



## Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup>October 2020)

<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>	HYR4
<b>Project website/blog/social media</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 project implementation timetable (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 2020, we have carried out the following:

1) Consultation of TKNAP. We have developed a schedule and structure for the public consultations. We have created a short video about the TKNAP that will be used to begin consultations online, through social media and networks.

2) Work on training agendas for capacity building courses. We have completed the trainers manual and associated materials for the traditional knowledge training course (based on the feedback from the pilot training that took place in February 2020), and are working on some additional photostories to support the participatory video elements of the course. The e-module has also been further developed. We have begun to send invitations for participation in this stand-alone training component (see Section 2b).

We have begun to draft the peer-to-peer training materials. We were successful in our proposal to the Woodspring Trust, UK (£30,000) to support travel and subsistence costs for the peer-to-peer activities.

3) Continue building awareness with partners and relevant stakeholders through face-to-face meetings. With a change in government, efforts are being made to provide a project overview and highlight key project outputs to the newly appointed Minister at the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs (previously Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs). A meeting with the Minister has not yet been possible but a meeting with two other ministry officials was possible and allowed the team to provide an update on project activities under the current covid-19 restrictions.

4) 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

September 2020, as part of virtual Heritage Month celebrations, we posted a series of articles and videos from the project on the website and through social media (see <https://cobracollective.org/tag/darwin>).

A short video focused on providing an overview of the TKNAP has been prepared. It will be used in support of the national consultations on the TKNAP once consultations commence upon approval by the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs.

We contributed to the post-2020 Biodiversity Monitoring framework and indicators consultations by the CBD. We reviewed the documents and provided feedback where inclusion of traditional knowledge could be stronger in the documents and suggested new or revised indicators to promote the use, respect and maintenance of traditional knowledge better in the new Global Biodiversity framework being negotiated.

**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.**

Following the national elections on the 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020, there was a dispute over the result, and a prolonged period of political uncertainty. This was resolved in August, and new ministers were instated. We have been trying to get a meeting with the new minister of Amerindian Affairs, to gain their support and backing for the launch of the TKNAP consultations, but this has been very challenging in the current new government and covid situation.

**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.**

From the end of Year 3 and six months into Year 4, we are facing project delays due to Covid-19. As well as UK partners being in lockdown, Guyanese partners and Indigenous communities had disruptions and then lockdown from March onwards (still in place). It is not clear as yet when field activities will be able to resume. Although all project staff are working remotely as best as possible, juggling childcare, poor Internet, and for our Indigenous researchers, a lack of regular electricity, means that work is slow and limited. In addition, one UK and two Indigenous Guyanese project staff contracted Covid-19, and were unable to work for various lengths of time over the last six months.

As a project team, we have discussed potential ways forward. We all agree that focusing on the Guyana-related project outcomes and those communities with whom we have already started local level engagement will be the best use of our remaining time. In addition, we will need to extend the project by four months to allow time to complete all the deliverables, particularly the TKNAP consultations and its adoption, which involves some redistribution of funds and extension of the project into Year 5. These potential changes were mentioned in the Year 3 AR and supported by the reviewer.

We submitted a change request on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020 for the following:

- 1) to limit our relevant logframe targets to the communities related to the Iwokrama, Kanuku Mountains and Kanashen protected areas, while ensuring that we work with the communities of Shell Beach and Kaieteur protected areas through the peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and TKNAP consultations.
- 2) to limit our relevant logframe targets to Guyana, as we will not be able to travel to other Guiana Shield countries, but still aiming to disseminate as widely to those countries through our networks and through training via the e-module.

- 3) An extension of four months, to July 2020, to ensure we can complete all the deliverables. This involves a redistribution of funds, and a transfer of £20,253 from the current year into Year 5.
- 4) an change of relevant logframe indicator targets to the end of Year 5.

**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:	No
Formal change request submitted:	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance	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: ££20,253 (funds have been redistributed to ensure project outcomes can be achieved – change request submitted).

**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?**

Overall, we have had excellent and quick responses to individual messages and requests. Perhaps at the start of the pandemic, some communication from Darwin to project leaders on how they were going to support projects through the Covid situation, would have been welcome.

**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](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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**