



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects
**Improving livestock management for economic-
environmental stability in Mesoamerica's Moskitia Half Year**
Report
(due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	23-014 ref 3206
Project title	Improving livestock management for economic-environmental stability in Mesoamerica's Moskitia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Nicaragua and Honduras
Lead organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society
Partner(s)	Direct execution by WCS team
Project leader	Fabricio Diaz Santos
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR5
Project website/blog/social media	<i>www.wcs.org</i>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

1. The final biological (avian and mammal communities) data have been analyzed separately for Honduras and Nicaragua, with national level reports for both countries completed, describing, refining and summarizing the patterns and trends of biological communities and fauna distributions in relation to management interventions for each country.
2. In Honduras, 59 socioeconomic surveys were completed with livestock, husbandry, wildlife management and human-jaguar conflict data of beneficiaries and communities in Rio Patuca.
3. Collected geographical data of the entire suite of individual farms (both countries), documenting activities and impact of Darwin project
4. Two model farms were identified in Rio Patuca, implementing and providing examples of good practices and lessons learned about livestock management with silvopastoral systems at the small scale.
5. The final socioeconomic (livestock, husbandry, wildlife management and human-jaguar conflict) questionnaire based data were analyzed separately for Honduras and Nicaragua. The national reports based upon that data are in process in both countries, describing, refining and summarizing patterns and trends of socioeconomic elements of indigenous communities in Patuca/Honduras and Rio Coco and Bocay/Nicaragua pre and post project.

The post-project binational diagnoses of the biological and socioeconomic components are in process now, with the analysis of data and national reports being conducted by WCS's Nicaraguan team. These diagnoses are key for the final assessment of impact of the project. An additional and final extension of time, expiring until January 2021, was approved by Darwin for completing field activities and final reports.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The pandemic of COVID 19 has been the main and only obstacle for field activities of Darwin project throughout the period from April to September 2020.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

The COVID 19 pandemic has been particularly negative for activities in Honduras, where the national government imposed a strict curfew and restriction of movement at national level starting in March 2020. Some restrictions on movement continued until September 2020, but the WCS team in Honduras obtained a governmental authorization (salvoconducto) for working in the Moskitia region of Honduras, despite the restrictions and an active outbreak of COVID in communities along the Patuca River and Honduran Caribbean coast. As a result of this, WCS's field team restarted field activities in August 2020, following rigorous health and safety protocols. The six-month (March-August 2020) backlog of all field activities due to COVID 19 translated to a bottleneck of field tasks once travel resumed. Despite these challenges the field team made up for lost time, has made substantial progress, and had been completing all pending activities and obtaining the requisite field data.

2c. 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. 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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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

None

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 DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to 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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**