

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

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 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	(2005/1)
Project website	http://www.aqua.stir.ac.uk/GISAP/Darwin/index.htm

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 second year milestones from the original project document. In broad terms, milestones have been met, all activities are now running and at present we expect to meet all second year output targets by the end of the current project year in March 2006.

Milestones from project proposal	Original target date	Progress on milestones to date (31st October 2005)
Train 2 staff members in MSc Sustainable Aquaculture at Stirling.	9/04 to 7/05	MsC Ahumada & MsC Peredo satisfactorily completed their MSc studies on Sustainable Aquaculture at the University of Stirling. They took over the management of the project. In September 2005.
Work on sustainable approach to on-growing through use of integrated systems with other native species.	4/05 to 3/06	Dr. Antonio Campos Mendoza, former coordinator of the project in Morelia, has started to extend the technology of white fish aquaculture to the native Catfish <i>Ictalurus balsanus</i> in the communities of Tiquicheo, Tzitzio and some places in Guerrero. The first part of the project will focus on the reproductive season and maturity in the field and under controlled conditions.
Develop second tranche of pond trial sites with campesinos and SME's	4/05 to 3/06	A second trial site is now under construction at San Jeronimo. This site is well advanced and about 60% of the construction is complete. It will be ready for trials in early 2006. The group of stakeholders has been sponsored by the municipal and state government, for the construction of two ponds of a quarter of hectare each. The goal of these stakeholders is to be able to use their ponds for an ecotouristic site, as well as on-growing..
Extend technology to related candidate species.	4/05 to 3/06	Work continues on <i>Chirostoma promelas</i> , a related species from Lago de Chapala in Jalisco state. This work is principally lab based at present, but is being conducted in collaboration with the state fisheries department in Jalisco.
Train stakeholders in pond management and on-growing using participatory techniques	4/05 to 9/05	A number of community stakeholder groups, from Tzitzio, Janitzio and San Jeronimo, have been trained this year. With a range of expert visits from March to June. Workshops covered subjects in Aquaculture, Biodiversity and Livelihoods in the communities. These workshops were used to field test and evaluate our pond

		production manual, drafted by Mr Peredo, which is now ready for printing.
3rd national Conference on Native Species for Aquaculture	9/05	The third national and first Latinamerican Conference on Native Species for Aquaculture, will take place in the "Centro Cultural Universitario" of Morelia Mexico, from the 18th to the 20th of October 2006. A web site has been constructed and is now active, see: http://www.aqua.stir.ac.uk/gisap/Conference/ This conference has now been deferred to the third project year from year 2. The allocated funds have been agreed as a carry-forward to accommodate this change.
With SAGARPA & COMESCA commence development of sustainable biodiversity plan(s) related to the activity and the species group	10/05 to 3/06	Ms Ahumada completed a MSc thesis on this topic in consultation with Mexican stakeholders. From this, a working draft of policies has been proposed. We will continue to discuss and develop this in collaboration with Mexican agencies.
Publish significant results in journals	4/05 to 3/06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four articles are in press in BIOCELL • One article is in press in Journal of Fish Biology • A number of popular and press articles have been produced.

<p>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.</p> <p>a. There were some slight delays due to a brief gap in local project management. Dr Campos Mendoza left the group in April, but his work was taken over by Ms Ahumada and Mr Perez in September</p> <p>b. There have been delays in pond culture projects, principally due to construction issues and delays caused by slowness of local administration. However, one of the two ponds has been finished and the second one is under construction, and we expect that some preliminary trials can be run from early in 2006.</p> <p>c. The Conference, originally planned for November 2005, has been deferred to October 2006 principally due to staff availability issues. We judge this to be a better target date. The website is now running and the budget allocated has been agreed to be carried forward (email exchange with Margaret Okot [DEFRA] confirms).</p>	
Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?	Yes. Conference carry-forward agreed with Margaret Okot.
Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	No
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	No
Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?	No
Responses to last 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.**