



Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

Project Ref No.	21-004
Project Title:	Sustainable Ranching and Participatory Land Use Planning in Bolivia and Paraguay
Country(ies):	Bolivia and Paraguay
Lead Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society (Bolivia and Paraguay Programmes)
Collaborator(s)	CIPTA – CIPLA – IDEA
Project Leader	Lilian Painter Ph.D. Maria del Carmen Fleytas
Report date & number (eg HYR3)	HYR1
Project website	www.wcsbolivia.org www.wcsparaguay.org

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).

Output 1: 20 projects to improve livestock management

During the first 6 months of project implementation progress was proposed for the first activity, which will be concluded in the next three months.

Activity 1.1 Conduct interviews with ranchers to identify critical obstacles to implement improved practices

BOLIVIA: During the first six months of the project, cattle management interviews and workshops were conducted in 14 communities of the Lecos Apolo indigenous Territory specifically in the communities of Aten, Munaypata, Correo, Puchahui, San Juan, Inca, Mulihuara, Santo Domingo, Trinidad, Cuba, Pata Salinas, Tanampaya, Tupili and Muiri. A similar evaluation will be implemented in the next trimester in the Tacana indigenous land and will permit selection of the 12 direct beneficiary communities. A total of 283 local people participated in these participatory workshops to map cattle management areas and discuss obstacles for improved practices. Additionally, 55 individual interviews were conducted with small cattle ranchers to document the current situation of cattle management within the Lecos indigenous land. These workshops and interviews allowed us to collect baseline information on cattle abundance and distribution, the current state of available infrastructure for cattle management, distribution of natural pastures, and an estimate of hectares of cultivated pasture in each community the area. During the cattle rancher interviews, we also identified the main sanitary and health problems currently affecting cattle.

PARAGUAY: During this period, WCS Paraguay presented the initiative to nine large landowners located in the Northern Chaco (Alto Paraguay Department), and five of these landowners have signed on to participate in the project. These proprietors have already received a schedule to start the technical assistance provided by the project over an area of 84,000 hectares. Initial baseline surveys were performed to gather detailed information about the current production practices in place in the target ranches, in order to outline a clear documented start point from which to progress towards better ranch management practices. These practices will include but are not limited to: fire control barriers; sustainable forest use, reduction of soil erosion and degradation; jaguar-human-conflict mitigation; bans on hunting; and safer pesticide use. Additionally, as jaguar existence and movements are indicators of habitat quality for biodiversity, and are also the source of jaguar-human-cattle conflicts, the

project staff has trained at least one representative from each ranch to monitor periodically these indicators in the five properties, in order to identify the most suitable predation mitigation measures.

Activity 1.2 Develop specific sustainable cattle management recommendations in consensus with ranchers

BOLIVIA: In consultation with the indigenous ranchers, an introductory training module on best practices in the use of cattle pens, cattle nutrition, pasture management and animal health was conducted with the 14 communities during the same field visits mentioned above. Other training topics that have been identified by the indigenous ranchers include more in depth modules on "livestock husbandry infrastructure" and "animal health". In order to develop these more specific training modules we will carry out a baseline health survey and soil quality evaluation to identify nutritional problems linked to poor pasture condition and guide sustainable management.

Output 2: 5 blueprints for municipal land use plans and 8 ranch zoning plans

BOLIVIA: No progress for this output was proposed during the first 6 months of implementation. In the coming months in Bolivia, we will involve Apolo and Ixiamas municipality technical staff in the implementation of training and technical support project activities. The information on critical obstacles to improved cattle ranching practices that will be gathered in Tacana communities during October will be incorporated into the municipal development plan, currently being developed by Ixiamas municipality with additional matching funds from WCS. In the case of Apolo, where a municipal development plan has recently been concluded, the information on obstacles for the Lecos Apolo indigenous communities will be used to guide annual operating plans.

PARAGUAY: Support from the Environment Government Agency (SEAM) was obtained to develop joint actions for territorial land use planning in each municipality (Fuerte Olimpo, Carmelo Peralta and Puerto Casado). Meetings were held with the Governor of the Alto Paraguay Department and the Puerto Casado Major to inform them of the effective launching of this initiative and to begin planning activities in Puerto Casado. An agreement has been established with IDEA to implement the territorial land use-planning component.

Output 3: Report on the impacts of sustainable ranching projects

Two activities were scheduled for the first quarter and described below.

Activity 3.1 Conduct pre- and post- project surveys on livestock mortality, calving rate, off-take data, and income derived from livestock production.

BOLIVIA: 55 small-scale cattle ranchers were surveyed about cattle management parameters including mortality rate, calving rate, off-take and income derived from livestock production. These surveys showed that cattle production in the area is poorly managed, and that these cattle owners do not apply proper animal husbandry procedures. As a result, overall carrying capacity of the unmanaged pastures is low. According to our data, the 14 surveyed indigenous Lecos Apolo communities have 2,400 head of cattle. The annual pregnancy rate of adult cows older than 2 years is 41% and 1st year mortality rate is 19%. 60% of production is used for reproduction, 30% is sold and 10% is destined for family consumption. This data will be collected for Tacana communities during the next quarter.

PARAGUAY: Surveys of 5 large-scale cattle ranchers were also carried out and will continue next semester, although the general scenario of livestock production was already identified from conversations with landowners and their employees. According to our data, in each of the 5 properties surveyed, there is an average of 12,000 head of cattle. The annual pregnancy rate of adult cows older than 2 years is 80% and 1st year mortality rate is 15%. 80% of cattle are used for reproduction and 20% are sold.

Activity 3.2 Annually monitor land use change, deforestation, and densities of target wildlife species in project intervention areas

BOLIVIA: A baseline on deforestation, and medium and large mammal distribution and

abundance has been developed based on existing information collected by WCS for both the Tacana and Lecos Apolo indigenous territories.

PARAGUAY: After identifying the first five properties to be monitored, WCS Paraguay is now in the process of obtaining remote sensing imagery to conduct land use and deforestation analyses and also collecting wildlife density data. These will be used to establish first year baselines that we will use to monitor land use change, deforestation and wildlife densities on these properties. We expect these baselines to be established by next semester.

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.

An unusually wet rainy season in both Bolivia and Paraguay cut road access to project implementation areas until late August, causing the delay of some scheduled activities, especially those in the field. However, we anticipate being able to compensate for this delay in both activity implementation and associated spending during the remaining 6 months of Year 1.

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: No

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg 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 as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year. 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 and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be: N/A

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 can be discussed in this report but **should also** be 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 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**