



**Darwin Initiative/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019)**

<b>Project reference</b>	24-011
<b>Project title</b>	Wildlife-friendly agroforestry and sustainable forest management in Bolivian indigenous territories
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Bolivia
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Fundación Teko Kavi
<b>Project leader</b>	Oscar Loayza Cossio
<b>Report date and number</b>	HYR3
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="https://bolivia.wcs.org/">https://bolivia.wcs.org/</a> <a href="https://origentienda.com/">https://origentienda.com/</a>

**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).**

During this half-year report period of Year 3 of the project, we made important progress in all the planned activities according to the following:

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

*(Activity 1.3)*

**Activity 1.3.** We have focused on training, testing and adjusting the territorial control digital app through initial use by both the Tacana and Lecos indigenous lands. In June of 2019, Kantuta Lara met with CIPTA’s board of directors to evaluate the use of the app, and a coordination protocol was established for the use of the control and monitoring devices under the leadership of each community chief “Corregidor” and two “Huarajes” (community police). A plan for training sessions was established, and training sessions were conducted in six Tacana communities located along the road between San Buenaventura and Ixiamas. The sessions had an average participation of 20 people in each community, adding up to an estimated total of 120 participants. In the last semester, 18 encroachment events were registered through the devices, 5 of which involved social conflicts, 5 wildlife poaching, 4 illegal timber extraction, and the remaining 4 illegal fishing and land encroachment. In July of 2019, a meeting was held in Apolo with CIPLA’s leadership in order to plan for the training sessions in the Lecos communities. Since the term of office of the current leadership runs for two more months, they have postponed this activity until October 2019. The next important step will be the generation of regular reports and follow up of any encroachment event in coordination with assigned local and regional environmental authorities.

**Output 2:** Pre-harvest management of agroforestry plots and native cacao forest groves is improved *(Activities 2.1, 2.3 and 2.4)*

**Activities 2.1, 2.3 and 2.4.** The area planted with coffee and cacao under agroforestry systems has increased from 241 to 275,9 hectares of these 165,7 hectares are now in production and 110,2 hectares in growth. During the last semester we continued carrying out two pre-harvest field schools with APCA O Mapiri and Chocolecos covering topics such as pruning and management of seedling nurseries for production of cacao saplings using proper substrates and fertilization, with the participation of 35 people (22 men and 13 women). 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. As a result, 23,340 seedlings have been produced and used to renew 6,5 ha of agroforestry systems. On the other hand, APCERL produced a total of 106,020 seedlings that were used to renew and expand additional coffee plots, covering an area of 29,4 ha. During this period the coffee producers also implemented soil fertilization recommendations provided by agronomy students from the University of La Paz (UMSA). The impact of these recommendations will be evaluated during the next implementation year, since the direct indicator of good results is an improvement in production yield, and for that to happen, we need at least two harvest seasons to occur.

**Output 3:** Post-harvest management of cacao and coffee is improved, and local capacity built for diversification of products (Activities 3.2 and 3.4)

**Activity 3.2.** The Chocolecos and APCA O cacao producers conducted 6 schools on topics related to proper harvesting techniques of cacao pods and timely plot weeding and pruning. APCERL and APICOA conducted two post-harvest field schools focusing on the control of acidity during fermentation. In terms of yearly production, both associations have had good yields, Chocolecos producers (40 producers: 23 men and 17 women) have harvested, processed and stockpiled 2,260 kg, with an average yield of 7,24 qq of dry cacao beans per hectare. APCA O Mapiri producers (8 producers to date: 7 men and 1 woman), produced 531 kg of dry beans, with an estimated yield of 2,8 qq of dry cacao per hectare. In relation to coffee production this year, APCERL and APICOA produced an estimated 5,780 kg of green coffee (CVO), which was tasted in different occasions by two international coffee experts/roasters visiting the coffee laboratory of *Chomateo*. These experts qualified the coffees by locality and by producer, with a range of cupping scores from 82,5 to 87, enough to be considered “special” coffees. As a result of networking efforts and participation in at least two fairs this semester, the coffee and cacao producers have established several business agreements for the sale of roasted coffee and cacao to coffee shops in La Paz, and sales have also been established with coffee shops in Barcelona (Spain) with Nomad Coffee, and Washington (USA) with Kreyol Coffee.

**Activity 3.4.** As a result of improvements in quality and the high demand there has been an increase in price of the 100g cacao pastes from USD 2 per bar in Y1, to USD 3 in Y2, and up to USD 3,5 in Y3. This past September 2019, a group of three cacao producers, all of them women, and three project technicians participated in a “Bean to Bar” training led by the renowned chocolatier, Papá Cacao, Jaime Freire, from Ecuador, to produce bonbons. The new products, a variety of bonbons and 70% chocolate bars are being tested and sold on requests only. Chocolecos is also experimenting with the production of cacao vinegar.

**Output 4:** Marketing strategies for cacao and coffee are improved and diversified, including wildlife-friendly certification (Activities 4.2, 4.4 and 4.5)

**Activity 4.2.** APCERL’s Facebook has been actively sharing pictures, short videos and brief notes on bird diversity and other wildlife, the life cycle of coffee plots, as well as images on their participation in fairs and promotional events. To date, the page has more than 560 followers. The number of birds reported to date has remained at 213 species.

10 indicator bird species are monitored monthly in each of the certified coffee plots. This year, in May, a team of six expert ornithologists visited APCERL's coffee plots and surrounding mountain forests to report bird diversity in the area, and were able to register 400 individuals of 122 species, representing 9% of all the bird species in the country reported in a single day and place.

**Activity 4.4.** This past August 2019, a competition called Aeropress Bolivia, authorized by the World Aeropress Championships took place in La Paz to select the best baristas that will represent the country at the World Aeropress championship in London. For the competition, 33 competitors participated, two of which were baristas from APCERL. Both Ms. Kea and Ms. Alcon were selected to participate in the second round, and Ms. Kea competed in the finals and won second place.

**Activity 4.5.** During this semester the two promotional videos on [coffee](#) and [cacao](#) have been broadcasted extensively through the social media channels (Facebook and website) as well as two new additional videos promoting the [organic soaps](#) and [jatata palm thatches](#) produced by the T'simane Mosete people of Pilón Lajas.

**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.**

The impact of gold mining and intermediaries remain the main problems we are addressing, nevertheless, we are moving forward with the strategy of attracting the cacao producers of Mapiri by offering them better and more stable prices for their produce, as well as providing them with technical assistance on a case by case request. WCS is also working in attracting new cacao producers from the nearby municipality of Teoponte, and formalizing an agreement with the municipal authorities to provide them with technical assistance and good-quality seedlings, and monitoring the establishment of cacao plots periodically, with the strategy of working with communities with the potential of producing cacao, and where mining is less of an economic alternative. None of these activities will have an impact on budget or project's timetable.

**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.

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

As a result of a descent in the value of the British Pound Sterling towards the US Dollar, and a consequent reduction in exchange rate, project budget will be affected. Among the effects, we may need to conclude contracts with staff earlier than expected, and will have trouble to support the certification of the coffee plots in 2020. The actual effects and proposed solutions will be analyzed and reported in the next annual report.

**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 R25 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 DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to [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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**