

Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

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 (WCS)
Partner(s)	Fundación Teko Kavi
Project leader	Oscar Loayza Cossio
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	Period: April 1 st to September 30 th , 2020 HYR4
Project website/blog/social media	https://bolivia.wcs.org/ https://origentienda.com/

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable.

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).

We have still not been able to resume training sessions. Nevertheless, by late between March and May 2020, we were able to organize 6 virtual sessions with the local technicians in charge of registering and reporting the encroachment activities in their territories. So far, we have received 2 more quarterly reports on the use of the cell phone application and the registration of illegal activities. Avenza Maps® and the KoboCollect apps can be used offline and the friendly interface is easier to use. We expect the reporting of events of illegal activities to improve further in the coming months. All information reported by the app continues to be centralized and stored in a secure server. Between April and June, CIPTA reported three cases of illegal timber extraction and reported the cases to the national forest authority ABT for appropriate sanctions. In the last 6 months in Pilón Lajas, the indigenous organization CRTM and the protection team of the Protected Area have notified and initiated administrative measures against an illegal ecotourism cabin construction

In order to respond to the pandemic travel restrictions, we will continue using virtual platforms such as Whatsapp and other light platforms to provide assistance for the use of the Avenza Maps and the show the characteristics of the KOBOLCollect forms, where to store the reports and the process of uploading the reports, and the plan is to develop training videos and presentations for trouble shooting and how to solve the most frequent mistakes. We expect that this training material will be useful for all current and future users since both CIPTA and CIPLA are in the process of renewing the directory boards before the end of the year.

Output 2. Pre-harvest management of agroforestry plots and native cacao forest groves is improved and local capacity building for sustainable agroforestry that is wildlife friendly. (Activities 2.1 and 2.3)

These last six months have been dedicated to harvesting of cacao, with the Chocolecos in the Guanay area, concluding in April; and of coffee, that started in May and lasted until July with both in Teoponte and Apolo. As part of the pre-harvesting management of the agroforestry plots, APCERL is currently in the process of renewing their organic certification, pending the visit from the inspectors that has been delayed as a result of the pandemic. Apolo producers, on the other hand, are still in the process of formalizing their association and are therefore not certified organic, but their production process and plot characteristics are following “organic” practices. Coffee production in Apolo has increased from 9.48 T in 2019 to 11 T in 2020, representing a 16% increase, and a total of 150 QQ (6.9 T) of dry parchment coffee has been processed by the 35 producer families in Apolo. Coffee will now be selected to produce the golden green beans that will be exported by the Kreyol enterprise to the United States. Coffee production by APCERL has increased to 48.39 T this year from 41.46 T in 2019, which represents a similar increase of 16.7%. The cacao production reached 2.61 T, out of which 2.11 T were stockpiled by the Chocolecos Association, while the remnant will be for local sale. There has been a 5% increase in production compared to 2019 (2.47 T).

Output 3. Post-harvest management of cacao and coffee is improved, and local capacity built for diversification of products (Activities 3.3 & 3.4)

The WCS team has continued placing strong emphasis on cacao post-harvest processing, specifically, on the fermentation process and temperature with the 40 affiliated Chocolecos producers who are well represented by women (1:1). Since we could not conduct field schools, the local technicians provided assistance controlling the fermentation process, resulting in products of much better quality, as measured by the “cup quality” or the quality of the beverage obtained after roasting, brewing and tasting for organoleptic characteristics. The coffee post harvesting process has also improved due to the control of fermentation. Additionally, we worked with a different processing service that conducts mechanized selection and is able to separate homogeneously six different kinds of beans, whereas previously only two sized beans were selected by vibration. The processing service also employs better hand selection than the service used before.

Output 4. Marketing strategies for cacao and coffee are improved and diversified, including wildlife-friendly certification (Activity 4.5)

In order to continue developing an urban constituency supporting cacao and coffee produced by indigenous groups under natural conditions, we have established important alliances with the Spanish Association ASATA ([Association of Asturian Societies for Associativity and Social Economy](#)) and the Bolivian Bank for the Promotion of Economic Initiatives (Banco FIE S.A.), under their social responsibility program, and we have been able to establish a well-equipped laboratory in La Paz that will allow for improved competitiveness for the sale of both roasted coffee and chocolate. The coffee beans, after conducting the proper roasting tests and tasting, has shown important improvement in coffee quality and has been qualified as specialty coffee, which means that it can now be ready to be sold nationally and exported. The differences in price will have a strong effect and income is expected to increase by 60% from 2019, from USD to an estimated USD. In November this year, we expect to export 20 T (one container) with organic coffee from APCERL (14 T) and Apolo coffee (6.8 T).

We have worked in diversifying the coffee, cacao and essential oil products. Some new chocolate products include a 60g 75% cacao chocolate bar, as well as individual sized bars of 8g and 15g, and 400g cacao paste for export. With respect to coffee, we developed an Apolo blend for sale in Bolivia, and it has been well received. We have also produced artisanal soap samples with new ingredients being tested such as “mountain apple”, wild “floripondio” (angel’s blossom), and an exfoliant soap with coffee. As a result of all the exploratory work, we now have a catalogue of products for promotion which is shared through the Origen social media (web page and Facebook). [The Origen Facebook](#) page now has close to 1500 followers and 560 on Instagram.

Specialty coffee samples were sent to Denmark (30 kg) for a special private event with a selected group of organically conscious consumers, as well as to London and Barcelona for different coffee shop initiatives that work only with specialty coffees such as Nomad in Barcelona, in different amounts, to promote the Bolivian coffees. A photo book of birds from Teoponte is almost ready for printing. The book looks to inform consumers of the biodiversity benefits of the Eco de las Aves brand.

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.

All issues faced are described in 2b.

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 project focuses strongly on developing the capacity of local technicians and as a result they were able to conduct the main activities effectively, especially during the critical phase of the harvest season, both for coffee and cacao. As a result, there have been important improvements in production volumes. The WCS team has focused their work on consolidating documents that systematize the good management practices of agroforestry resources and updating three main data bases with information on bird reports, social information such as number of producers, volumes produced per producer, coffee cupping results, and on phytosanitary follow-up reports per plot, production yields and areas under production, as well as organizing the documents for the new organic certification of the laboratory. Additionally, between July to August, laboratory work returned to operations under a biosecurity protocol.

Another impact of COVID has been that more coffee producers have sold this year's coffee production to APCERL, since the usual buyers were not able to arrive on site. This lack of buyers on site has caused an oversupply and prices have gone down by almost 38.2%. Finally, the local demand linked to the Rurrenabaque tourism destination that usually absorbs the complete offer of palm thatches from the T'simane APAI-RQ producers from Pilón Lajas, was reduced from about 800-1000 thatches per month, to "zero". Since the beginning of October, the jatata producers have started to transport palm thatches again, but at half of the usual amounts. The market of local products has completely shut down since March as a result of the travel restrictions and the pressure from illegal natural resource extraction activities, in particular gold mining has increased as a result of the economic collapse.

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/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. 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?

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.**