

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	13/015
Project Title	Participatory forest management for medicinal plant production in Peru
Country(ies)	UK and Peru
UK Organisation	University of Oxford
Collaborator(s)	Centro EORI de Investigación y Promoción Regional
Report date	16/10/2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	2
Project website	http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/humaneco/Peru.html

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).		
Project implementation timetable		
Date	Key milestones	Achievements
<i>2. Natural populations of medicinal plants evaluated and monitored</i>		
April	Dissemination of project information and local publicity event	Meeting held in Puerto Maldonado to which representatives of the regional Government, the Manu National Park, Indigenous Organisations and other NGO's attended and where local participants presented the project (see "Informe tecnico Abril 2006" for more details).
April	Planning and supervision of harvest impact monitoring	Methodology re-taught in workshops, then tested and used in all five communities by project participants during first round of harvest impact monitoring carried out by local participants under Peru and Oxford team supervision (see "Informe tecnico final Marzo-Septiembre" for further details.)
April	Supervision of community tasks and six-monthly evaluations	Progress in cultivation of plants and expansion of nurseries and medicinal gardens assessed, updated information on species harvested, yields and phenological control given and problems and improvements identified (see report "Informe tecnico final Marzo-Septiembre" for further details).
April	Mid-term workshop and first draft of management plan	Postponed until December 2006 as stated in last Annual report. First draft of Management plan will be ready by November 2006.
<i>3. Selected medicinal plants propagated and cultivated</i>		
Dec- April	Propagation and planting areas identified, seed and seedling banks established for	In total 71 species of medicinal plants with both known and unknown propagation

	species with known propagation techniques	techniques propagated and cultivated in communities.
April- Sep	Seed and seedling banks established for species with unknown propagation techniques	Underway with seed germination, growth from cuttings, and transplanting from forest being tested for various species (see report outlined above).
Mar 2006 –Sep 2007	Maintenance of gardens and plantations	On-going activity in each being carried out by the local participants in each community.
<i>4. Formulation of management and development plan</i>		
July	Training in the production of herbal medicines and introduction to basic business administration	Peru team entering the field on 24 th October with a specialist to carry out training in each community.
August	Training in business administration	Postponed to February 2007 due to time constraints.

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.

Earlier issues between the Peru project coordinator, the EORI director and other EORI staff were brought to a head by the threatened resignation of the field assistant, a key team member. Extensive communication between the UK coordinator and EORI staff members assisted EORI in resolving a problematic situation with the Peru project coordinator resigning in July. This required a re-scheduling of activities but has been resolved with the re-employment of the field assistant, her promotion to Peru Project coordinator and the hire of an experienced Indigenous field assistant. Despite all delays the project is almost back on schedule with three pending workshops, all of which will be completed by the end of January 2007 (see project implementation timetable above for details).

In addition the commitment of the communities to the project has been re-affirmed by them during the EORI team's last visit in August (see "Informe tecnico final Abril- Septiembre").

Furthermore, EORI have given folders of botanical samples collated with local and scientific names which have been received very positively by the communities, as has the market study report, and the final draft in four languages of pamphlets concerning the ecology, use and preparation of medicinal plants, as a prelude to the publication of a book early next year.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Darwin is fully aware of the situation.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: Yes.

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: Not since the previous report.

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

- We prepared extensive and detailed responses to the review of our annual report, and have received no feedback nor to two emails on the subject to Sarah Moon. We assume that things are in order and we are too well aware of the extensive files of emails and reports that exist in what has been a long and difficult process to replace the old Peru project coordinator.
- We are satisfied and optimistic with the new project team and anticipate the fulfillment of all project activities and a successful conclusion to the project.

Appraisal of Oxford by Peruvian project coordinator:

1. Oxford must continue being an Institution that teaches flexible scientific techniques in addition to being capable, with the collaboration of its partner EORI, to adjust these techniques taking into account the education of the communities, the reality of the area and the budget.
2. Oxford must broaden its vision by supporting not only the tangible results but also considering other types of results such as improving the capacity of the promoters in the analysis of technical information which will make the advantages of carrying out such community investigative work more obvious, and also improve their public speaking capacity.

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 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.**