



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2018)

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, 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 2018, HYR3
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).

- All the workshops to identify sites for the *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation of crop wild relatives that were rescheduled for Y3 Q1 took place in the collaborating countries on the following dates: Mexico City, Mexico, May 28-30, Antigua, Guatemala, July 4-5, and San Salvador, El Salvador, July 9-11. During these workshops the sites to collect germplasm were also identified.
- The second part of the webinar to homogenise passport information and provide guidelines on the collection of crop wild relative germplasm material took place on 6 September 2018 for 5 partners with 12 participants.
- In preparation for the field expeditions collection permits are underway in Guatemala. El Salvador and Mexico have permits in place.
- The camera interviews with experts for the video have been completed and the poster is being designed.
- The field expeditions will start in November in all three countries.

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.

Due to personnel changes, it was not possible for the collaboration institutions in Honduras to reach an agreement on time to run the planned workshops with the same elements as in the other participating countries. However, there is interest from Honduran experts to receive training on the use of the methodology to assess the extinction risk of species. If the associated change request is accepted, this workshop will take place in the week of the 18th of February 2019.

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?

The change request for the change project partner Honduras has been submitted at the same time as this report but separately as requested by LTS.

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 R24 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**