

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No	20-012
Project Title	Improving anti-poaching patrol evaluation and design in African rainforests
Country(ies)	Cameroon
Lead Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), University of Oxford
Collaborator(s)	Cornell University (CU), James Madison University (JMU), Korup Rainforest Conservation Society (KRCS), Coastal Forests Program of WWF-Cameroon (WWF-CFP), Programme for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources – Southwest Region (PSMNR-SWR), Ministry of Forest and Wildlife (MINFOF)
Project Leader	Prof. David W. Macdonald
Report date and number (eg HYR3)	31/10/2013 - HYR1
Project website	pending

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).

The agreed timetable included for the project's first two quarters (Year 1; Q1 + Q2) only actions towards Output 1 (Development of Anti-poaching Evaluation and Design Protocol) and Output 2 (Understanding Poaching Patterns in the Study Region).

Specifically, towards Output 1 the following activities were scheduled: a) setting up a 12 sensor acoustic monitoring grid and a line-transect network in Korup National Park (KNP), b) collection of data on gun hunting and wildlife activity from the sensors and line transects, and c) commence the development of species-specific detection algorithms and calculation of the sensors effective detection range for different sounds. The project is on track with all these actions. The acoustic sensor network was set up in early June 2013 as planned and was in fact expanded to 17 sensors in total via the addition of five sensors from Cornell University (DI partner). These extra sensors are a welcome addition as they expand our overall monitoring area. The sensors were successfully checked three months later, as planned, and have successfully collected data which will be soon analyzed at Cornell University's Bioacoustics Lab. An additional sensor is to be installed and maintained outside the park in collaboration with a German NGO (estimated installation: December 2013). The data from that sensor will increase our control data in areas that will not be directly affected by the increased anti-poaching effort in Year 2. The line transect network was in place by May 2013 and monthly surveys are continuing according to schedule. Cornell University's team (led by Peter Wrege) are on track with the development of detection algorithms for Korup's primate species, a process which will continue for the next six months. Additional calls will be collected in the field by Christos Astaras (WildCRU) in early December 2013 to help fine tune these algorithms. According to schedule, Astaras will also lead at the same time a series of field tests to help better estimate the effective detection range of the sensors for gunshots at the project site.

Towards Output 2, the following actions were scheduled; setting up: a) bushmeat price surveys (monthly), b) hunter surveys (monthly), c) household socioeconomic surveys (rainy and dry season only), and d) tourist satisfaction surveys. Since setting up the acoustic network by June 2013 (a crucial activity for the project) was more time-consuming than expected, primarily because of delays with the importation of equipment and consumables, we made the judgement to ensure that human resources in the field were invested towards this activity as a priority, postponing commencing the surveys until after the heaviest periods of the rainy season (July-September) when travel of village animators/survey coordinators for training sessions

would be problematic. In the mean time, we expanded our project collaboration to include a sociologist from University of Alberta (Courtney Hughes) who will be funded by our project partner PSMNR-SWR to lead the training of village animators and oversee the set up of the surveys. We are currently in the process of finalizing the protocols for household and hunter surveys. Bushmeat price surveys commenced in late September in the town of Mundemba and village of Manja, coordinated by project partner KRCS, and will continue as scheduled. As the rainy season is a non-tourist season, there has been no opportunity to use the tourist satisfaction forms yet (but they are in place for use now that the dry season is about to start).

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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.

Now that the acoustic monitoring equipment has been successfully imported to Cameroon, we will not have further complications with this in the future. We just need to ensure that the 6V batteries for the sensors are shipped well in advance to Cameroon so that our project partner WWF-CFP can arrange for their custom clearing. This process is now “ironed out” and in place.

Although the household/hunter surveys are to commence later than the original schedule, we believe that this will be with no cost to the data analysis as we will still have time to collect dry and rainy season baseline data on poaching patterns in the region by the time the anti-poaching strategies are to be manipulated next year. Moreover, PSMNR-SWR plans to expand the project surveys (with own funds) to additional villages, as part of non-DI related monitoring of their broader activities’ impact on local livelihoods in the Korup region. This means that we will have available to us baseline data for the following years from villages not adjacent to our study area, affording us further baseline data with which to examine the impact of our study on local communities/livelihoods.

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/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

3a. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible through the formal Change Request process. However, it would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication now of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

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.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**