



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

Project reference	25-015
Project title	Why Eat Wild Meat?
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cameroon
Lead organisation	IIED
Partner(s)	FCTV, The Conservation Foundation, University of Oxford
Project leader	Francesca Booker
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR3, 29 Oct 2020
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.iied.org/why-eat-wild-meat

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).

From April – July, field activities in Cameroon were paused for the project due to COVID 19. During this time, the team focused their efforts on designing a decision support tool for wild meat alternative projects. The team held two online zoom meetings to design and review the decision support tool. The tool has five steps, starting at project feasibility and ending with designing a theory of change. During August and September, the decision support tool went through a process of a professional edit, design and translation to French (for specific use in this project around the Dja Faunal Reserve, Cameroon). In October, the first version of the tool was made available online:

- English: <http://pubs.iied.org/17661IIED>
- French: <http://pubs.iied.org/17661FIIED>

Stephanie Brittain Retweeted
 **IIED** @IIED · Jul 27
 BLOG: Exploring why people eat wild meat – and designing better alternatives --> [iied.org/exploring-why-...](https://www.iied.org/exploring-why-...)

New research from #Cameroon investigating drivers for wild meat consumption will help find sustainable alternatives that work for rural people.



You and 9 others



At the end of July, Stephanie Brittain (Oxford University) published a blog on the IIED website discussing the project's research results: <https://www.iied.org/exploring-why-people-eat-wild-meat-designing-better-alternatives>. We shared the blog online via the project team's social media channels and IIED newsletters.

The blog was read by 222 individuals, with readers including individuals from the UK, Greece, United States, the Netherlands and South Africa.

FCTV cautiously started selected fieldwork activities in July – September. FCTV began with a small study undertaking 23 key informant interviews in 4 villages to understand how wild meat consumption is changing around the Dja Faunal Reserve with COVID 19. Mama Mouamfon and Cedric Thibaut Kamogne Tagne (FCTV) prepared a blog for IIED with Francesca Booker (IIED) to share insights from the research. This blog has just been published on the IIED website: *How is COVID 19 affecting wild meat consumption in rural Cameroon?* <https://www.iied.org/how-covid-19-affecting-wild-meat-consumption-rural-cameroon>. It is too early to share audience engagement figures related to this blog.

FCTV have also undertaken field activities to prepare for testing the decision support tool. FCTV colleagues have mapped different wild meat alternative projects and consolidated new information with information we have already collected as part of an inventory. This involved travelling to the Dja Faunal Reserve and meeting partners as well as meetings at project headquarters in Yaoundé. This information will be used to identify key partners that we will reach out to for testing the decision support tool. We anticipate that testing will begin in November/December 2020 when Neil Maddison (The Conservation Foundation) will travel to support FCTV colleagues to undertake workshops with partners on the decision support tool.

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.

No notable problems beyond Covid delays

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.

Prior to field activities around the Dja Faunal Reserve, FCTV and IIED worked together to define safeguards for reducing COVID 19 exposure risk to the project participants and FCTV colleagues. These safeguards were approved by IIED's Ethics Committee. They include:

- Project staff will wear a face mask in the car travelling to and from villages
- Only two staff members will travel in the car (the driver and the research facilitator)
- The research team will take hand sanitiser, soap and water to the villages for their own personal use.
- Interviews to be undertaken with no more than one person.
- Interviews to be undertaken away from the public eye, to avoid a crowd forming.
- Interviewee's age to be considered – people over 60 not to be included in the interview sample.
- Interviews to be undertaken outside.
- Interviewer and interviewee to sit 1-2 metres away from one another.
- Interviewer to wear a mask and provide the interviewee with a mask
- Interviewer to provide sanitiser or soap to the interviewee for use immediately before and after the interview.
- Interviewer to provide advice on sanitation and COVID 19 prevention (FCTV have existing advice and posters from a partner project).
- Interviewer will take the names of interviewees and addresses and if possible phone numbers, so if the FCTV interviewer becomes ill with suspected COVID in the 14 days following the interviews we can warn interviewees. This can be undertaken by the FCTV community liaison officer, or other FCTV partners based close to the northern buckle.

The government will also be informed. This will be done to the best of our ability, noting possible logistical constraints of operating in Cameroon.

- Where possible (ie there is phone signal), the research coordinator will make appointments with NGO project leaders so that they can prepare a safe meeting place at their premises
- The research team will travel immediately back to Yaoundé following the interviews and meetings with NGOs.

In terms of the project's timeline, we will begin testing the decision support tool around the Dja Faunal Reserve in December 2020/January 2021. This does represent a delay for project activities, but the team anticipated this in our change request and updated Gantt Chart, submitted in June 2020 and approved by LTS in August 2020.

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

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. 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?

No issues to raise

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**