

Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2017)

Project reference	24-005
Project title	Enabling rural poor to help protect biodiversity in the Dja, Cameroon
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Dja Faunal Reserve, Cameroon
Lead organisation	Antwerp Zoo Centre for Research & Conservation, Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp (RZSA)
Partner(s)	African Wildlife Foundation; Living Earth Ltd; local partners (APGS, FCTV, TF-RD)
Project leader	<i>Nikki Tagg</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media etc.	<i>http://www.landscapeconservation.org.uk/darwin-project</i>

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 were informed of the award in May 2017, and activities in the field began in June/July 2017. However, we are confident that we are generally on track according to the timeline and budget, and will have completely caught up by the end of Year 1. In brief, all partners have met on several occasions, both in country and in Europe, and with project management always being represented. The entirety of the project has been jointly discussed, and certain aspects of the project divided between partners, depending upon expertise. Accordingly, the project activities in the field will comprise the subprojects of cocoa farming, fisheries, development of REAs, and M&E. We have also discussed opportunities for integration of project activities with other ongoing projects in the region, for increased success. The first money transfer to Cameroon has been made and partners have begun their activities in the field.

Below is a summary of project progress against the agreed baseline timetable:

- 0.1 Partner inception and project launch meeting – the project launch and inception meeting took place in Somalomo in July 2017, where all partners were represented, as well as members of some of the implicated villages, and the relevant local authorities. The launch was well received, and all concerned expressed commitment to its smooth running and eventual success.
- 0.2 Verification and selection of target 22 villages – this has been done; however, it is likely that only 17 villages will be recorded instead of the 22 initially planned because some smaller villages have since merged into larger settlements – however, this will not affect the scope and extent of project intervention; see table below for names of villages and (preliminary) locations (these shall be verified and plotted on an accurate map for the end of year report).

Village name	Y coordinate	X coordinate
Kolgnengue	-	-
Bitchoumam	-	-
Elandjo	282555	368518
Ekoum	281892	369236
Nkoungoulou	280588	368619
Nke	276730	370695
Maleoleu	274773	369436
Mitom	273406	369423
Njeula	272132	368882
Djouo	269507	368001
Nemeyong I	268476	367556
Nkolekoul	267050	368039
Malen I	264811	369852
Djolipoum	262575	369549
Kagnol	258782	369108
Scham	256771	369531
Le Kaie	248116	373120



0.3 Baseline review for socio-economic and biological indicators – through working with AWF and TFRD in the same area, some initial baseline data have already been collected. The complete methodology for the M&E of the project is under development (questions devised, methods of data collection decided, necessary elements recruited, etc). In particular, protocol and survey questionnaires are being prepared to continue with these baseline data collection in the 2nd half of yr 1. Baseline data collection will continue with alternative-protein targeted focus group discussions in all villages by representatives of FCTV in coming weeks.

1.1 Workshops for protein-generating alternative scheme – initial discussions with the villagers living between the national park boundaries and the Dja river (the site of intervention) have indicated that increasing the use and efficacy of fishing in the river, as oppose to constructing fish farms (which is appropriate to areas outside of the buffer zone and more distant from the river) would be considerably more effective. The focus of the project’s ‘fish farm construction’ is therefore envisaged to be supporting the development of a ‘community fishing zone’, which is in line with current thinking of building on traditional forms of livelihood rather than looking to introduce (and sustain) paradigm shifts. The project is therefore currently examining the feasibility of such a development through in-depth discussions with the men, women, youth, elders, Bantu and Ba’aka people living in the intervention area, as well as looking at current legislation appropriate to (potentially) setting up a community fishing zone. If the case *is* made, then the project will submit a formal change request to Darwin if relevant.

2.1 / 2.4 Workshops for income-generating alternative scheme – focus groups discussions have taken place with many village groups including people wanting to join the scheme, to verify and establish parameters (agree equitable/transparent management structure/system, information sharing mechanisms/monitoring system), and to increase understanding of benefits/roles, impacts of cultural changes, etc. Discussions with experts have begun, and working closely with local partners and technicians has provided a vast amount of initial information and knowledge regarding the processes, challenges and requirements for developing cocoa farming enterprises in the area.

3.1 / 3.2 Review, verification and/or adjustment of agreed parameters of REAs / Focus group discussion to establish parameters of REAs – underway; model REAs have been collated; and an appropriate draft is being compiled; discussions started in villages; focus group discussions planned for November, to focus on REAs, needs, etc, particularly for protein. The initial idea was to have them signed with each community but past experience show that community projects are not always successful. Individual REAs will be considered

4.1 Bimonthly reports of local partners – there have been regular (approx. bimonthly) meetings of in country partners, and in country coordinator is collecting and collating regular reports.

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.

There have been no notable problems of unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered since it began in June/July 2017. There are therefore no problematic implications or problems caused for the budget or timetable of project activities.

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?

There are no issues we wish to raise at this stage.

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 R23 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**