



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

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., HYR2, HYR3)	HYR2
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).

Output 1: Producer organizations and their representative territorial organizations have developed and implemented systems for control and vigilance of their territorial lands (Activity 1.2)

Advice and training is being provided to the three indigenous organizations and their monitoring staff in the process of implementing a digital App as a tool for control and vigilance inside their territories. The App has also been designed to house all the required supporting documentation on regulations and legislation as well as digitalized maps of the territories and boundaries. Our partners have tested this android App and the Tacana communities have provided feedback. Consequently, the digital application has now been adjusted and adapted. Tacana communities received 19 mobile phones, purchased with matching funds, with the App installed. All information reported by the App is being centralized in a control panel stored in a server <http://cipta.logoscomunicaciones.com/admin/login>. CIPTA's monitoring technician is being trained to manage information stored by the App and transferred to the server, which will receive the information sent from the cell phones as soon as signal is available. During the next two months a training session will be held on the response process that needs to be followed when an encroachment is reported. This training will be attended by the monitoring technicians from CIPLA, CIPTA, CRTM and potentially will also include participants from other indigenous territories in the landscape such as the Marka Cololo Copacabana Antaquilla in Apolobamba (MCCA).

Additionally, the App is also being tested in the Lecos Apolo Indigenous Territory since October, and CIPLA's monitoring technician is being trained in its management. By the end of November, the technician will report on the initial experience and suggest adjustments. Nevertheless, from now on he will begin generating regular reports in coordination with CIPLA's directory, and follow up with any encroachment event (complaint, claim, information, ascertainment reported through the app). On the basis of this feedback we expect the App to be rolled out to the communities by the end of 2018.

In 2019 the T'simane Mosekene Regional Council will follow a similar process for the use of the digital application for monitoring encroachment events in their own territory, Pilón Lajas.

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 (Activities 2.1, 2.3 and 2.4)

This past semester, cacao and coffee producers have made progress in applying better practices in both pre-harvesting and post-harvesting techniques learnt through their participation in regular field schools

conducted in their own plots. To date, field schools have been consolidated as spaces for discussion and exchange of experiences, but also for training on innovations. Additionally, through the participation of agronomy students from the State University of La Paz (UMSA), research was conducted to understand how different coffee varieties respond (in terms of coffee production) to different fertilization strategies considering soil characteristics of the coffee plots under a complex agroforestry management.

In the case of the coffee communities in the Lecos Apolo territory, field schools focused on the construction of seed beds and nurseries for production of seedlings of new varieties of coffee, as well as tree species for timber and shade, which will ensure enrichment of their agroforestry systems.

Finally, the cacao producers from Mapiri and San José de Pelera participated in field schools covering topics such as fertilization of soils, pruning, and set-up of nurseries for production of cacao saplings using proper substrates and fertilization.

Output 3. Post-harvest management of cacao and coffee is improved, and local capacity built for diversification of products (Activity 3.4)

These past six months, all coffee and cacao producers have been busy in the harvesting stage which runs from April and can last until October, depending on elevation and local climatic conditions. Particularly, coffee producers of APCERL (Asociación de Productores de Café Ecológico Regional Larecaja – Association of Ecological Coffee Producers of Larecaja) have participated in two post-harvest field schools on control of acidity during the fermentation process, and standardizing fermentation time for best results. Controlling acidity and fermentation time are key to determine the final quality (aroma and flavor) of the coffee beans.

The cacao and coffee partner producers have been participating actively in two national fairs, one in La Paz ([La Paz Expone](#)), and another in Santa Cruz de la Sierra ([Expocruz](#)), as well as in local fairs and events such as the Latin American Mammalogy Congress, where they offered the organically produced coffee and cocoa paste, as well as hot drinks for consumers to taste and learn about these high quality products. At the fairs, coffee and cacao producers were able to participate in business networking events, and network with interested customers from Bolivia, as well as international markets. As a result of the networking, several initial business agreements have been established to sell roasted coffee and cacao to coffee shops in La Paz such as the [Bronze Café Bar](#), [Alipacha vegan gourmet restaurant](#), and [Master Blends](#) (a Bolivian company dedicated to explore flavors and aromas of fruits and herbs to produce high quality liqueurs, in Santa Cruz, Tarija and Sucre). Samples have also been sent to potential buyers (restaurants and coffee shops) in Argentina, USA and Europe.

In 2018 cacao and coffee production increased significantly. Chocolecos and APCAO Mapiri produced a total 2,57 T of dry cacao, which represents an increase of 12% from the previous year. The coffee producers are still working on the final numbers of their production volumes, but preliminary estimates report a volume of 5,3 T of dry parchment coffee. Final cacao and coffee volumes will be reported in the next annual report. As a result of the improvement in coffee quality, the local coffee association APCA (Asociación de Productores de Café Apolo – Association of Coffee Producers of Apolo) has bought part of the 2018 Apolo coffee production for sale in the coffee shop in Apolo, as well as a part of their coffee stock, which will be sold in coffee places in La Paz. The rest has been sold locally, in smaller volumes to local buyers.

Output 4: Marketing strategies for cacao and coffee are improved and diversified, including wildlife friendly certification (Activities 4.1 and 4.2)

Bird-friendly certification will start next year, and WCS has been working with the certification organization to consider additional areas and criteria for the certification process. Currently, only the most mature shade grown coffee plantations, including a tree diversity of more than 12 species, mixed tree strata between 12 to 20 m high, and a % of shade more than 70-75%, are being considered for certification. When the areas surrounding these plots are also managed as complex agroforestry systems and also include important tree diversity and shade, even if managed more intensively, they could also qualify for certification. In order to demonstrate this approach, a graduate student from the Institute of International Forestry and Forest Products, Faculty of Environmental Sciences at the Technische Universität Dresden, Germany, Carlos Landivar, conducted research on the matter and was able to provide evidence on the importance of bird diversity for coffee production across this matrix. His research shows the importance of birds in the control of coffee diseases and the importance of forests for water quality.

APCERL's field coffee technician, Javier Cruz, has been supporting bird-friendly certified producers in their monthly wildlife monitoring, and to date, the database of bird species has grown from 179 to 203. This information is being shared through APCERL's [Facebook](#) in order to show the value of forest cover for

<p>coffee production, water quality and for wildlife conservation. Social media is also being used by APCERL to share images of impressive bird species, butterflies and other animals.</p> <p>Additionally, as part of the communication strategy developed last year by WCS and Teko Kavi, and as part of the already launched enterprise called “Origen”, a marketing company called “Mind Marketing” is supporting a marketing campaign in social media. To date, there is a webpage already in place: www.origentienda.com and a Facebook account.</p> <p>All the required commercialization permits (plant protection and food safety and quality standards) are in compliance, and consequently APCERL’s coffee is ready for formal sale and export. Over the next months, the young coffee baristas from APCERL will be participating in a new national coffee tasting/cupping event and will be advancing in their coffee cupping skills.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>The increase in price of gold has led to an important increase in the interest of local people in the Mapiiri region to participate in this activity, as opposed to agroforestry. As a result, we have refocused our strategy on strengthening APCAO’s (Asociación de Productores de Cacao Ecológico Mapiiri – Association of Ecological Cacao Producers of Mapiiri) capacity to increase their membership by offering better prices to native cacao producers, in particular from Teoponte where gold mining is less important.</p> <p>Reducing the amount of coffee sold to private buyers by members of APCERL is also a challenge.</p> <p>The answer to this challenge lies around developing or linking with safe and accessible credits for producers, who otherwise sell their planned production to intermediaries, at lower prices. This largely occurs because the time of harvest does not coincide with periods of the year where most expenses occur, such as January and February, at the start of the school year, or unexpected expense related to health problems and others. This change in strategy will ensure we fulfill the established results.</p>	
<p>2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p>	
Discussed with LTS:	Yes/ <u>No</u>
Formal change request submitted:	Yes/ <u>No</u>
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/ <u>No</u>
<p>3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £0</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin’s management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p>	

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**