



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2018)

Project reference	3108
Project title	Promoting biodiversity in sustainable oil-palm landscapes for West African smallholders
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Ghana
Lead organisation	University of Leeds, UK
Partner(s)	Nature Conservation Research Centre, Ghana University of York, UK Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana Solidaridad, West Africa Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil, Malaysia
Project leader	Keith Hamer
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR3
Project website/blog/social media etc.	http://www.fbs.leeds.ac.uk/staff/Hamer_K/ . Tweets from project staff tagged @Darwin_Defra

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).

We have made good progress and are on schedule:

1. Identification and cataloguing of biodiversity samples from oil palm and protected forest, chemical and physical analysis of soil samples and analysis of all field data, including smallholder fruit yields and socio-economic survey data, were all completed on schedule.
2. Project findings were presented at an international workshop on sustainable oil palm, held in the UK during May, including presentations by each of the two Darwin Research Fellows (Michael Sasu and Linda Ofosuhene) and project partner Winston Asante (KNUST, Ghana). A further presentation by project partner Rosemary Addico (Solidaridad West Africa) was also scheduled but she was sadly unable to obtain a visa in time.
3. The two Darwin Research Fellows each completed and submitted a research thesis on schedule for an MSc by Research at the University of Leeds. Independent external and internal examiners were appointed and viva-voce examinations scheduled for October (Linda) and November (Michael).
4. Production of further written outputs and planning of community-based dissemination events in Ghana and at RSPO Roundtable meetings all advanced on schedule.

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.

None

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?

None

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R24 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate 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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**