

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

<b>Project reference</b>	23-021
<b>Project title</b>	Promoting biodiversity in sustainable oil-palm landscapes for West African smallholders
<b>Host country/ies</b>	Ghana
<b>Lead organization</b>	University of Leeds, UK
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Nature Conservation Research Centre, Ghana University of York, UK Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana Solidaridad, West Africa Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil, Malaysia
<b>Project Leader</b>	Keith Hamer
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="http://www.fbs.leeds.ac.uk/staff/Hamer_K/">http://www.fbs.leeds.ac.uk/staff/Hamer_K/</a> . Numerous tweets from project staff tagged @Darwin_Defra

**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).**

We have made good progress and are on schedule:

1. UK staff visited Ghana in April to liaise with project partners, discuss progress against agreed baselines and milestones, formalise plans and arrangements for Year 2, participate in biodiversity surveys and discuss arrangements for their forthcoming year in the UK with the two Darwin Research Fellows (one male, one female).
2. Fieldwork for biodiversity surveys of birds, butterflies, ants and termites in oil palm smallholdings (BAP experiment) and natural forest was all completed on schedule, together with additional surveys of fruit-feeding moths. Collection of environmental (vegetation, light and temperature) data at all biodiversity sampling sites was completed simultaneously, as was collection and analysis of soil samples.
3. Collection of data on oil palm yields (number and combined mass of fresh fruit bunches per month) was completed as planned for each of the smallholders (both men and women) in our BAP experiment.
4. The two Darwin Research Fellows each registered full-time for an MSc by Research at the University of Leeds, commencing October 2017, and made arrangements to travel to the UK at the beginning of October.

**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.**

None

**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?**

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. 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](mailto: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**