

Darwin Initiative/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2019)

Project reference	24-005
Project title	Enabling rural poor to help protect biodiversity of Dja, Cameroon
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cameroon
Lead organisation	Royal Antwerp Zoological Society
Partner(s)	Projet Grands Singes, Foundation Camerounaise de la Terre Vivante, Living Earth, African Wildlife Foundation, Tropical Forest Rural Development
Project leader	Dr Nikki Tagg
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR3
Project website/blog/social media etc.	https://www.landscapeconservation.org.uk/dja-biosphere-reserve-cameroon

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).

Fish Farming; Five sensitisation meetings have been organised by the project in the villages; four in collaboration with the conservation service of the Dja reserve and one with the local common initiative group – ASCADE. Focus was on the proper conservation and commercialisation of fishing products and on fishing in the Dja with limited negative impacts on the environment.

The second set of fish farming material was handed to the common initiative group of fish farmers. This group have setup internal rules and regulation to ensure a proper distribution and use of the material

Four local smokers have been constructed in the forest and are being used by fish farmers to smoke fish. The last two are under construction now with the supervision of the common initiative group. This is an aspect of ownership which is encouraged by the project, to prepare the group to eventually take over management of the entire fishing activity

Cocoa Farming; Newly created cocoa farms in the 17 villages have been geolocalised. Waypoints were recorded in more than fifty cocoa farms and a map produced. The map was presented to villagers and the land used system explained. This was aimed to stop villagers from cultivating at the limits of the Dja reserve.

A new cocoa nursery was setup in Maleuleo with a capacity of 10000 cocoa plants. A cocoa tree planting campaign has been organised in preparation to planting the young cocoa plants in plantations

More than 89 cocoa farmers received training on the use of bio-pesticides for the treatment of cocoa diseases.

A value chain model for cocoa cultivation and commercialisation was produced. It is pending presentation to the different stakeholders in the chain and later to Darwin.

Monitoring and Evaluation; The fifth bush meat offtake data set has been collected in the villages, currently being entered in computer. The sixth set is being collected. A survey on fishing was lunched in the 17 villages. The biomass of fresh and smoked fish as well as the quantity consumed by farmers, sold and the cost is current being recorded by fish farmers. A survey was also lunched on cocoa output in the 17 villages. The quantity of cocoa harvested and sold during the 2018 campaign is being recorded. Measures are being taken to record the 2019 harvest and sales of cocoa.

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.

We have gained significant insights into how an increase in wild-fishing (stimulated by the project) impacts on the community. There are two factors that will help us deliver the project over the next eighteen months:

1. Data collection and analysis identifies that around 80% of the fish caught is sold by the fisher-person to a local buyer. The remaining 20% is used for personal consumption
2. The local buyers of fish are predominantly women, and they sell the fish to more-distant communities

The information impacts on the project through:

- 1.1 confirmation that generating income is a priority for local people, over and above the desire to eat a product that can be legally sold
- 1.2 the project team analysing the trade in cocoa and looking to build capacity of local buyers in wild-caught fish
- 2.1 a recognition that specific activities can be targeted to individual women, and potentially a women's association or GIC, to support sales to a wider, more profitable audience
- 2.2 directing project activities to overcome both legal and illegal barriers to trade i.e. taxes imposed on trade in both cocoa and fish, and reporting illegal confiscations and taxes by Government officials

In addition, we have raised the issue of a potential conflict of interest between donor funding (non-Darwin) and a private sector company owned and operated by a member of a donor supported organisation i.e. utilising public funding as investment by one individual company. This is being taken forward by the donor in-country.

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 – specifically the role of women in project activities was a focus for attention
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Formal change request submitted:	No
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Received confirmation of change acceptance	N/A
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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 R25 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 DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to 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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**