

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

Project reference:24-026

Project title: Integrating traditional knowledge into Guyana's conservation policy-making and practice

Country(ies)/territory(ies): Guyana

Lead organisation: Royal Holloway University of London

Partner(s):World Conservation Monitoring Centre, North Rupununi District Development Board, Ministry of Indigenous Peoples' Affairs, South Central Peoples Development Organisation, Environmental Protection Agency, Cobra Collective

Project leader: Jay Mistry

Report date and number (e.g., HYR3): HYR2

Project website/blog/social media etc.: <http://projectcobra.org/cobra-project/traditional-knowledge-and-conservation-in-guyana>

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).

Over April to September 2018, we have carried out the following:

- 1) Continued community engagement with the Iwokrama Forest, Kanashen and Kanuku Mountains protected areas (PAs) involving developing participatory videos on traditional knowledge (TK), relationships with PA authorities and TK community owned solutions. In addition, the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process was undertaken with additional communities of the Kanuku Mountains.
- 2) Began video communications between communities and stakeholders in Georgetown. This involved the NRDDDB Indigenous researchers collating video material from the Iwokrama PA communities in the form of short films to facilitate the video dialogue. In June 2018, a screening of these videos took place in Georgetown with staff of the Iwokrama International Centre. Following this screening, Iwokrama staff were video interviewed and a response film was produced to take back to the communities. This response video was screened in the engaged communities and will be screened in October 2018 to the leaders of the NRDDDB.
- 3) Analyses of traditional knowledge integration from protected areas. We have begun to collate the TK indicator data from Iwokrama and Kanashen, using the community workshop and participatory video datasets. In addition, we are compiling the best practices and recommendations from the reports and reviews done in year 1.
- 4) Built greater awareness with partners and relevant stakeholders through face-to-face meetings and presentations. As well as one-to-one meetings with project partners, we have had ongoing meetings with the Department of Culture, and also made presentations to Rangers of the Protected Areas Commission during community outreach, to staff of the Environmental Protection Agency, Amerindian Peoples Association and Guyana Forestry Commission. The NRDDDB and KMCRG are updated on project activities during their quarterly Board meetings. Efforts to engage the Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission and the

Guyana Lands and Survey Commission are underway and tentative meetings are scheduled with the core and executive body of the National Toshias Council for October and November.

5) Exploring and developing a template for the TK National Action Plan (TKNAP). We have consulted materials from the CBD, and previous action plans, and have been discussing and starting to draft sections of the TKNAP.

6) Continued project dissemination through the website and project outreach. We have had regular postings on the project website and on associated Facebook and Twitter sites. The NRDDDB team participated at outreach activities during the Annual Turtle Festival in the village of Yupukari and during the celebration of Amerindian Heritage Month – the launch in Annai on the 1st and 2nd September and North District Celebrations on the 21st and 22nd September.

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.

Following meetings with government agencies and the British High Commission in June 2018, we realised that there will most likely be national elections in Guyana in 2020. This could impact the likelihood of uptake of the Traditional Knowledge National Action Plan (TKNAP) by the Guyanese government. As such, we have decided to bring forward the drafting and completion of the TKNAP. It will be drafted by March 2019, go through consultations with the aim to be completed by December 2019. There will be no budgetary changes.

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:	N/A
Received confirmation of change acceptance	N/A

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.

N/A

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 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**