

Darwin Initiative Main Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2015)

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
Collaborator(s)	CIPLA – CIPTA - IDEA
Project Leader	Lilian Painter Ph.D. Maria del Carmen Fleytas
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/Twitter/Blog/Instagram etc.	www.wcsbolivia.org ; www.wcsparaguay.org
Funder (DFID/Defra)	DFID

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

Activity 1.3 Formalize recommendations through ranch management plans that ranchers commit to

BOLIVIA: In the last six months we have concluded a ranch management plan for the Lecos Apolo indigenous land that has been approved and committed to by CIPLA, the representative indigenous territorial organization of the ten participant communities. This plan covers 124,973 hectares of the Lecos Apolo indigenous land and benefits 419 families.

In the next six months we will develop ranch management plans with four Tacana communities and four T'simane Mosekene communities.

PARAGUAY: In this period, individual ranch plans, developed with each proprietor last semester, were put into practice, supported by zoning plans also developed in the past period. Biodiversity monitoring continued with camera traps, enabling the identification of conflict focus and economic losses due to big cats' attacks to cattle and making efforts to diminish these events.

Activity 1.4 Implement a technical assistance program to support implementation of the sustainable cattle management plans

BOLIVIA: In the last six months we carried out the third training module on pasture management, additionally to include women who do not participate as much in cattle ranching we also provided training on preparing feed for small domestic animals. The first workshops reached 513 families that own cattle and the second reached 168 families from the 10 target Lecos communities. Veterinary assistance was also provided to 82 families from 9 of these 10 communities targeting 606 domestic animals. In the next six months these modules will reach three Tacana and four T'simane Mosekene communities. Two cattle ranching modules are being developed in Tupili and Chirimayo and are in the final phase of establishment with matching Danita funds.

PARAGUAY: WCS performed an analysis of existing ranching practices of large landowners, and identified appropriate sustainability orientations to build upon them. These practices are being documented in order to incorporate them later in a manual of good practices, once their effectiveness has been evaluated. In the case of medium and small ranchers, WCS is working from management design to the technical assistance needed to implement these improved practices at the ranch level.

Activity 2.1 Facilitate stage 1 land use planning meetings, involving over 1,200 community members are held in all 5 municipalities

BOLIVIA: In the past couple of months we have agreed on a work plan with the Apolo municipality and the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth to develop a plan for the adscription of the municipal jurisdiction to the Joint Mechanism of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation. This plan will be formalized through an agreement between the local government and national authority to reduce deforestation and support sustainable livelihoods, including sustainable cattle ranching. We will begin the participatory process with all municipal stakeholders in the next couple of months.

Activity 2.2 Facilitate stage 2 land use planning meetings involving all stakeholder in all 5 municipalities

PARAGUAY: This activity is planned for the semester due to municipal elections in November and the importance of working with the new authorities.

Activity 2.4 Complete blueprints to guide the development of land use plans, based on what has been agreed upon in the land use planning meetings

BOLIVIA: The municipal plan approved by the previous authorities is in the process of final review by the new municipal council of Ixiamas and a first work plan developed for its implementation will be concluded and begin to be implemented in the next couple of months with WCS technical support.

PARAGUAY: The municipal authorities gave priority to starting the process of “Delegation of Competencies”, supported by the methodological guide developed in the past semester, over the development of land use plans, because of the potential for more immediate results promoting sustainable land use.

Output 3: Report on the impacts of sustainable ranching projects

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

PARAGUAY: A remote comparative analysis of historic trends and projections of land changes, showed that 7 out of 8 landowners (88%) did not present changes in their forest cover; just one registered a clearing that was already planned within its registered land use plan.

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

PARAGUAY: The main unexpected set back has been the change of authorities at the Environmental Ministry in January 2015. <http://www.seam.gov.py/content/asume-nuevo-ministro-de-la-secretar%C3%ADa-del-ambiente>). This has led to a delay in the signature of the agreement between the Ministry of the Environment and Puerto Casado municipality for the delegation of competencies for management of natural resources. WCS will provide technical assistance to the local municipal authorities to engage with the new Minister in order to analyze the benefits and challenges of this decentralization proposal.

BOLIVIA: The engagement with the Plurinational Authority of Mother Earth represents an opportunity to link sustainable cattle ranching with the Bolivian non-market avoided

deforestation mechanism. Additionally, we have been approached by the Departmental Assembly of La Paz to support them in the development of a departmental guideline for cattle ranching. We will work with them on this once we have sufficient monitoring information to evaluate our impact.

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 (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 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:

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

N/A

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 e.g., Subject: 20-035 Darwin Half Year Report**