

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report October 2006

Project Ref. No.	13/011
Project Title	Sustaining livelihoods and protecting biodiversity through development of pez blanco aquaculture.
Country	MEXICO
UK Organisation	Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling
Collaborators	Prof. Lindsay G. Ross and Dr. Carlos A. Martínez Palacios
Report date	31 October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	(2006/1)
Project website	http://www.aqua.stir.ac.uk/GISAP/native-species/darwin.php
NOTE: change of specific address due to upgrade to php	

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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).

This mid-term report is summarised against third year milestones from the original project document. In broad terms, all milestones have been met, all activities are now running and at present we expect to meet most output targets by the end of the current project year in March 2006.

Milestones & Outputs combined from project proposal	Original target date	Progress on milestones to date (31st October 2006)
With SAGARPA and COMPECSA, develop sustainable aquaculture policies to ensure preservation of species flock.	04/06 to 03/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This aspect of the project is underway. A draft discussion document will be available by the end of October 2006. This will be mailed to all institutions and groups having an interest in the topic. Our aim is to promote a lively discussion and feedback [<i>in addition to that already developed through our other activities</i>]. The legacy will be a short manual/discussion document for wide promulgation in the area and in Mexico generally.
Biodiversity & Aquaculture Policy manual completed in years 2/3 in conjunction with stakeholders	4/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See above. The intention is that the final discussion document will be ready at the end of the DI project. This will be disseminated by post to target institutions in March/April 2007 and will also be disseminated electronically (using our DI web site) to our extensive native species email contact list.
Develop final tranche of pond sites with campesinos and SME's	4/06 to 3/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support visit by Environmental and Social consultant MC Alexandra Gutierrez to our community groups to give further advice and support to project development. Community group San Jeronimo Purenchecuario: Pond construction completed October 2006. Tank filling October 2006. Initial trial stocking November 2006. Campesino family/community group in Tarerio: Small intensive 10m diameter tanks systems. In construction Oct/

		<p>Nov 2006. Expected completion November 2006, initial stocking December 2006. This proceeded by meeting with the associated “women’s group” to explore support from the Comision para el Desarrollo de los Pueblos Indigenas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SME collaboration, Tecozautla, Hidalgo: Small intensive 10m diameter tank systems. Completed June 2006. Stocked in June 2006. Now recording good growth. • Family group Erongaricuario: Currently defining project for implementation during 2007. • SME hatchery business initiative: Morelia. Working with Lic. Santiago Heyser to conduct financial appraisal and develop business plans for SME hatchery systems. • SME startup project: Cuitzillo el Grande. Intensive tank systems for grow-out of fish. Project under development.. • SME Cd. Hidalgo: Collaboration with trout farm. Systems under design.
Train stakeholders in pond management and on-growing using participatory techniques	4/06 to 9/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for formation of Cooperatives: Part 1. March 2006, 11 people, San Jeronimo. • Training for formation of Cooperatives: Part 2. April 2006, 11 people, San Jeronimo. • World Bank workshop to explore support: August 2006, 11 people + WB and DI staff. San Jeronimo Purenchecuario.
Train stakeholders in pond management and harvesting techniques.	10/06 to 3/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquaculture starter training: June 2006, Ichupio. Attended by 30 participants from Ichupio, San Jeronimo Purenchecuario, Tarerio, Ukasanastakua, Cd. Hidalgo, Patzcuaro, Villa Madero, + PRODUCE & UMSNH staff. • Aquaculture phase 2 training: September 2006, Ichupio. Attended by 10 participants from Ichupio, San Jeronimo Purenchecuario, Tarerio
Other Training	4/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 PhD Mexico; expected completion December 2006. • 1 Pre-doctoral programme (Spain). Commenced October 2006. • 2 MSc Mexico; completed June & November 2006 • 2 MSc Mexico, in process • 1 MSc UK; completed July 2006. • 4 Licenciatura Mexico
Inputs involving UK staff		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 visits by Prof. L G Ross (June 2006 & Oct/Nov 2006) • 1 web developer task completed (Sept 2006) • 1 visit outstanding by Prof Ross (March 2007)
Further promote Darwin and biodiversity issues through press, TV and fisheries department	4/06 to 3/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Seminars given at CIDEM [Centro de Investigaciones del Estado de Michoacán], April 2006. • Stand at Feria Ambiental: June 2006, Patzcuaro, 6 staff involved plus 4 communities, many visitors. • Radio interview with Dr Mendoza, Radio Michoacán, July 2006. • TV interview on DI with Dr Mendoza, CBTv, August 2006. • Many newspaper articles on the Native Species Conference; La Voz de Michoacán, Provincia, Cambio de Michoacán, La Jornada. • TV article on conference; Canal 3 [Televisa] • Several short radio interviews on the conference. • Radio interview on native species with Prof Ross, Radio

		<p>Michoacan, Oct 2006.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Article in preparation for Aquaculture News
1st Latin American and 3rd Mexican Conference on Native Species for Aquaculture	10/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The third national and first Latin American Conference on Native Species for Aquaculture, was rescheduled from year 3. DEFRA were informed and agreed to this change. • The conference took place in the "Casa de Gobierno", Morelia Mexico, between 18th and 20th of October 2006. • A web site was developed to support the conference: see: http://www.aqua.stir.ac.uk/gisap/Conference/ • The conference was very successful, well attended and extremely well received. • Staging this conference has had the major effect of focusing the interest of many key people on the issues of CBD, use of native species in aquaculture development as well as use of aquaculture as a powerful tool to maintain BD. • Pressure on nations to comply with CBD is also giving a strong impulsion to indigenous species development, even extending to changes in the law regarding importations. • The approach of the present DI project has given a lead to many workers who need to contend with this new situation. • The event has already spawned further meetings on native fish species for aquaculture in Brazil, Argentina and Chile as well as the strong prospect of a series of biennial pan-Latin American meetings to follow up this one. This is a very significant measure of success for the DI project and the timeliness of our original concept. • The existing website is about to be transformed into a reporting and linking point for all interested in this vital topic.
Publish significant results in journals	4/06 to 3/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Article published in Journal of Fish biology; 2006 • 3 Articles published in BIOCELL; 2006 • 1 Article accepted in Aquaculture Research; 2007? • 1 Article accepted in Journal of Applied Ichthyology • 1 Article accepted in N Am Journal of Aquaculture; 2007?
Produce Final Project Report(s)	4/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be addressed in March/April 2007
Significantly strengthened aquaculture group at INIRENA.	4/07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This has already been achieved in general terms. Final reporting will summarise the position in March 2007

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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.

- a. There have again been delays in implementing field site development, principally due to slow release of complimentary funding by state agencies (see earlier reports). The field site work is, nonetheless, progressing positively but can at times be glacially slow.
- b. The local political problems identified in the second year annual report have continued, resulting in the loss of a large number of juveniles and broodstock fish. The progeny was targeted at stocking our field sites and this has caused an interruption in the flow of events. We still have a small number of juveniles with which we can maintain confidence of our collaborators and we are striving to correct the situation so that we will have fingerlings for stocking in 2007. In the meanwhile we are working hard to keep our community groups on-side and to minimise disappointments.
- c. The Conference, originally planned for November 2005, was run very successfully in October

2006. The outcomes of this meeting are extremely significant (see above) and will be fully developed and reported in the 2007 final report to DI.	
Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?	
Discussed with the DI Secretariat: Yes. Conference reschedule agreed with Margaret Okot (by email)	
Changes to the project schedule/workplan: No. Minor changes have been necessary, as may be expected, but essentially objectives etc remain as in the original proposal	
Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? We intend to seek post-project support in January 2007 to further develop this theme. Modest continued support, for say 2 years, will achieve two things:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) It will significantly enhance the outputs from the current work and add to its sustainability. b) Prof Ross, with Dr Martinez, will be able to give the essential support to the developing Native Species and Aquaculture meetings planned in other countries and to the follow-up Pan-Latin American meetings. This is a very significant project output of which DI can be truly proud. 	
Responses to second Annual Report:	See attached document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**