

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2009)

Project Ref. No.	17-018
Project Title	Management Programmes for Indigenous Voluntary Conserved Areas in Oaxaca, Mexico
Country(ies)	Mexico
UK Organisation	Global Diversity Foundation
Collaborator(s)	CIIDIR-IPN, CONAFOR, CORENCHI, Geoconservación
Project Leader	Gary J. Martin
Report date	31 October 2009
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	General updates on the project are available on GDF's UK website, www.globaldiversity.org.uk

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).

As proposed in our project timetable, we have dedicated the first six months to consulting widely with CORENCHI community members, engaging in capacity building, setting up training events, disseminating results and coordinating with partner institutions.

Consultation: We held three meetings to explore and obtain free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and establish research agreements, codes of conduct and resource transfer accords. Specifically, on 18 May in San Pedro Tlapeusco and on 20 May in Santiago Tlapeusco, the GDF team presented the project during community assemblies, and started negotiations to contract community researchers elected according to traditional community practice. An initial document, written by GDF and signed by local authorities, attests that the communities are aware of and agree with the project including the need for community researchers. A council, composed of ex-authorities committed to conservation, was formed in each community to supervise GDF local activities and project development. On 30 May the GDF team participated in the CORENCHI 2009 third general meeting. We presented the project to CORENCHI authorities and community delegates and we reported on progress in selecting community researchers.

Capacity building: From 22-24 September, we held a workshop to: a) build the local community researcher team; b) dialogue about the meaning and relevance of a community management programme; c) discuss further the research agreement draft; d) work on protocols to request information from external researchers who wish to conduct projects in the communities; and e) start the community research for the community management programme, which will begin with a Participatory Rural Appraisal process.

Training events: We began preparing for a workshop for the community team and an advanced seminar for postgraduate students on ethnoecology and social science research methods – as well as training on information technology for community researchers – all of which will be conducted in coming months.

Dissemination: We have prepared documents, articles and public presentations for disseminating information on the project approach, including a manuscript in Spanish for a book on ethnobiology edited by the Mexican Society of Ethnobiology and an oral presentation for the VII Mexican Congress of Ethnobiology and I Latin American Congress of Ethnobiology at the

Autonomous Hidalgo State University, Pachuca-Tulancingo, Mexico. Originally planned for May 2009, these congresses were postponed until 2 - 6 November 2009; see <http://congmexetnob.blogspot.com/>.

Coordination: We have established ongoing collaboration with colleagues and institutional partners. Dra. Demetria Mondragón, from CIIDIR-Oaxaca, participated in planning the advanced seminar. Salvador Anta Fonseca, from CONAFOR, has generously contributed a wealth of information and government statistics on conservation initiatives that provide needed context for our efforts. We have maintained a close relationship with CORENCHI, the primary recipient partner of the project. This has taken the form of dialogue with its president, Oliverio Osorio, authorities of each member community and the community researchers, which has allowed us to fine tune the project focus and operations in accordance with local conditions and needs. We are planning future joint capacity building sessions for community researchers on the faunistic collections and ethnozoology with Fernando Mondragón of Geoconservación.

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.

None

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

N/A

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 at the is early stage in the project

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**