



## Darwin Initiative Annual Report



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

### Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	20-008
Project Title	Evaluating community-based conservation agreements in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve
Host Country/ies	Guatemala
Contract Holder Institution	Wildlife Conservation Society
Partner institutions	National Protected Areas Council (CONAP); Asociación Balam; Conservation International; Fundación Patrimonio Natural y Cultural (PACUNAM); OMYC Uaxactún, Cooperativa Carmelita, COCODE Uaxactún, COCODE Carmelita, and COCODE Paso Caballos.
Darwin Grant Value	£ 269,681
Start/end dates of project	April 2013 to March 2016
Reporting period (eg Apr 2013 – Mar 2014) and number (eg Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2013 to March 2014 Number Annual Report: 1
Project Leader name	Roan Balas McNab
Project website	---
Report author(s) and date	Roan Balas & Miriam Castillo, April 9 <sup>th</sup> 2013

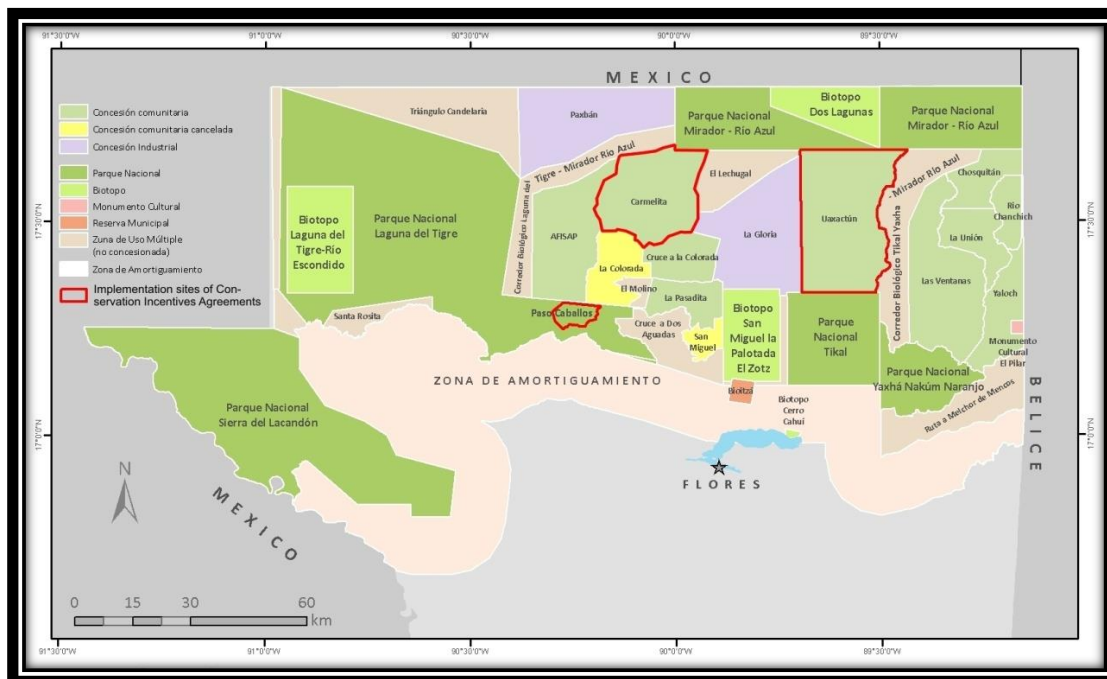
### 1. Project Rationale

The Maya Biosphere Reserve (MBR), Guatemala's largest protected area, embodies the challenge of balancing conservation and development priorities. The two million hectare MBR lies at the heart of the largest contiguous block of forest in Mesoamerica and is home to a unique assemblage of fauna, flora, and thousands of archaeological sites. It contains jaguars, critically endangered Central American river turtles and Guatemala's last wild population of scarlet macaws. However, the MBR is also home to approximately 118,000 people, 60% of whom are classified as poor or extremely poor. Poverty, landlessness, weak governance systems, and rapid population growth have put increasing pressure on the MBR's natural resources, spurring deforestation and forest fires that threaten the MBR's biodiversity, and undermining the proven potential for sustainable streams of natural resources commodities and services of vital importance to rural economies.

Within this context, "Community Conservation Agreements" have been implemented in select communities to simultaneously reduce poverty and conserve biodiversity by providing clear

contracts between local communities, government, NGO partners, and donors to protect biodiversity through economic incentives that are designed and managed with local communities (Map 1).

This Darwin Initiative project will evaluate the effectiveness of Community Conservation Agreements, with a specific focus on their ability to improve human access to basic necessities and reduce the threat of habitat loss. We expect that the success of these agreements will provide a scalable model for simultaneously reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity across the Maya Biosphere Reserve, Guatemala, and in other areas that are experiencing conservation and development challenges globally.



Map 1. Sites in Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve where Community Conservation Agreements are currently being implemented, including Uaxactún and Carmelita community forest concessions and Paso Caballos, a community inside Laguna del Tigre National Park.

## 2. Project Partnerships

The implementation of Community Conservation Agreements is undertaken in direct coordination with relevant stakeholders, including community organizations, the most critical stakeholders in achieving local commitments, and the national park service (CONAP), which plays an important role in monitoring and accompanying specific aspects of agreements. WCS and Asociación Balam, as implementing organizations, support community representatives during project planning and execution by providing technical advice, improving planning skills, and assisting with reporting. Annual evaluations are carried out through close collaboration with the communities and institutions, and are presented in village General Assemblies.

CONAP's Monitoring Center (CEMEC), evaluates each Community Conservation Agreement by producing annual reports of land use changes including deforestation and areas impacted by forest fires (Annex 1,2,3). More recently, they have also become the official repository of socioeconomic data collected as a baseline on the status of communities within the Conservation Agreement program (information includes the results of Basic Necessities Surveys, community perception of Conservation Agreements, education, etc.).

CONAP, WCS, and Asociación Balam were key partners in the selection of potential sites to undertake a feasibility study for a potential fourth Conservation Agreement (Annex 4, 5).

PACUNAM and Conservation International leveraged funds in the first year of the project. As part of the plan, PACUNAM provided funds to implement Conservation Agreements in

Uaxactún (US\$ 46,000) and Carmelita (US\$43,500). Conservation International provided funds to implement the Conservation Agreement in Paso Caballos, as well as to support coordination and operational costs (US\$43,150).

### **3. Project Progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities**

**Activity 1.1:** *Implement the 3 existing conservation agreements in the MBR.*

During the first year of implementation, three Conservation Agreements were developed according to the work plan in the forest communities of Paso Caballos, Uaxactun, and Carmelita (Annex 6, quarterly reports).

Paso Caballos started a second implementation phase (i.e. years 3 & 4) in August 2013, after a lengthy evaluation and renewal process undertaken by CONAP and local partners (Annex 7).

The second implementation phase of Uaxactún's Conservation Agreement (i.e. years 3 & 4) ended in March 2014. In October 2013, an evaluation of accomplishments to date was held by CONAP and partners. The renewal process for a third phase (years 5 & 6) was undertaken parallel to the evaluation. The public ceremony and signature event for the third phase is planned for the next quarter with the participation of all partners (Annex 8).

Carmelita finished the first phase of implementation in January 2014 (years 1 & 2). A final 2-year report was presented to CONAP by Asociación Balam, and the results are currently under evaluation. In May 2014 a participatory evaluation will be undertaken in the village to inquire regarding interest amongst the diverse stakeholders in a potential second phase of the Conservation Agreement in Carmelita (Annex 9).

**Activity 1.2:** *Prepare a feasibility analysis for a new agreement, in a community with a different context.*

After meetings with CONAP and partners, the community of Buen Samaritano in Laguna del Tigre National Park was selected for a feasibility study for inclusion in a fourth Conservation Agreement. Despite the strategic location and important biological features in the adjacent landscape, the result of the analysis was "Not feasible", due to internal social conflicts within the village, and the usurpation of community lands by powerful ranchers (Annex 10).

Another site will be selected in April 2014 to undertake a second feasibility study, based on the priorities of CONAP and other NGOs working in the MBR. The first meetings in this process were held in March 2014.

**Activity 2.1:** *Develop baseline and annual socioeconomic monitoring to measure the social impact of existing conservation agreements.*

During the first year of the Project (2013-2014), CONAP's Monitoring Center (CEMEC) developed three satellite image analysis reports to measure deforestation and the impact of forest fires within the sites with Conservation Agreements. In the Uaxactún and Carmelita forest concessions, forest cover was considered stable (i.e. no net loss) and forest areas were evaluated to have avoided all impacts of forest fires. Similarly, within the Maya Q'eqchí community of Paso Caballos, the forests in adjacent areas of Laguna del Tigre National Park were not impacted by either deforestation or fire (Annex 1,2,3).

Socio-economic surveys were undertaken in 2013 by WCS and Asociación Balam (in Caballos/Uaxactún and Carmelita, respectively) through community teachers and leaders in order to establish baselines. Data were compiled and processed per the guidelines of Basic Necessity Surveys (BNS), to evaluate the socioeconomic status of village inhabitants, and Conservation Agreement Surveys to evaluate the local acceptability of Conservation Agreements and to provide additional context (Annex 11).

**Activity 3.1:** *Hold annual meetings in each community implementing a conservation agreement to present and discuss results achieved, challenges, and lessons learned.*

In Uuxactún the annual evaluation was held in October 2013, including community representatives and partner institutions (ACOFOP, RA, CONAP, WCS, and Asociación Balam). Results were presented to the OMYC General Assembly, informing community members of the results of the evaluation with partners. In both events, all parties expressed interest in continuing with a third phase of implementation (Annex 8).

In Paso Caballos, following CONAP's approval of the phase 1 final report (i.e. years 1 & 2 of implementation in Paso Caballos), the participatory annual evaluation started with internal meetings including WCS, CONAP, and village leaders including the Council of Elders. In the Paso Caballos General Assembly, the community approved continuing with a second phase of the Conservation Agreement with the same commitments and benefits (Annex 7).

In Carmelita the participatory evaluation of the results of the first phase (i.e. years 1 and 2) will be held in May 2014, following the production of a final report and review by CONAP.

**Activity 3.2:** *Develop informational material highlighting results and lessons learned from conservation agreements to share with institutions working in and impacting the MBR.*

Public dissemination of the Conservation Agreement model was undertaken throughout the first year of Darwin project implementation. Four newsletters ("*Boletines*") about Conservation Agreements were produced and distributed via email to diverse stakeholders (Annex 12). The following institutions and/or networks received the information:

WCS-Guatemala (12 people); Asociación Balam (10 people); CONAP and its 8 regional offices (150 people); Centro de Estudios Conservacionistas (CECON), Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala (40 people); IARNA (network of Universidad Rafael Landívar) (2,000 users); Rainforest Alliance Guatemala (22 people); MARFUND (13 people); PACUNAM (5 people).

### **3.2 Progress towards project outputs**

All of the identified assumptions for each of the Outputs remain valid.

#### ***Output 1: Four Community Agreements***

The three existing Conservation Agreements are being implemented according to the workplan (see activity 3.1). Regarding the development of a fourth community conservation agreement, the result of the planned "feasibility study" was negative, resulting in a delay in the process of developing a fourth agreement. While unfortunate, this surprising result, reached in consensus among all the actors engaged in the evaluation (i.e. WCS, CONAP, CEMEC, and Asociación Balam) demonstrated that the feasibility study in the Conservation Agreement process provides an effective safeguard which ensures that conservation funding is dispersed considering diverse aspects of implementation viability. Now, a new candidate site must be chosen, and we are working with CONAP to identify priority communities and/or community-based management units across the MBR landscape.

Upon obtaining consensus regarding another candidate community, a second feasibility study will be undertaken. If the result indicates viability, the design and negotiation phases may conclude during the first quarter of year 2 (Annex 13).

#### ***Output 2: Report on the impacts of community Conservation Agreements***

Three annual reports on the ecological impact of the three active Conservation Agreements were prepared by CEMEC during 2013, based on indicators of deforestation and forest fire (Annex 1).

WCS, CONAP, CEMEC and Asociación Balam collaborated to consolidate existing data and gather additional information to establish a socio-economic baseline for each of the three existing Conservation Agreements (see activity 2.1). The baselines are now formally housed

within CEMEC, the governmental monitoring institute located within CONAP. This consolidated baseline will be used to measure the socioeconomic impact of the Conservation Agreements in subsequent years of the project (Annex 11).

### **Output 3: Synthetic outreach materials**

The annual participatory meetings in the places where Conservation Agreements are being implemented were reported in section 3.1.

During the first year, four newsletters were developed. Each was shared using networks such as Iarna-URL with 2,000 users, and CONAP with 150 contacts. The newsletters were shared directly through other 6 institutions (102 users)

Information regarding community Conservation Agreements was provided to the CBD focal point in CONAP to develop the VI Guatemalan National report of CDB; the global report will be ready 2014 at the latest (Annex 14).

Representatives from Laguna del Tigre National Park also participated in the IV Mesoamerican Congress on Protected Areas (18-21 March, San José Costa Rica), where CONAP representatives presented a poster describing the main results of the Conservation Agreement in Paso Caballos (Annex 15).

### **Output 4. Policy recommendations**

The activities related to Output 4 will be carried out during the third year of the Project.

However, the lack of viability of the new candidate community proposed by WCS, CONAP, and all partners highlights the potential for a future policy recommendation for community-based conservation endeavors. If the rigorous feasibility study had not been undertaken, and if we had not included the four stakeholders detailed in section 3.2.1, the funding slated for a fourth community would likely have been committed to a problematic candidate community (Buen Samaritano). Local community “leaders” expressed interest in receiving support, and working to conserve the area. However, the feasibility study revealed that the “community” had in fact been co-opted by powerful absentee landlords, some of which had concentrated massive swaths of the “community lands” under their control. In this regard, a solid policy recommendation for government and donors alike consists of requiring a participatory, multi-stakeholder agreement prior to the investment of significant funding in any community area.

## **3.3 Progress towards the project Purpose/Outcome**

**Purpose/Outcome:** *“Community conservation incentive agreements are successfully implemented with 4 communities of Guatemala’s Maya Biosphere Reserve and impacts are rigorously tested, providing an innovative scalable model for reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity while providing value for money.”*

The three Conservation Agreements in Paso Caballos, Uaxactún, and Carmelita were implemented during the first year, and formal baselines established to allow the rigorous evaluation of the efficacy of the agreements using socioeconomic and environmental indicators. The purpose level assumption and indicators remain valid for the project.

In late March, 2014 WCS and Balam (the implementing NGO of the Carmelita Conservation Agreement) were notified by a key donor (PACUNAM) of a high probability of discontinuing their funding of the Carmelita agreement. This decision is not 100% confirmed, but according to PACUNAM seems extremely likely as a result of a poor fundraising season on their part. The WCS proposal promised to maintain this agreement in force during the last two years of Darwin support, and as such if PACUNAM’s notification is confirmed, our project will be facing a gap in counterpart leverage offered, and it will only be able to fully evaluate three conservation agreements while they are in force.

In response, Asociación Balam and WCS immediately began efforts to locate the additional funding required to maintaining the Carmelita Conservation Agreement for two more years. The current gap is approximately \$85,000 for a two year period.

During the first year of implementation important adaptations were made to strengthen the effectiveness of the model. For example, a) project partners, including CONAP, developed a procedure to be followed if a feasibility study demonstrated that an proposed agreement was simply not viable; b) WCS personnel also worked with CONAP to determine criteria for selecting the most “important” option amongst all the communities and community management units across the MBR landscape; and finally c) We have been working with CONAP to evaluate the viability of the conservation agreement model in a new context in the MBR. In this case, we are evaluating a community-based forest management unit, managed by a civil society organization that does not inhabit the area, but which faces significant trans-frontier threats including timber poaching and fire (Annex 16).

As previously mentioned, the initiation of a fourth community Conservation Agreement was postponed to the second year because the feasibility study of Buen Samaritano revealed inadequate social conditions, and the consensus among all actors was to identify an alternative candidate site for evaluation. Despite this change in schedule the Outcome will be accomplished as expected.

Finally, the originally proposed fourth community (Cruce la Colorada, included in the proposal to Darwin) was also judged to be unviable for a Conservation Agreement by CONAP and other partners. As a result, the final amount of forest and/or natural habitat protected by Darwin investments will change. This final calculation will be made once the fourth community management unit is finally determined.

### **3.4 Goal/ Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation**

**Project Goal:** *Community conservation incentives agreements are successfully implemented in community-managed forests across the entire Guatemalan Protected Areas System, leading to a significant reduction in deforestation and forest fires, and improved basic necessities and quality of life for the people in and around protected areas in Guatemala.*

To date, social development “incentives” have included payments of additional teachers and/or community health practitioners, establishment of local pharmacies, and investments in collectively-run micro-enterprises, including non-timber forest product production. In general, projects provide support for education, enterprise, health services, and physical capital, paralleling Guatemala’s 2006 national poverty reduction strategy (Annex 17).

Conservation Agreements implemented to date are strengthening the administrative capabilities of local managers (particularly in OMYC/Uaxactún), improving their abilities to report the results of their forest management enterprises and/or Community Development Councils (COCODES) with transparency to their local constituents.

In Uaxactún, recent financial reports demonstrate the impact of consistent accompaniment. OMYC closed the 2013 financial year without any debt, and with a financial surplus for the first time in over a decade. This in turn has set the stage for OMYC making more consistent investments in social needs (i.e. education), and projects designed to increase sustainable sources of income (Annex 18).

Each site where a Conservation Agreement is developed is unique, and as such each agreement contains a unique set of responsibilities and benefits for the community group engaged, and for the governmental and civil society partners engaged to accompany the agreement. For example, in Uaxactún 60% of the families (230 people) have obtained direct income from the xate palm incentive designed to spur the harvest of only market quality fronds. Another example is that 100% of the students benefit from improvements in the facilities of the local school, and from investments in improved teachers’ salaries, which in turn promotes stability of a dedicated group of teachers who have worked in Uaxactún for years (Annex 12).

#### **4. Project support to the Conventions (CBD, CMS and/or CITES)**

The project supports the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), specifically in the accomplishment of Aichi Targets 2, 3, and 10 within the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biological Diversity, while also contributing to other goals related to biodiversity management, threat reduction and community incentives.

Conservation Agreements are making efforts to contribute to reaching the Aichi strategic goals.

##### ***Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society***

Conservation Agreements directly address the main threats in areas with high biological value. The design processes are participatory, including government representatives (CONAP) and local authorities, with public approval in General Assemblies.

##### ***Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use***

Through the implementation of Conservation Agreements in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, direct pressures on biodiversity such as deforestation, forest fires, cattle ranching and encroachment risk on protected areas has been reduced.

##### ***Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.***

Beginning with the design stage, the Conservation Agreements model allows communities to participate actively in the selection of social benefits. Currently most are related to improvement of health infrastructure and educational support.

All information related to the project was provided to the focal point of CONAP (Technical Office of Biodiversity) to include in the V National Report of CDB (see Annex 13).

#### **5. Project support to poverty alleviation**

As part of the model, Conservation Agreements provide social benefits chosen by the local community according to their own needs. The “xate incentive” in Uaxactun is an example of a direct economic benefit to 230 people working in palm frond gathering and sorting activities. Other examples are payments for control and surveillance commissions, forest fire prevention, wages to support local authorities of Paso Caballos in commuting, and provision of food during meetings.

The direct beneficiaries include 2000 people living in the places where conservation agreement are been implemented.

#### **6. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons**

Social and economic indicators were consolidated using the Basic Necessities Surveys undertaken within the three communities with active conservation agreements during 2013. The project partners led by WCS recorded quantitative data designed to reflect the state of economic well-being of local households, as well as qualitative data regarding the local knowledge of, and acceptance of Conservation Agreements.

The monitoring related to deforestation and forest fires was led by CEMEC, the spatial monitoring center of CONAP. CEMEC’s expertise in this field is well known due to their 15+ years working on spatial monitoring and mapping with a primary focus on the MBR (Annex 1,2,3).

Fundraising for agreements needs to be a consistent activity to ensure the sustainability of commitments. That said, one of the key considerations in the design of the Conservation Agreements is the “segmentation” of implementation into discrete, two-year phases. This is done to ensure that the opportunities and challenges facing forest and/or rural communities are addressed in stepwise fashion, without attempting to “solve all the world’s complex problems in one fell swoop”. This approach manifests itself through the identification of specific, sometimes

ambitious, yet attainable two-year goals that becomes the backbone of any Conservation Agreement.

If however it becomes impossible for us to maintain the Carmelita Conservation Agreement, we will face an opportunity to evaluate the impact of discontinuing an agreement in a local village. The sustainability of Conservation Agreements has in fact has been one of the questions raised about this process. Proponents, WCS included, have responded that the same concern faces many (any?) integrated conservation and development program. The difference in our case is that we propose to measure impacts – including the possible effect of discontinuing support, and as most other approaches for promoting rural conservation and development, Conservation Agreements take into account the possibility of short-term engagement as described above.

The coordinator in each implementation site worked together with the community to implement the activities in Conservation Agreement. Reports were prepared quarterly, as well as annually and biennially. Coordinator of Conservation Agreements Program met the coordinators quarterly to review the results and advances in the execution (Annexes 6, 18).

Margarita Mora, Manager of CI's Latin America Conservation Agreements Program, was informed quarterly about the advances in the implementation of each Conservation Agreement (Annex 19).

## **7. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

Not applicable.

## **8. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

One key challenge consists of the recent notification by a donor who had indicated interest in financing two more years of the Carmelita Conservation Agreement. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Asociación Balam and WCS were notified by the Foundation for Guatemalan Cultural and Natural Patrimony (PACUNAM) that the probability of continuing financing for the Carmelita agreement was extremely low, and that we should begin searching for additional funding from other sources. If confirmed, this would leave the project with a significant gap in the counterpart funding promised, and require us to focus the final evaluation of the project's impact on the three agreements which can be sustained via confirmed funding sources.

## **9. Sustainability**

The short term challenge already described consists of maintaining the funding required to continue the three active Conservation Agreements already in force, while adding a fourth under new social and/or environmental conditions. To meet this challenge, we continue outreach to other institutions and potential donors about the results to date.

In the mid-term, CONAP, ACOFOP, and other partners have already identified Conservation Agreements as the template for the mechanism that will be used to channel REDD+ funding to local communities in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, under the aegis of the GuateCarbon Program. Unfortunately, this program is still under development, with the validation of the Project Design Document pending. Nevertheless, once approved, some iteration of the Conservation Agreements is likely to continue, with a focus on the communities within the MBR Multiple Use Zone.

Over the long-term, we continue working with partners to promote "Maya Biosphere Reserve Patrimonial Fund", and working with WCS in New York to develop an innovative project that would link the village of Uaxactun to the city of New York, and provide sustainably harvested timber for the renovation of the Brooklyn Bridge. This project, entitled the Brooklyn Bridge Forest Initiative (BBFI; see: <http://www.brooklynbridgeforest.com/>) proposes to finance a Conservation Agreement with Uaxactún for several decades, while also funding the creation of the MBR Patrimonial Fund. Both of these mechanisms have the potential to contribute to the continuity of Conservation Agreements with local communities across the MBR.



## 10. Darwin Identity

In August 2013, the UK Ambassador to Guatemala, Sarah Dickson, visited the Petén. A special event was organized, in which CONAP, NGO Partners and community representatives joined together to discuss the Project supported by the Darwin Initiative/DEFRA and results of a previous DFID project. A press conference and a field visit allowed the Ambassador to familiarize herself with the place where multiple projects have taken or are taking place. As a result, the Ambassador wrote and posted a blog: <http://blogs.fco.gov.uk/sarahdickson/2013/09/09/saving-the-forest-one-tree-at-a-time/> (Annex 19). As results of the visit, notes in local newspaper and radio spots were produced in Petén (Annex 20).

The newsletters and the public presentations related to the project, and those generally about Conservation Agreements, use the logo and are therefore publicly affiliated with the Darwin Initiative/DEFRA.

During the first year local partners had learned of the project through the annual evaluations. A visit by the UK Ambassador to Guatemala, was an opportunity to shared updated information with stakeholders and through newsletters to national partners to share the results of the project. As part of the second and third year of implementation the dissemination of information will be improved and expanded using social networks, links on the websites of key partners, and professional networks professional network such as “Colegio de Farmacéuticos y químicos de Guatemala”.

## 11. Project Expenditure

**Table 1 project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014)**

<b>Project spend since last annual report</b>	<b>2013/14 Grant (£)</b>	<b>2013/14 Total actual Darwin Costs (£)</b>	<b>Variance %</b>	<b>Comments (please explain significant variances)</b>
Staff costs (see below)			0%	
Consultancy costs			-2%	
Overhead Costs			0%	
Travel and subsistence			12%	The slight overspend was due increased visits to Paso Caballos and Uaxactun during the last quarter (January to March) for forest fire prevention. This activity is time demanding and requires active coordination with local leaders and farmers.  Due the nature of the emergency, there was not time to request authorization.
Operating Costs			0%	

Capital items (see below)	-	-	0%	
Others (see below)			0%	
<b>TOTAL</b>				

**12. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

I agree for the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

**Outstanding Achievements of the project “Evaluating community- based conservation agreements in Guatemala’s Maya Biosphere Reserve”:**

**Administrative Recovery:** Total elimination of all debt by OMYC for the first time in over a decade. OMYC also was able to save an investment fund of \$75,000 for the starting costs of their 2014 timber harvest, only the second year that OMYC was able to set aside working capital in order to begin timber harvesting activities. In previous years, OMYC had always relied on loans to start activities, paying either interest to banks and/or receiving funding up front from timber buyers, who subsequently paid a discounted rate for the timber.

Implementation of **the Early Warning System for Fire:** Despite a significant rash of forest fire during the months of April and May, 2013, no forest fires were reported in any of the three communities participating in the program (Uaxactun, Paso Caballos, Carmelita). Paso Caballos in particular was noteworthy for undertaking 280 controlled agricultural fires used to clear the soil prior to planting, without having even one spread to the adjacent forest areas of Laguna del Tigre National Park.

**Avoided deforestation in key sites of MBR,** the current conservation agreements are helping to maintain forest and avoid deforestation in at least 137,358 hectares in MBR.

**Local capacity improved,** communities with more capacity to accomplish previous commitments acquired with CONAP, such as control and surveillance and forest fires prevention.

**Social benefits distributed broadly:** 2000 people living in communities with Conservation Agreements implementation obtained benefits such as improvement of education and/or health facilities, as well as temporary jobs assigned through rotational employment systems.

**Sustainable use of key natural resources,** During this period, wild populations of xate are increasing in 21,000 seedlings planted in forest, the yearly goal are 20,000. Since the beginning of the Conservation Agreements Uaxactún population increased in 121,0000 xate seedlings inserted in forest with survival rate than more 90%. Additionally, in Uaxactún, 7.2 million fronds were harvested using “export quality standards” obtaining a premium price.

**Challenges faced in the implementation:** In coordination with CONAP and other NGOs working in MBR, new challenges and opportunities have been identified in the selection of a new place with different context to implement the fourth Conservation Agreement in the MBR.

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2013-2014

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2013 - March 2014	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal/Impact</b> Community conservation incentives agreements are successfully implemented in community-managed forests across the entire Guatemalan Protected Areas System, leading to a significant reduction in deforestation and forest fires, and improved basic necessities and quality of life for the people in and around protected areas in Guatemala.</p>		<p>3 final reports, one for each Conservation Agreement.</p> <p>Newsletter produced with highlights in the implementation.</p> <p>Process started to the establishment of the 4<sup>th</sup> Conservation Agreement in the MBR.</p>	
<p><b>Purpose/Outcome:</b> Community conservation incentives agreements are successfully implemented with four communities of Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve and impacts are rigorously tested, providing an innovative scalable model for reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity while providing value for money.</p>	<p><b>Indicator 1:</b> 4000+ residents of four target communities demonstrate increased access to basic necessities, with at least 25% of the target population reporting improved access to education and/or health services and/or locally prioritised development initiatives during the three-year project timeframe.</p> <p><b>Indicator 2:</b> In the four target community forests, at least 50% (900 hectares) of forest cover will be protected that - without intervention – would likely have been deforested, based on the historical average deforestation rate of the 3 years before community agreements.</p> <p><b>Indicator 3:</b> The annual amount of forest degraded by fire in each of the four target community forest management units is reduced by 10% or more as compared to the historical average of 10 years before community agreements.</p>	<p>CONAP evaluations to renew process of the Conservation Agreement in Uaxactún and Carmelita for two more years.</p> <p>CONAP approval the renewal contract process for a second phase in Paso Caballos. (August 2013)</p> <p>CEMEC/CONAP shows in the 3 reports the conservation agreements are working in avoiding deforestation and reducing the forest fires risk</p>	<p>Complete 100% process to renew the conservation agreement in Uaxactún and Carmelita for 2 more years.</p> <p>Develop another feasibility study, after a positive result to initiate the design and negotiation process in an area with different context.</p> <p>3 sites with conservation agreement working in the first semester 2014 in prevention of forest fires.</p> <p>Next reports of CEMEC, regarding deforestation and forest fires impact will be developed by July 2014.</p>

<p><b>Output 1:</b> Four community agreements in four sections of Guatemala's Maya Biosphere Reserve (Uaxactun, Carmelita, Paso Caballos, Cruce a la Colorada)</p>	<p><b>Indicator 1.1:</b> Three existing conservation agreements signed and maintained valid through 2015 (in communities of Carmelita, Uaxactun, and Paso Caballos)</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2:</b> One new conservation agreement developed, signed, and implemented by 2014 with Cruce a la Colorada (or another community based on feedback from CONAP), and maintained through 2015.</p>	<p>100% of the existing conservation agreement with field work. Contract renewal is a formal process authorized by CONAP to maintain the work for 2 more years in Carmelita and Uaxactun.</p> <p>100% complete. Socioeconomic base lines available for the 3 sites where agreements are implemented.</p> <p>90% complete. Annual meetings developed during the first year.</p> <p>Carmelita annual meeting to present the results of the 2 years implementation will be developed in the first quarter 2014, after the evaluation of CONAP.</p> <p>25% complete.</p> <p>First site selected was "Not Feasible" to implement a conservation agreement. The process to select other place and started and a new feasibility study will be developed in the next month. The process has support of CONAP and partners.</p>
<p><b>Activity 1.1:</b> Implement the 3 existing conservation agreements in the MBR</p>	<p>The implementation of 3 existing conservation agreements in the MBR is in progress.</p>	
<p><b>Activity 1.2:</b> Prepare a feasibility analysis for a new agreement, in a community with a different context</p>	<p>Although this activity was completed, the feasibility study indicated that we should not move forward with the selected community, so Activity 1.3 has not begun.</p>	
<p><b>Activity 1.3:</b> Develop a new conservation agreement in a participatory manner with the selected community, accompanying NGOs and government representatives</p>	<p>Planned for the second quarter 2014, once we have a positive feasibility study for a new community.</p>	
<p><b>Output 2:</b> Report on the impacts of community conservation agreements</p>	<p><b>Indicator 1.1:</b> Three existing conservation agreements signed and maintained valid through 2015 (in communities of Carmelita, Uaxactun, and Paso Caballos)</p> <p><b>Indicator 1.2:</b> One new conservation agreement developed, signed, and implemented by 2014 with Cruce a la Colorada (or another community based on feedback from CONAP), and maintained through 2015.</p>	
<p><b>Activity 2.1:</b> Develop baseline and annual socioeconomic monitoring to measure</p>	<p>100% complete.</p>	

the social impact of existing conservation agreements.		
<b>Activity 2.2:</b> Conduct annual monitoring of deforestation and biodiversity in areas where agreements are implemented.		100% complete.
<b>Output 3:</b> Synthetic outreach materials to disseminate lessons learned, each uniquely targeted toward a different audience		
<b>Activity 3.1:</b> Hold annual meetings in each community implementing a conservation agreement to present and discuss results achieved, challenges, and lessons learned.		90% complete. Carmelita meeting will be developed in the May 2014.
<b>Activity 3.2:</b> Develop informational material highlighting results and lessons learned from conservation agreements to share with institutions working in and impacting the MBR.		100% complete for the first year. Public dissemination will continue in the next 2 years.
<b>Activity 3.3:</b> Share information about conservation agreements more widely in electronic form on social networks, websites, and through partner institution networks.		Ongoing. The dissemination will continue in the next 2 years.
<b>Output 4:</b> Policy recommendations including analysis of opportunities for, and limitations to the replication of conservation agreements across the MBR and the Guatemalan system of protected areas.		
<b>Activity 4.1:</b> Organize a workshop with key players in the MBR (GOs, NGOs and civil society) involved in the implementation of conservation agreements, in order to analyze the potential for and limitations to their replication.		Planned for the first semester of 2014.
<b>Activity 4.3:</b> Develop at least three proposals to ensure the financial sustainability of the four conservation agreements implemented.		

## Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Activity	Year 2				Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Output 1: Four community agreements in the Maya Biosphere Reserve</b>								
1.1 Implement the 3 existing conservation agreements in the MBR	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.2. Prepare a feasibility analysis for a new agreement, in a community with a different context.	X							
1.3 Develop a new conservation agreement in a participatory manner with the selected community, accompanying NGOs and government representatives		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Output 2: Report on the impacts of community conservation agreements</b>								
2.1 Develop annual socioeconomic monitoring to measure the social impact of existing conservation agreements			X	X			X	X
2.2. Conduct annual monitoring of deforestation and biodiversity in areas where agreements are implemented.		X	X			X	X	
2.3 Commission an independent, comprehensive final assessment of conservation agreement impacts with respect to socioeconomic development, deforestation, and biodiversity conservation.							X	X
<b>Output 3: Synthetic outreach materials</b>								
3.1. Hold annual meetings in each community implementing a conservation agreement to present and discuss results achieved, challenges, and lessons learned.		X	X			X	X	
3.2. Develop informational material highlighting results and lessons learned from conservation agreements to share with institutions working in and impacting the MBR.				X				X
3.3 Share information about conservation agreements more widely in electronic form on social networks, websites, and through partner institution networks.			X	X			X	X
3.4 Submit article for publication in peer-reviewed journal, focused toward academic and development practitioner audiences.							X	

	Year 2				Year 3			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
<b>Output 4: Policy recommendations</b>								
4.1 Organize a workshop with key players in the MBR (GOs, NGOs and civil society) involved in the implementation of conservation agreements, in order to analyze the potential for and limitations to their replication.			X					
4.2 Develop at least three proposals to ensure the financial sustainability of the four conservation agreements implemented				X	X		X	
4.3 Prepare policy recommendations for implementation of agreements across the MBR and throughout the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas.							X	X

## Annex 3 Standard Measures

**Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures**

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Number planned for reporting period	Total planned during the project
12A	Socioeconomic databases for communities where conservation agreements are implemented.	1						
15B	Press release for the visit of UK Ambassador to Guatemala (Sarah Dickson).	1						
16 A	<b>July 2013 Newsletter 1 (Introduction)</b>	1						
16 A	<b>March 2014 Newsletter 2, 3, 4 (one for each conservation agreements)</b>	3						
16 B	<b>Newsletter 1.</b> The dissemination will continue in the next 2 years.	1 network 2000 102 contacts						
	<b>Newsletter 2,3,4</b>	1 network 2000 102 contacts						
16 C	<b>Blog UK Ambassador</b>	1						
18 C	<b>UK Ambassador in Guatemala (Sarah Dickson)</b> <b>Darwin Initiative on TV local news</b>	4						
19 C	<b>UK Ambassador in Guatemala (Sarah Dickson)</b> <b>Darwin Initiative on radio news</b>	4						
23	<b>Other funds to implement first year Darwin project</b>	£52,999						£181,684



**Table 2 Publications**

<b>Type</b> (eg journals, manual, CDs)	<b>Detail</b> (title, author, year)	<b>Publishers</b> (name, city)	<b>Available from</b> (eg contact address, website)	<b>Cost £</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## **Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)**

Please see attached Annexes:

- 4.1** CEMEC/CONAP report of deforestation and forest fires impact in Uaxactún, Maya Biosphere Reserve.
- 4.2** CEMEC/CONAP report of deforestation and forest fires impact in Paso Caballos, Maya Biosphere Reserve.
- 4.3** CEMEC/CONAP report of deforestation and forest fires impact in Carmelita, Maya Biosphere Reserve.
- 4.4** Letter to CONAP requesting approval in the selection of the new site to implement Community Conservation Agreement. (First option)
- 4.5** CONAP letter with the approval to started the process of implementation community conservation agreement. (First option)
- 4.6** Quaterly reports community conservation agreements (Uaxactún, Paso Caballos, Carmelita).
- 4.7** Paso Caballos Conservation Agreement second phase renewal process.
- 4.8** Uaxactún Conservation Agreement third phase renewal process.
- 4.9** Carmelita Conservation Agreement final report (first phase of 2 years).
- 4.10** Buen Samaritano Feasibility study report.
- 4.11** Socio-economic base lines of Uaxactún, Paso Caballos and Carmelita.
- 4.12** Newsletters related to “community conservation agreements”.
- 4.13** Support letter of CBD Focal Point from CONAP.
- 4.14** Study case about community conservation agreements in Maya Biosphere Reserve, provided to CBD focal point in CONAP.
- 4.15** Participation in IV Mesoamerican Protected Areas Congress to present a poster with information of Conservation Agreement in Paso Caballos, Laguna del Tigre National Park.
- 4.16** Draft I Modifications for Conservation Agreement Model
- 4.17** Conservation Agreements of Uaxactún, Paso Caballos and Carmelita.
- 4.18** Conservation Agreements final reports for 2 years periods (Uaxactún, Paso Caballos and Carmelita)
- 4.19** Support letter of Margarita Mora/CI Manager for Conservation Agreements in Latin America.
- 4.20** UK Ambassador Visit to Petén.
- 4.21** Media Monitoring related to UK Ambassador visit to Petén.

## Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	X
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	