

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	15-029
Project Title	Certifying Peccary Pelts in Peru: Catalysing Community-based Wildlife Management
Country(ies)	Peru
UK Organisation	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology. (DICE), University of Kent
Collaborator(s)	WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society), INRENA (Instituto Nacional de Recursos Naturales), UNAP (Universidad Nacional de la Amazonia Peruana), UPI (Universidad Particular de Iquitos), Autonomous University of Barcelona
Project Leader	Dr. Richard Bodmer
Report date	31/10/08
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR3
Project website	http://www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/dice/research/peccary

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 start up date: 1 July 2006

The pilot programme for peccary pelt certification made important advances during the six month period in accordance with the agreed timetable.

The Peccary Pelt certification Committee was convened on three occasions between July-September 2008. The Certification Committee reviewed the guidelines for certifying local communities, discussed the procedures for granting certification, and reviewed the applications from 4 communities. The committee decided to grant “provisional certification” to the four communities, noting areas where the communities need to refine the implementation of their wildlife management plans to be granted full certification. This was a very important advance in the project, since it required the culmination of parallel processes, including 1) local communities implementing their wildlife management plans, 2) evaluation and documentation of the implementation, 3) local communities officially applying for certification, 4) the certifying committee agreeing on the procedures for granting certification, and 5) the certifying committee granting provisional certification.

The provisional certification now allows the project to go into full pilot mode. For the first time, certified peccary pelts will move through the chain of custody. This will require setting up mechanisms for labelling certified pelts, verify the origin of certified pelts, transport of certified pelts to the national tanneries, processing certified pelts in the tanneries and sale of certified pelts or certified finished products to the European pelt industry.

The provisional certification enables the pilot project to link implementation of wildlife management plans by local communities to added economic benefits that communities receive from sale of certified pelts. Economic incentives for certified pelts will need to be provided to communities and a mode of payment will need to be developed.

Regular visits were made by project staff to the communities who were applying for certification. Project staff provided extension support and technical assistance for 1) the implementation of wildlife management plans, 2) the process for applying for certification, and 2) documenting the wildlife management actions for the application to the certifying committee.

In addition, five workshops were held between May-September 2008 with participating communities to evaluate the implementation of the peccary pelt certification programme. The objectives of the workshops were: 1) to verify that the certification guidelines were being implemented as part of the wildlife management plans of the participant communities, b) to evaluate if the participant communities were ready to apply for certification and c) to assist the participant communities with the application process. The workshops included a total of 5 rural communities, 27 community members and 3 Peruvian biologists working with community-based wildlife management.

The evaluation showed that four communities were actively participating in the peccary pelt certification programme and following their wildlife management activities to gain certification. These four communities showed reliable evidence of wildlife management actions as part of the certification programme. The results of the evaluation workshop showed that these communities were ready to apply for certification. One of the communities was not ready to apply for certification and require more complete implementation of their management plans. Project staff continued to assist this community.

The final version of the Peccary Pelt Certification Book was completed in June 2008 and 1,000 copies of the book were published in Lima, Peru in July 2008 as planned. This book will help disseminate the certification programme more widely throughout the Peruvian Amazon. The book was officially presented in Iquitos, Peru on 21st of August 2008. The presentation of the book involved a short lecture given by the PI Richard Bodmer followed by a question and answer period. The co-PI Tula Fang and collaborators Pedro Mayor and Pablo Puertas were on the presentation panel. The presentation was attended by national and regional government authorities, members of local and international NGO's, members of indigenous organisations and local communities, university staff and students, and the general public. The book is being distributed to indigenous communities, local villages, government authorities, NGO's, university staff and students, and other interested parties in Iquitos and Lima. To date approximately 600 books have been donated free of charge.

A Peruvian student, Claudia Rios, completed her studies for the MSc programme in International Wildlife Trade at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent in September 2008. Claudia began her training at DICE in September 2007. Claudia conducted her MSc dissertation on evaluating the implementation of the peccary pelt certification programme. Her dissertation will help evaluate, refine and adjust the certification programme in participant communities.

The PI Richard Bodmer gave a key note conference of the peccary pelt certification programme during the 9th International Conference on Wildlife Management in the Amazon held in Rio Branco, Brazil from the 1st to 5th of September 2008. Copies of the Certification book were distributed at the conference to key participants.

Meetings with INRENA-Lima were attended by PI Richard Bodmer and Co-PI Tula Fang in August and September 2008 with the Director of INRENA, Director of Biodiversity Conservation and other staff. INRENA is the governmental body responsible for natural resource management, the Biodiversity Convention and the Management Authority of CITES and are close collaborators of the peccary pelt certification since its inception.

Ten MSc and BSc students from UNAP and UPI participated in 3 wildlife monitoring field courses organised by the project between May – August 2008.

The project continued its collaborations with INRENA, UNAP, UPI, WCS, and the Autonomous University of Barcelona.

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.

There were no notable problems or unexpected developments over the last 6 months.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have

changes been made to the original agreement? NA	
Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	no/yes, in..... (month/yr)
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

3. 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.

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 email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**