

## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	23-014
<b>Project Title</b>	Improving livestock management for economic-environmental stability in Mesoamerica's Mosquitia
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Nicaragua-Honduras
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society
<b>Partner(s)</b>	National Agricultural University (UNA) Honduras, Gobierno Territorial Indígena (GTI) Kipla Sait Tasbaika (KST), Gobierno Territorial Indígena (GTI) Mayangna Sauni Bu (MSBu), Secretaría de Energía, Recursos Naturales, Ambiente y Minas (MiAmbiente), Red de Manejo de Bosques Latifoliados de Honduras REMBLAH, Gobierno Territorial Indígena (GTI) Miskitu Indian Tasbaika Kum (MITK)
<b>Project Leader</b>	John Polisar
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc</b>	N/A
<b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>	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).

Note: Due to delays in Darwin's financial system, the project start was delayed through a formal request from April to late May 2016, thereby delaying initiation of planned project activities.

#### **Output 1: Improved livestock management and community conservation techniques adopted by at least 200 families in seven communities**

##### **Activity 1.1 Conduct participatory diagnostics of livestock management and forest conservation challenges in each community and determine tailored interventions**

**NICARAGUA:** Diagnostic tools including questionnaires that record location and characteristics of farms, livestock management patterns and challenges, forest clearing, human-carnivore conflicts, sources of livestock losses, hunting patterns, and livelihood priorities through basic necessity surveys have been designed and produced, along with a data summarization tool. Project coordinators have been selected and prepared for project execution in three indigenous territories (one Mayangna and two Miskitu) that total ~2,800km<sup>2</sup>. Pre-intervention diagnostics will begin next month and include 55 separate livestock management initiatives and a total of 75 families. The team is led by a Mayangna field coordinator with 10 years of experience in biodiversity investigations, supported by an indigenous Miskitu coordinator for the three indigenous territories, and a third junior Miskitu coordinator. As part of the evaluation of pre-intervention farming systems, coordinators will capture GPS coordinates and photographs. Analyses of pre-intervention diagnoses will be completed in November (Q3).

**HONDURAS:** Communities have been selected, indigenous leaders have been consulted, and similar to the above status update, the questionnaires have been developed. Candidates for field coordination selection, customization of diagnostic tools and field reconnaissance is

starting late October. Execution of diagnostic tools is planned for November-December (Q3).

**Activity 1.2 Deliver capacity-building training in participatory livestock management improvements** Due to the postponed initial start noted above, followed by extensive subgrant and cooperation agreement negotiation, activity 1.2 was delayed. However, these activities will begin vigorously following the results of the questionnaires and on an accelerated timeline.

**NICARAGUA:** Implementation of farming improvements will be initiated mid-November (Q3).

**HONDURAS:** Implementation of farming improvements will be initiated in January (Q4).

**Output 2: Explicit agreements through which project beneficiaries commit to conservation outcomes adopted by at least 200 families in seven communities across four ethnic groups, four protected areas, and two countries.**

**Activity 2.1 Generate conservation agreements with target communities through a participatory process**

**NICARAGUA:** Initial planning for conservation agreements is underway and will be based on lessons learned following 10 years working in the region. The agreements will be forged mid-November (Q3)

**HONDURAS:** Conservation agreements will be forged in December (Q3)

**Output 3: Report on the impacts of improved livestock management practices, evaluating and comparing forest cover, biodiversity, and poverty reduction impacts across the spectrum of cultural contexts.**

**Activity 3.1 Pre / post monitoring of livestock management practices and livelihoods indicators and biodiversity and forest conservation indicators**

**NICARAGUA:** Pre-intervention forest cover monitoring will be initiated in Q4. Pre-intervention avian and mammal monitoring will be initiated in mid-November (Q3), with the results anticipated in Q4. Implementation of farming improvements will be initiated mid-November (Q3).

**HONDURAS:** Pre-intervention forest cover monitoring will be initiated in Q4. Pre-intervention avian and mammal monitoring will be initiated in Q4. Implementation of farming improvements will be initiated in December or January (Q4).

**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.**

As noted above, the initial project start date was postponed until late May, 2016. Due to prolonged negotiation and approval processes for subgrant and cooperation agreements, the delivery of project funds in both countries was pushed back to quarter 2. However, despite these initial delays, we are operating on an accelerated timeline to ensure project completion. Communities are determined, coordinators are selected, and diagnostic tools are prepared. Field execution will vigorously start in October. Given the extent of remaining year 1 tasks and the challenging logistics of the project area, we prefer to maintain the budget and perform the tasks in an accelerated time table for timely completion in 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: **Yes/No**

Formal change request submitted: **Yes/No**

Received confirmation of change acceptance      Yes/No

**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.

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

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](mailto: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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**