

## Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021)

<b>Project reference</b>	Main project 26-024
<b>Project title</b>	<i>Improving indigenous Bolivian Chiquitano people's livelihoods through sustainable forest management</i>
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Bolivia and Brazil
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, United Kingdom
<b>Partner(s)</b>	NGO Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza, Santa Cruz, Bolivia; Museo de Historia Natural Noel Kempff Mercado, Universidad autónoma, Gabriel Rene Moreno, Santa Cruz, Bolivia; NGO PlantLife International, United Kingdom
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Bente B. Klitgård</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	<i>HY3. From April 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<i>Facebook: @MuseoNKM, @FANBolivia Twitter: @KewAmericas, @FANBolivia Annex: Supplementary material</i>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).**

**[Here we report against the logframe agreed in change request of December 21<sup>st</sup> 2020 \(Logframe\\_26-024\\_20191221\)](#)**

***Output 1. Five indigenous smallholder communities in the Chiquitano dry forest ecoregion apply best practices to build climate resilience and sustainable forest management.***

Activity 1.3. The manufacture of a seed mill and a hydraulic press for cold extraction of oil from the pesoé seed was completed. Both equipment, together with the equipment for processing chiquitana almonds, have already been delivered and installed and are being used in the communities.

Activity 1.4. Training has continued in the communities in good practices for the harvesting of chiquitana almond, pesoé and copaibo, so far 73 smallholders (43% women) are being trained. Progress in the training includes identification of areas for harvesting, census of productive trees and harvesting of almond seeds, pesoé and copaibo oil.

Activity 1.5. Training is being carried out in good processing practices for chiquitana almond, pesoé and copaibo, with demonstrations of the use of the equipment obtained in activity 1.3. 59 smallholders are participating (42% women).

Activity 1.6. The application of good practices for the harvesting and processing of chiquitana almond, pesoé and copaibo is being monitored from the beginning of the harvesting season (June 2021).

Activity 1.7. Three draft manuals of good harvesting and processing practices have been validated with the communities for the three selected NTFP species: chiquitana almond, pesoé and copaibo. The manuals will be published in Q3 year 3.

***Output 2. Indigenous smallholder communities of the Chiquitano dry forest ecoregion are organised in a community forest enterprise and sign mutually beneficial agreements with three companies and take measures to share benefits in a fair and equitable way to develop sustainable value chains based on biodiversity products.***

Activity 2.2.a. six communities have been trained in producer organisation skills. As a result, five community forest enterprises have been organised with a total of 63 active members. Two community enterprises work with copaibo, two community enterprises with pesoe and one community enterprise with almendra chiquitana.

Activity 2.2.b. Five business plans have been elaborated for each of the community forest enterprises in a participatory manner. The final documents have been validated by the community enterprises and implementation has started.

Activity 2.2.c. Technical assistance in business management (organising a community enterprise, accounting, negotiation, sales and marketing) has been provided to the five community forest enterprises.

Activity 2.5. The process of facilitating alliances between community forest enterprises and other processing and distribution companies has been initiated. Three of the community enterprises have partnered with the Saberes Ancestrales (Ancestral Knowledge) distribution initiative and the other two are negotiating with a couple of interested companies.

**Output 3. Priority species, habitats, and sites for plant conservation in the Chiquitano dry forest ecoregion identified, documented and published; plant dataset shared with Bolivian partners and biodiversity centres; and national capacity to assess plant conservation priorities built through training of scientists and pre- and post-graduate students.**

Activity 3.4b. We have focussed on this activity and have identified the centres of floristic diversity of useful plants using modelling techniques and plant occurrence data. The centres have been incorporated into the Important Plant Area assessments. In addition, we have a nearly final version of a manuscript to be submitted to an international peer-reviewed journal. In this manuscript we analyse the diversity, distribution, and conservation status of the 1,260 useful plant species recorded as native to the Chiquitania.

Activity 3.4ci. We have begun this activity. However, after discussion between the project team and the editor of the journal Kempffiana, we have decided to produce an ebook, which will give us ultimate freedom with regards to the book design and page numbers. The book is on target to be submitted for publication by end year 3.

Activity 3.4cii Please the supplementary comms and dissemination report.

Activity 3.5. Changes in the university calendar following COVID19 measures means that holding the course in Q4 year 3 will secure the participation of more students than if held in Q2 of year 3.

Activity 3.6. the last four dissertation projects are being completed. The reports for the universities have been completed and will be submitted by December 2021. After that the elaboration of manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication will start; and the students will defend their theses orally at their respective universities.

Activity 3.7. Databases are kept up to date and are held on the project Sharepoint, which the three main partners have access to. More importantly, we have shared the data and maps TIPAs network maps and kml shapefiles with GADSC and FAN, who are incorporating our results into their revised masterplan for protected areas in the department of Santa Cruz. In this plan GADSC has adopted IPAs in line with RAMSAR and IBAs site methodology.

**Output 4. IPAs of Chiquitano dry forest Ecoregion incorporated into subnational action plans on conservation and sustainable development. Local authorities, officials and rangers equipped with strategic knowledge, tools and capabilities for the effective management IPAs and protected areas.**

Activity 4.3. We held several meetings with GADSC in Q1 of year 3, whilst the previous government and administration was still in place. However, due to COVID19 measures, forest fires and political unrest in Bolivia, the new administration was delayed in taking over and establishing themselves. Therefore, we are holding off organising another meeting/progress workshop with GADSC, until we feel sure that the staff will stay in their positions within the government and administration.

Activity 4.4. Again, here we have been holding off organising workshops due to COVID19 measures, forest fires and political unrest in Bolivia. The first set of workshops are planned for Q3 year 3.

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for COVID-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

N/A

**2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of COVID-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

Activity 3.4ci. We have begun this activity. However, because COVID19 measures have prevented Kew staff from travelling to Bolivia throughout 2021, we have some outstanding gap-filling field work in three of the identified TIPAs sites (Noel Kempff National Park, Baja Paragua and Concepcion). We plan to undertake this in Q4 of year 3, unless reinstated COVID19 prevents us again from undertaking this field work. After discussion between the project team and the editor of the journal Kempffiana, we have decided to produce an ebook, which will give us ultimate freedom with regards to book design, page numbers etc. The book is on target to be submitted for publication by end year 3.

Activity 3.4b. We have focussed on this activity over activity 3.4ci, because it was 100% desk work; and we have identified the centres of floristic diversity of useful plants using modelling techniques and plant occurrence data. The centres have been incorporated into the Important Plant Area assessments. In addition, we have a nearly final version of a manuscript to be submitted to an international peer-reviewed journal. In this manuscript we analyse the diversity, distribution, and conservation status of the 1,260 useful plant species recorded as native to the Chiquitania.

Activity 3.5. Several factors (e.g. COVID19, late semester start at Bolivian universities) we decided to offer this course in January 2021.

Activity 4.3. New GADSC authorities were appointed in May 2021, following an electoral process. The Progress Workshop with GADSC governmental stakeholders (Activity 4.3) was expected to take place after the activities of the technical teams were normalised. However, this process is taking longer than expected, as the renewal of the team has coincided with the fire season, which took up a large part of their agenda. Thus, this activity is expected to be implemented during Q3 of year 3 once the fire season is over and the changes in the technical teams are consolidated.

Activity 4.4. We have been holding off organising workshops due to COVID19 measures, forest fires and political unrest in Bolivia. The first set of workshops are planned for Q3 year 3.

While the project implementation timetable for year 3, is slightly affected, we do not foresee that the delays will spill into year 3; and the project budget will not be affected by these changes.

**2c. 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 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.** 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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

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

We do not plan to submit a change request, because we predict that the project implementation timetable for year 3 will only be slightly affected and do not foresee that the delays will spill into year 4. Furthermore, the project budget will not be affected by these changes.

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.

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](mailto: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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**