

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

Project reference:	24-011
Project title:	Wildlife-friendly agroforestry and sustainable forest management in Bolivian indigenous territories.
Country(ies)/territory(ies):	Bolivia
Lead organisation:	Wildlife Conservation Society (Bolivia)
Partner(s):	Fundación Teko Kavi
Project leader:	Oscar Loayza Cossio
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3):	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media etc.:	www.wcsbolivia.org

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).

In this half-year report, WCS reports on the activities conducted in the first three months of the project, from official project start and DEFRA approval in July, to September 2017.

Output 1: Producer organizations and their representative territorial organizations have developed and implemented systems for control and vigilance of their territorial lands.

Activity 1.1: Facilitate participatory mapping of areas under management by producer organizations vulnerable to illegal encroachment.

During this period, WCS gathered geographic information on vulnerability to illegal encroachment within the Tacana, Lecos, and Tsimane Mosekene territories, responding to the territorial protection strategy included in CIPTA's 2014 Life Plan, the 2016 Pilon Lajas Biosphere Reserve and Indigenous Territory control and vigilance strategy, and CIPLA's 2014 co-management strategy for their territory that overlaps with the Madidi Protected Area. This information is being used to develop one draft vulnerability map for each indigenous territory. By the end of October 2017, these maps will be presented to the indigenous leadership of the three indigenous lands with information on vulnerability along main roads, areas under timber concessions, areas with potential for gold mining, and areas of historical encroachments. Finally, WCS will develop a baseline map classifying the indigenous territories into high, medium, or low vulnerability, considering exposure and types of threats, as well as maps delimiting the distribution of different threats. Once these baseline maps are completed, they will be presented to and validated by the producer organizations and their communities by the end of December 2017.

Activity 1.3: Test digital platforms and develop protocols for producer organizations and their territorial organizations to take coordinated actions against encroachments.

With additional funds from the MacArthur Foundation, WCS made progress on the general structure and design of an Android app to be used in the field, with functionality both with and without cellular coverage. This instrument will allow producers to report any illegal event occurring within their areas of management in the indigenous territories, such as poaching, illegal timber extraction, mining activities, etc. The app will relay information to a dedicated

server initially in CIPTA's headquarters (and in a second phase with CIPLA and CRTM) and allow the immediate visualization of incursions, production of reports from different producers, and registration of illegal events. This baseline information will help inform collective responses from the grassroots organizations against illegal encroachments and engagement with government agencies and authorities to take appropriate legal action.

This system will first be pilot tested in the Tacana Indigenous Territory, involving five communities that are representative of the community distribution along the road from San Buenaventura to Ixiamas and along the Beni river. The system includes three different levels of functionality; the first involves search access to documents containing the legal and technical supporting information that back up indigenous territorial rights in Bolivia and in specific indigenous lands. The second level of functionality deals specifically with control and vigilance, and is supported by a platform to report incidents, in which producers or community leaders can input information into pre-defined forms and upload photos on the reported events. The third level of functionality, still under construction, will use the GPS functionality to confirm the location of the incident and will be available even without an Internet connection. Finally, to follow up on and monitor the complaints received, as well as evaluate the effectiveness of the instrument in reducing encroachment events, a server will concentrate all reports received and a supervisor will respond to the incident reports. After testing the app with the Tacana, WCS will adjust and expand its use to the Lecos and Tsimane Mosekene territories.

Output 2: Pre-harvest management of agroforestry plots and native cacao forest groves is improved and local capacity built for sustainable agroforestry that is wildlife friendly.

Activity 2.1: Provide technical assistance for producers to restore their agroforestry plots through soil management, pruning and diversification of shade trees.

WCS implemented the first field school with 35 producers (28 men and 7 women) from six communities (Chuchuca, Esperanza, San Julian, Trinidad, Sorata, and Espiritu Santo) . This field school focused on options for dealing with low soil fertility and low productivity in their plots, including organic fertilization practices for coffee plantations, both in plots in production and those still under implementation. The implementation of field schools gives producers a space for discussion to identify common production problems and alternative solutions. These venues are planned and organized by geographic location and the level of expertise of the producers to ensure a mix of expert and beginner producers for peer-to-peer learning. Producers themselves, under WCS technical guidance, put together the training program and select the most important issues to be tackled at the training event. Training supplies and materials are provided to support hands-on activities under a dynamic knowledge sharing strategy of "learning by doing."

Field schools are conducted in four already-established demonstrative coffee plots, which serve as demonstration areas for a technology package including use of natural compost and shade tree diversification.

Output 3. Post-harvest management of cacao and coffee is improved, and local capacity built for diversification of products

Activity 3.1: Develop a training curriculum and associated training materials for post-harvest processing of cacao and coffee.

The coffee and cacao project technical staff are building on expertise in pre-harvest phases and leveraging their experience to develop a training curriculum for post-harvest processing of coffee and cacao, focusing on quality control required for the target niche markets. To date, the coffee producers have stockpiled dry parchment coffee beans through a collective rotating fund established with Danish Cooperation support, with a starting capital of approximately USD \$14,000 (Bs 100,000). Additionally, under WCS leadership and in negotiation with Banco FIE's Social Corporate Responsibility Program (RSE), a new rotating fund has been established for USD \$7,000 (Bs 50,000). This fund will be disbursed for the first time by the end of 2017 and

used for the next harvest season.

For 2017 coffee production, APCERL (Association of Ecological Coffee Producers of Larecaja) set aside a stock pile for direct sale of 6,800 kg of double certified coffee beans that will be sold in national specialized markets.

These beans went through a coffee tasting and Cup of Excellence classification to grade cleanness, sweetness, acidity, body, flavor, aftertaste, balance, and overall impression; they received an average score of 83.6 out of 100. Values above 80/100 are considered as “clean cup,” which establishes good quality coffee with balanced taste and aroma. WCS will continue this process next year with Darwin support.

Output 4: Marketing strategies for cacao and coffee are improved and diversified, including wildlife friendly certification.

Activity 4.1: Identify coffee producers managing agroforestry plots closest to the required standard for bird-friendly certification and develop a work plan to support them through the certification process.

To date, 34 organic coffee producers have been certified as organic, of which 13 were also certified as bird-friendly (8 previously certified and 5 new). WCS visited all new producers to provide information on the certification process and all requirements to be fulfilled. Bird-friendly certification is carried out every two years, and organic certification is renewed annually. WCS has also started implementing an internal control system to comply with requirements for both certifications, which will prepare the producers for each certification cycle.

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.

N/A

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 issues need to be raised at this time.

If you were (WCS) 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 WCSre 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 betWCSen **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**