



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

<b>Project reference:</b>	25-011
<b>Project title:</b>	Andean bears and people: coexistence through poverty reduction.
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Bolivia
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Chester Zoo
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Chester Zoo, PROMETA, WildCRU, CERDET, IICA, Natural history Museum Alcides D'Orbigny
<b>Project leader</b>	Alexandra Zimmermann
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	-

### 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).

This is a three-month report (July-September).

Area of study: Eight communities of the San Lorenzo Municipality (-21.12S, -64.96W), Tarija, Bolivia: Alizar, San Lorencito, Pajonalcito, Hoyadas, San Isidro, San Pedro de las Penas, Yumasa and Noques,

According to the agreed timetable for this project, baseline surveys for 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 (Output 1), have been developed and will be administered in project communities after ethical review. Although the identification of economic alternatives, and training capacities (Output 2) are scheduled for Yr2, in three communities where Chester Zoo, WFN, PROMETA and WildCRU have carried out a 1-year proof of concept, beekeeping has been identified as an alternative livelihood by their members and project scientists through workshops. Thus, training and capacity building of 45 beneficiaries (10 women and 35 men) from San Lorencito, Pajonalcito and Hoyadas is currently undergoing. In addition, a group of women in the community of Pajonalcito are presently discussing producing lavender, as an economic opportunity. Market assessment and potential barriers will be carried out before implementation.

In order to generate tolerance of the presence of Andean bears (Output 3), baseline surveys (3.1) to obtain information regarding perceptions, values and social norms are currently being developed, and will be administered in project communities. Due to the extent of the study area, calendars to record depredation have been designed and are ready to be distributed to project communities (3.3), but also to other communities along the Andean bear distribution range in Bolivia as part of the Andean bear Action Plan (Output 5) implementation. The social marketing strategy to increase tolerance of bears in the target communities (3.4) is under development.

Alongside all of the above community-centred work, population monitoring of bears and pumas (Output 4) continues. Memory cards and batteries from camera trap stations installed during the Chester Zoo, WFN, PROMETA and WildCRU project, have been recently changed and the revision is underway (4.1). For the new areas, preliminary assessment of the site has been carried out (4.1), as well as the identification of potential new community parabiologists (a community member trained with professional field research skills) (4.2). Training and deployment of at least 20 new camera trap stations to cover an additional ~300 sq km of area will occur during Q3 and Q4 as planned.

The Andean bear conservation plan has been submitted for final revision to government authorities. Therefore, workshops (5.1) planned with government authorities and community representatives to discuss the implementation of the action plan have not occurred during the second quarter. The team is in regular communications with designated government personnel, and as soon as the document is approved, likely to occur by mid-November, workshops will be organised immediately.

**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.**

The workshop with government authorities (Act 5.1) and community representatives to implement the Andean bear Action Plan has not been carried out, because the government has not yet approved the document. In 2017-2018, with the support of the Whitley Fund for Nature, a two-day workshop with experts, authorities, academics and other key stakeholders, and other activities were organised to build a national conservation plan. The document has been submitted for final revision but is still waiting for government approval. However, we are in regular contact with the government officials, checking on progress and have been told the document will be approved by mid-November, so we can plan for the workshop immediately after. Based on the timeline of project activities, by moving this workshop to Yr1Q3, this activity will be carried out along with 5.2 “Activities and regular meetings with the working group held.”

**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?**

None

**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](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: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**