#### Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

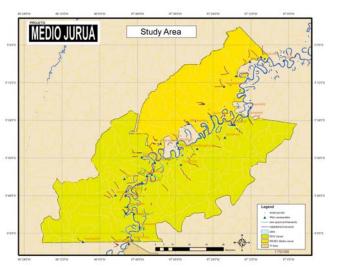
(due 31 October 2008 - extended to 10 December 2008)

Project Ref. No.	R15176 (UEA); Darwin Ref. 16-001
Project Title	Community-based sustainable management of forest resources in Amazonian extractive reserves
Country	Brazil
UK Organisation	University of East Anglia
Collaborator(s)	1) Secretaria do Estado do Meio Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Sustentável (SDS), Environmental Secretariat, State of Amazonas, Brazil; (2) Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Natural Renewable Resources (IBAMA), Brazil
Project Leader	Prof Carlos A. Peres
Report date	31 October 2008; extension to 10 December 2008
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	N/A

# 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).

During this period (1 April – 30 November 2008) we have made a significant amount of progress, both in relation to field activities and discussions with SDS, IBAMA and the management council of the two forest reserves in which we are working in relation to the consolidation of our Darwin project in the Médio Juruá region of the State of Amazonas, western Brazilian Amazonia. These activities can be summarised as following:

- a) We have designed, cut, marked and mapped all remaining transects in terra firme and várzea forest for field sampling following reserve council approval of transect preparation. In total we will be sampling 93 transects of 4 to 5 km in length, not all of which are shown in Figure 1.
- b) We have now consolidated on our household-scale weekly interview protocol, and we are currently obtaining detained data on household economics, including levels of subsistence



consumption and sales of all forest and aquatic products extracted. In total we will be sampling over 353 households from 30 local communities across the Médio Juruá Extractive Reserve and the neighbouring Uacari Sustainable Development Reserve.

c) We have consolidated negotiations with the Fishing Cooperative of Carauarí regarding access rights by and user regulations for the local fleet of commercial fishing boats using long gillnets across the 83 Oxbow Lakes encompassed by the two reserves.

- d) We have now mapped the water catchment areas (watersheds) and the nontimber forest product (NTFP) harvest areas across the two reserves using an interview approach.
- e) We continue to sample fruit resource productivity using both residual fruit-fall along transects and a set of 200 seed-traps placed within two 100-ha forest plots, These samples are being processed at the Bauana Field Station.
- f) We are getting ready to begin a *Copaifera* oleo-resin harvest experiment, for which we had to mobilize the cooperation of several villages. Further work on the NTFP component of the project included mapping all key NTFP trees across 30 transects within the two reserves; phenological monitoring of the key oil seed species; and seedling/sapling inventories to determine the age structure of both *Copaifera* and *Carapa* populations.
- g) We now have nearly 1 yr worth of unanalysed data from our hunting monitoring programme, which now covers ~353 households from 30 different villages (approximately 50% of all communities encompassed by the two reserves).
- h) We now have nearly 1 yr worth of unanalysed forest wildlife survey data from our linetransect censusing programme, which includes sampling as many as 93 forest transects (in várzea and terra firme forests) every month along the 400 km section of the Juruá River in which this large-scale project has been established.
- We have completed forest inventories within 59 trees plots of 0.1 ha (100 x 10 m). Eventually, a total of 300 plots (= 30 ha) will be surveyed across all forest transects in seasonally flooded (várzea) and unflooded (terra firme) forest. Thse floristic and forest structure data will feed into a wide range of outputs, including both the ecological and socioeconomic objectives of the project.

## 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.

The only part of the project that has been substantially delayed for political reasons is the creation and consolidation of the no-take forest areas (wildlife sanctuaries or, in Portuguese, the *áreas intangíveis*) which had been predicted as a major forest zoning initiative of this project. We have faced some unexpected dissent over the creation of these areas in some of the 30 communities that we work with, and the exact number and location of these no-take areas has not been fully agreed by the Management Councils of the two reserves. Realistically, I expect that this experimental component of the project <u>will be implemented</u> soon but our implementation and monitoring schedule has been delayed, and the scale of the experiment may be reduced to only 4-6 large experimental areas (4000 – 5000 ha each within the 930,000 ha of the two reserves) in only one reserve (RDS Uacari), rather than the larger number originally envisaged by the project. These impediments so far have been entirely socio-political rather than logistical. On the whole, however, I do not anticipate that these problems will significantly damage the overall objectives of the project in the medium and long term. We are now finally in the process of cutting new transects in the newly approved no-take areas and we plan to bring them into our monitoring programme in the next 2 months.

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

No

Discussed with the DI Secretariat:

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

Yes, a minor concern in relation to the current financial structure of the project. Despite the significantly stronger Brazilian Real (R\$) in relation to the project currency (GBP) for long periods since the project budget was originally planned, which effectively resulted in a 20% devaluation of the project funds, the project remains viable financially in relation to all operational costs in the field, which accounts for the bulk of the project expenditure (e.g. food supplies; fuel for the boats; local wages for project field assistants and "monitores", which have been raised from R\$15/day to R\$20/day). However, the "Subsistence & Travel" budget categories of the project (according to the UEA budget categories) have been considerably moving some of the funds from "Collaborator Staff" and "Equipment", with no net changes in the project budget. I would be happy to send a more detailed explanation of how these funds could be transferred from one budget category to another in order to sustain the project implementation schedule and objectives into its 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Yrs.

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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> 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 <u>Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please state your</u> project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half <u>Year Report</u>