



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

<b>Project reference</b>	24-026
<b>Project title</b>	Integrating traditional knowledge into Guyana's conservation policy-making and practice
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Guyana
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Royal Holloway University of London
<b>Partner(s)</b>	World Conservation Monitoring Centre, North Rupununi District Development Board, Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, South Central Peoples Development Organisation, Environmental Protection Agency, Cobra Collective
<b>Project leader</b>	Jay Mistry
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	HYR3
<b>Project website/blog/social mediaetc.</b>	<a href="http://projectcobra.org/cobra-project/traditional-knowledge-and-conservation-in-guyana">http://projectcobra.org/cobra-project/traditional-knowledge-and-conservation-in-guyana</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/CobraCollectiveUK/">https://www.facebook.com/CobraCollectiveUK/</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/project_cobra">https://twitter.com/project_cobra</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).**

Over April to September 2019, we have carried out the following:

1) Consultation and drafting of TKNAP. This has involved using the evidence collected to date from the community engagement (through participatory video, workshops and interviews) and policy review and analysis, to draft the TKNAP. The last Advisory Committee meeting (in April 2019) also consulted the members of their experiences and advice for the TKNAP process. A half-day workshop with selected governmental agencies was facilitated in May 2019 to review and discuss the draft TKNAP proposed actions. Participants were able to provide feedback/ comments, and the sessions allowed participants to consider how traditional knowledge and Indigenous peoples was currently involved in their work and what areas might need greater attention.

In addition, interviews were conducted with twenty-five individuals representing 17 different stakeholders as part of identifying training needs (see point 2). During these meetings, the conversations captured important information that confirmed the practicality of the actions being proposed in the TKNAP. As a result, relevant modifications were made to some actions.

2) Work on training agendas for capacity building courses. This has involved a MPhil student at WCMC carrying out a traditional knowledge capacity building needs assessment. The student visited Guyana to undertake interviews with various government agencies/ministries and Indigenous associations to understand and evaluate the most appropriate content and format of training according to the users. This will now feed into the modification of the draft training schedule produced in Year 2, and development of course materials over the next 10 months.

3) Continue building awareness with partners and relevant stakeholders through face-to-face meetings and presentations. The interviews mentioned under Point 1 served well to update relevant stakeholders on the current project and activities being undertaking in Indigenous communities, and the project's goal of drafting a TKNAP that would be used to promote and foster greater integration of TK at the national level.

4) Present TK indicators from communities to Indigenous associations for feedback. The indicators collected in selected communities as part of the project were presented to other communities (who provided consent) in the region during an outreach session in May-June 2019. The aim was to find out from community members if the opinions expressed by the research communities were similar to what they expressed. A total of 12 communities associated with the Iwokrama and Kanuku Mountains protected area were visited.

5) Continued project dissemination through the website and project outreach. We have had regular postings on the project website and on associated Facebook and Twitter sites. In July 2019, the opportunity to reach a wider audience was provided through the local radio station at the NCN. During this session information on the project was shared and particularly, the participatory video aspect of the project that seeks to empower communities to better facilitate dialogue in communities and between decision-makers. An article was also prepared and published in national newspapers (Guyana Chronicle) in observance of International Day for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Country Coordinator made two presentations related to the transmission of traditional knowledge and methods being used to capture community owned solutions at the RENFORESAP conference on Transmission of Living Culture, held in Lethem, Guyana from the 14 – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019. We have provided updates on project activities at quarterly meetings of the NRDDDB and KMCRG, and one presentation was made to the South Rupununi District Council meeting in April 2019.

The NRDDDB team participated at outreach activities during the celebration of Amerindian Heritage Month – the North District and Sub-Regional Celebrations on the 20<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019. To facilitate some of the activities at the heritage booth, the team ran broadcasts on the local radio providing information on the project and other local interest news. The Project Coordinator provided the welcoming remarks at the Bina Hill Youth Learning Centre Heritage Celebration held on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019. One team member attended Information Communication Technology (ICT) training at Iwokrama River Lodge 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The Junior Community Research is the local counterpart for a film crew working in the Iwokrama Forest from 7<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

**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.**

There was a vote of no confidence in the government in December 2018, and elections have just been set for after 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020. We have been working hard to draft the TKNAP, and work with relevant agencies on plans for its implementation. However, we are aware that campaigning for elections may start with earnest in January 2020, and we need to progress as much as possible with ownership and consultation of the TKNAP before that time.

A budgetary change request to Darwin has been submitted from WCMC to enable them to start their work on capacity building earlier (year 3) than planned (year 4). The need for the capacity building part of the project to start earlier than planned has been highlighted both by partner organisations and stakeholders. In addition, the potential of a general election will make it difficult to get the attention of government agencies when campaigning starts. Therefore, the longer time we have to work with government agencies and stakeholders, the more effective our capacity building can be.

**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
Formal change request submitted:	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes

**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.

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**