



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

Project reference	25-011
Project title	Andean bears and people: coexistence through poverty reduction.
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Bolivia
Lead organisation	Chester Zoo
Partner(s)	PROMETA, WildCRU, CERDET, IICA, Natural History Museum Alcides D'Orbigny
Project leader	Alexandra Zimmermann
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	HYR2, 31 October 2019
Project website/blog/social media etc.	

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).

According to the agreed timetable for this project, and based on a 1-year proof of concept study carried out by scientists from Chester Zoo, PROMETA and WildCRU, new income generation strategies have been identified and training and capacity building is currently underway (Output 2). Community consultations, training and mentoring events were carried out, in which beekeeping was identified by seven communities as a suitable economic alternative; this matches the results of the baseline assessment. Other alternatives identified during the baseline assessment are growing lavender (essential oils), and fruit trees i.e. apples and avocado. At the beginning of the year we reported that the first beehive had been harvested (March), and by the end of spring-summer (May), thirty-six beehives were allocated in four communal apiaries, with two communities having harvested honey for first time. During the autumn-winter months, further capacity building focused on apiary management, which was carried out in all communities, with accountancy training also delivered in three communities. By the end of September, all communities involved in beekeeping had their apiaries in excellent condition, and with few exceptions, all community members have received training in beekeeping and are capable of building their own apiary.

In order to contribute in part to improving tolerance of the presence of Andean bears (Output 3), workshops with communities (in particular, those that have suffered major losses) to improve livestock protection practices and to reduce losses caused by bears and pumas (3.2) have been developed. To date, these workshops have been delivered in two communities, with delivery due to continue during the remaining months of this year. Depredation events have been recorded in the calendars (3.3) that have been distributed to all communities within the project area, and in other communities throughout the Andean bear's range in Bolivia, as part of the Andean Bear Action Plan (Output 5) implementation. Data from these calendars will be available at the end of the year. A social marketing strategy has been developed in order to increase tolerance of bears amongst target communities (3.4). Initial activities are focused on schoolchildren, and are currently being implemented in four schools (San Lorencito, Hoyadas, San Isidro and Pajonalcito).

Alongside all of the above community-centred work, population monitoring of bears and pumas (Output 4) has continued. Preliminary findings (bear individuals, and other fauna) have been shared with communities through posters at each school (4.3). Individual identification of bears has been carried out with a preliminary result of one

dominant male, at least two to four females and two cubs in the San Lorencito-Pajonalcito area, four individuals in Hoyadas-San Isidro, and one individual identified in the new area Hoyadas-Cercado (4.4). The project area is not included in the distribution maps in Mammals of Bolivia (Wallace et al. 2010) or the Red List of Bolivian vertebrates (Aguirre et al. 2009) for any of the large mammals that have been photographed. The same is also the case for the distribution maps of many of these species on the IUCN red list. These results illustrate the importance of this project for increasing our knowledge of these species, as well as highlighting the importance in terms of large carnivore diversity within the dry forests.

Scheduled meetings with government authorities (5.1) for August have been postponed due to wildfires in the Chiquitano region, which were at the centre of global media attention due to the ecological importance of this ecosystem. However, it is important to report that bear research in the Boliviano-Tucumano region has continued in El Palmar National Park and Lagarpampa-Mollepampa Departamental Park. (5.1).

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.

Unfortunately, workshops with government authorities (5.2) have been difficult to achieve during this period. According to our project implementation timetable, activities and regular meetings with the working group should have been held during these first six months. However, personal communications via email to Ms Fabiola Suarez, who is our direct contact at the General Directorate of Biodiversity and Protected Areas, (vice ministry of Environment, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Forest Management and Development) have been regularly carried out. An election year and wildfires in the Chiquitano region have disrupted formal meetings that had been scheduled to provide updates and discuss further activities. In terms of timetable this delay can be rectified in the next month, and this will not be considered a change in budget.

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.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

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**