.psmesoamerica.org/en/ |

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).

- A national workshop was planned for each of the participating countries, 3 workshops in YR2 and one workshop in YR3. Mexico’s national workshop was split into two distinct events (as explained in the YR1 Annual Report) and the first of these, focussing on conservation planning, took place in Mexico City from 19 to 21 June. A total of 42 experts on Mexican crop wild relatives (CWR) from government agencies and universities, and key project partners from Guatemala, El Salvador and UK met to agree key aspects of the methodology to be used in the project to undertake national conservation planning for CWRs. The second workshop in Mexico will take place Quarter 1 YR3 and will focus at reviewing the results of the models generated using the criteria identified in the first workshop.
- The conservation planning workshop in El Salvador and Guatemala was first planned to take place in November, however, there were delays on the signature of the contracts and we have had to move the workshops to Quarter 4 of YR2.
- The contract with the implementing partner in Guatemala has been signed by ICTA and is awaiting final signature by IUCN. The contract with the implementing partners in El Salvador is under final review by CENTA (El Salvador).
- The contract with implementing partner INIFAP (Mexico), needed for fieldwork in YR3, is still under review.
- IUCN representatives (Honduras and Cambridge) met with the Director of Ministry of Energy, Natural Resources and Mines (DIBIO/MiAmbiente) to discuss their formal

participation in the project as a country partner. We will submit a change request in due time to LTS.

- The project was presented at the XI Symposium on Genetic Resources for the Americas and the Caribbean (SIRGEAC) by María Andrea Orjuela (the new research assistant for the project). The project was also featured in a presentation on crop wild relative conservation given by project partner University of Birmingham.

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 planned INIFAP webinar for all partner countries, to standardize specimen passport information and to agree field data collection protocols was moved to YR2 Quarter 4. The main reason was that INIFAP was in charge of organizing the XI International Symposium on Genetic Resources for the Americas and the Caribbean which took place on 15-18 of October and their busy schedule preparing for the symposium did not allow time for the webinar.

- Project partners CENTA (El Salvador), ICTA (Guatemala) and (the new potential partner in Honduras) DIBIO/MiAmbiente all recently expressed concerns about the inter-country exchange of genetic material which is part of the original project outcome. Although these concerns were not expressed by the partners at the inception meeting, we submitted a change request in October to LTS International, to accommodate their concerns.

- The project's research assistant, Emma Gómez, left the project in mid-July for professional reasons. She has been replaced by two part-time staff; (1) María Andrea Orjuela who works in CONABIO and now manages the technical aspects of the project and (2) Esmeralda Urquiza who is in charge of generating the reports of the project. Because CONABIO managed to find a replacement almost immediately, no amendments to the budget were necessary.

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 (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. 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, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

No.

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R23 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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**

Response to Annual Report review.

Comment from reviewer: Review Outcome Level indicators to ensure that they are capable of objectively measuring progress at this level e.g. through addition of time bound Targets.

Response below highlighted in yellow.

23. LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Darwin projects will be required to report against their progress towards their expected outputs and outcomes if funded. This section sets out the expected outputs and outcomes of your project, how you expect to measure progress against these and how we can verify this.

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
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| <p>Impact: Important crop wild relatives (CWR) of Mesoamerica are safeguarded <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i>, delivering improved food-security for present and future generations.</p> <p>(Max 30 words)</p> | | | |
| <p>Outcome: National governments of the four countries are aware of the importance of conserving CWR and start to implement policies and actions to promote their conservation <i>in situ</i> and <i>ex situ</i> including the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA (Max 30 words)</p> | <p>0.1 Developing of national plans for the conservation of CWR using information from this project are underway in the four partner countries (end of year 3)</p> <p>0.2 Partner countries include the results of this project in their national reports to the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRA (end year 3)</p> <p>0.3 Breeding and research programs on CWR are improved in the four partners countries through better</p> | <p>1.1 Draft plan and outputs of meetings convene to discuss it</p> <p>1.2 National reports to the conventions</p> <p>0.3 Updates from the partner institutions responsible for the</p> | <p>Momentum for this work is maintained after the life of the project</p> |

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| | <p>national seed collections (a maximum of new important CWR incorporated in collections and at least 50% used in breeding programs) and are made available for inter-country exchange of genetic material, so supporting the ITPGRA (with the exception of Mexico) and Nagoya Protocol (with the exception of El Salvador; end of year 3)</p> <p>0.4 <i>In situ</i> conservation of CWR improved through a better understanding of the importance of CWR by stakeholders in proposed genetic reserves (end of year 3)</p> | <p>curation and exchange of CWR genetic resources</p> <p>0.4 Reports from consultation meetings held with stakeholders that outline intended CWR conservation actions</p> | |
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