



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

Project reference	24-005
Project title	Enabling rural poor to help protect biodiversity of Dja, Cameroon
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cameroon
Lead organisation	Antwerp Zoo Centre for Research & Conservation (CRC), Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp (RZSA)
Partner(s)	African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Living Earth Limited (LEL), Association de la Protection de Grands Singes (APGS), Tropical Forest & Rural Development (TF-RD), Fondation Camerounaise de la Terre Vivante (FCTV)
Project leader	Dr Nikki Tagg
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media etc.	www.landscapeconservation.org.uk/darwin-project

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).

Summary of achievements April – September 2018

Monitoring and Evaluation

Bushmeat offtake data collection

- First set of data collected in December 2017 and January 2018 all entered in computer. Indicator here is electronic data collected. It is named “First offtake data” attached
- Preparation of anqueteurs and hunters for second offtake data collection; correction of mistakes recorded during first data collection, training of anqueteurs, sensitisation of hunters in Elandjo, Bitchouman, Kolyengue, distribution of data collection material to anqueteurs and hunters. Indicator here are pictures, named “Offtake 2” attached
- Follow-up of anqueteurs and hunters in the different villages; mistakes corrected, more material given to anqueteurs, data collected. No indicator here.
- Follow-up of anqueteurs and hunters in the different villages; all second set of data sheets collected. Indicator here are data sheets, cannot be presented.
- Second set of data is currently being entered in computer. No indicator yet.

Wildlife Survey

- Selection of sites on the map where transects will be placed in the field, drawing of the map and indicating positions of transects, writing of protocol of the survey. Indicators here are the

map with transects named “Map” and the protocol of the survey named “Survey protocol”, all attached.

- Presentation of map, protocol to partners, authorities - conservator, chef d'antenne, sous prefet, etc. Both were presented to chef d'antene and sous prefet of Somalomo. No indicator here.
- Preparing transect opening in the field; Informing/preparing local guides and villagers in villages, identifying where to lodge the research team, etc. No indicator here.
- Opening of transects in the forest in the three transect site identified on the may. Indicators here are new waypoints (accurate ones) recorded on each transect. The excel page containing them named “Transect waypoints” attached.
- Data collection on mammalian inventory on the different transects opened. Indicator here are few pictures of the research team on transects collecting data, named “Data collection pictures” attached.
- Data entered in the computer. Indicator here is the electronic data named “First wildlife survey data” attached

Alternative Protein sources

- Organisation of fishermen and women of the seventeen villages into a Common Initiative Group (GIC)
- Legalisation of Common Initiative Group
- The continuous provision of community members with valuable information on project activities in general and fishing activities specifically that will lead to the improvement of their living standards and their understanding of the need to conserve wildlife found in the Dja Fauna Reserve
- The conduction of studies by three master’s students on different aspects, such as the constraints lined to fish conservation in the Dja landscape; inventory and measurement of fish species in the Dja river and community engagement of fishing in the buckle of the Dja; Challenges and perspectives for better resource valorisation
- The signing of Reciprocal Environmental Agreements (REA) by 90 community members as an indicator of their engagement to contribute in the protection of wildlife.
- The putting in place of mechanisms to ensure those who signed the REA respect the clauses of the agreement.
- The construction of fish smoking stoves in the different fishing sectors
- The training of communities on the production of artisanal life jacket
- The contribution of the fishermen in the writing of a leaflet on the necessary safety measures to be taken by those involved in fishing
- The informal training of fishermen on sustainable fishing
- Participation at the Dja Actors’ Forum to share the project’s experience in getting communities around the Dja Faunal Reserve engaged in the conservation of wildlife.

Additional sources of revenue (cocoa)

- Restitution meetings organised in the 17 villages to present the draft of quid-pro-quo, discussions and validation
- Restitution meetings -Preparatory meeting for planning of cocoa season activities with the farmers
- Restitution meetings -Establishment of a work plan with the farmers, for the cocoa

growing season

- Restitution meetings - Organised sessions for Presentation of REA document to the farmers in the 17 villages farmers
- Identification of old fallow areas for development and setting up of new cocoa farms
- Training of farmers on best cocoa farming practices and technics for planting, farm maintenance, harvesting fermentation of good quality cocoa
- Organising the cocoa farmers groups for group sales to market their cocoa
- Organise tree planting campaigns with resources persons to plant fruit trees species associated with cocoa
- Rehabilitate plantations (clearing of plantations, adjustments of shade, standardization of planting densities, maintenance and renovation size, control of pests, black pods, replanting, diversification
- Regular follow up of farmers to inspect their farms and provide technical advice and possible solutions to problems encountered
- Proximity monitoring of farmers and capitalization of failures and successes to establish good practices that can be disseminated in the other peripheral areas

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 were challenges relating to the Chef d'Antennae (MINFOF Conservation Service) requesting 'payments' for project staff to enter the buffer zone. This is outside of the agreement with MINFOF and was therefore reported to the Director of Fauna and Protected Areas, with a consequence that the issue has been addressed. It is expected, therefore that there will be no impact on the project, although it is being monitored by the local project staff

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 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?

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. 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**