

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	17-018
<b>Project Title</b>	Management Programmes for Indigenous Voluntary Conserved Areas in Oaxaca, Mexico
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Mexico
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Global Diversity Foundation
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	CIIDIR-IPN, CONAFOR, CORENCHI, Geoconservación
<b>Project Leader</b>	Gary J. Martin
<b>Report date</b>	31 October 2010
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 2
<b>Project website</b>	General updates on the project are available on GDF's UK website, <a href="http://www.globaldiversity.org.uk">www.globaldiversity.org.uk</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).

As proposed in our project timetable, the first six months of FY2 have been dedicated to the continued capacity building, organising training events, dissemination of results and coordination with partner institutions.

**Capacity building:** From early May to late September, we conducted local capacity building through five working sessions to theoretically and practically develop the community management programme for the local Voluntary Conserved Areas (VCA). The GDF-MA team followed the research progress of the two Community Research Teams (CRT) in the communities of Santiago and San Pedro Tlapeusco. The CRT continued to register compiled information and presented their progress to key sectors in their respective communities. In addition, French students Iris Bazin and Victoire Baillet visited our field site in June to work as interns and conduct workshops on fair trade for four groups of coffee producers in San Pedro and Santiago Tlapeusco.

**Training events:** As part of our commitment to training in information technology (IT), in April, May, July and August, the GDF-MA team and our partner organisation Ojo de Agua, delivered a series of community video (CV) workshops. These provided the participants not only with IT skills, but also tools with which to produce and edit their own video. All workshop modules were complemented with public screenings of films produced in other communities and with local achievements. The last module of the CV workshops, held in August 2010, culminated with the production of videos on local livelihoods, traditional celebrations and communal work (*tequio*). The communities now also have an eight member video team, trained to write scripts, conduct interviews, film, edit and host public screenings of their own videos in their communities and at regional events. We have also continued with our training sessions in community mapping (CM) and participatory Geographical Information Systems (pGIS). During April, the CM process continued in the community of Santiago Tlapeusco to develop a 3D and other thematic maps. In July, the project leader Gary J. Martin visited the project site and, on July 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, conducted a workshop on "Ethneclassification" for the CRT. On July 13<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Martin delivered an advanced seminar on ethnoecology and social science research methods at the Institute of Ecology (Instituto de Ecología, Inecol), in Xalapa. This seminar was entitled "Methods of ethnoecological and social research to conduct community social and environmental impact assessments". Some 55 researchers, postgraduate students and NGO colleagues were in attendance. On July 27<sup>th</sup>, in Mexico city, Dr. Martin and the GDF-MA team conducted a seminar on community work methodologies directed towards strengthening biocultural development centres. This was directed to 36 researchers at the National Institute of Anthropology and

History (INAH). Two extra internal seminars were held dealing with current issues in community conservation (July 10<sup>th</sup>) and on action-research (September 7<sup>th</sup>) to build up the research capacities of the local team and partner institutions.

**Community research and biocultural diversity promotion:** Community research on the physical, biological, social and cultural characteristics of the communities and their VCA, using participatory and ethnobiological methods, has been conducted during the first semester of FY2. During May and June, we had the participation of two project collaborators, Tomás Ibarra, MSc student from the University of Kent and Antonia Barreau, who conducted research regarding the effects of local conservation activities on the hunting, nutrition and feeding patterns of local families. The two CRTs actively participated in both projects. Local research has also been integrated into the pGIS and CM processes and outputs. Collaboration with the biological research station, nature refuges and community cultural centres, to produce and deliver joint results, continues through the permanent use of infrastructure, capacity building of personnel and joint dissemination of results.

**Dissemination:** We have prepared documents, articles and public presentations for the dissemination of information regarding the project approach, including: a) a public presentation on June 8<sup>th</sup> entitled “Community participation and biodiversity conservation in the Chinantla, Oaxaca” at an event on “Biodiversity, interdisciplinarity and participation” as part of an event organised by the Institute of Social Research of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (IIS-UNAM) to celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity; b) a poster in Spanish for the II Latin-American Congress of Ethnobiology (II CLE, <http://www.viiisbee-iiclae.com.br/pt/#main>) on “The establishment of community research teams towards the strengthening of indigenous and community conservation” to be presented in November, 2010; c) contributions to the IUCN-CEESP briefing note 10 (May, 2010) “Strengthening what works – recognising and supporting the conservation achievements of indigenous peoples and local communities” (<http://www.iccaforum.org/images/stories/pdf/briefing%20note%2010%20in%20english-%20resolution%20150%20dpi.pdf>) and its accompanying document “Biocultural diversity conserved by indigenous peoples & local communities – examples and analysis” (<http://www.iccaforum.org/images/stories/Database/ea%20icca%20english.pdf>); d) a manuscript for the special issue of the Journal *Management of Environmental Quality* on Traditional Agricultural Landscapes and Community Conserved Areas entitled “Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in Oaxaca”; and e) an article for the IUCN-CEESP’s *Policy Matters* journal entitled “Negotiating the web of law and policy: community designation of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas in Mexico”. This journal volume was launched and distributed at the CBD COP 10 in Nagoya this year. From the 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> of May, GDF-MA field coordinator Irma Juan participated in the pre-congress workshop “Community Conservation in Practice”, prior to the XII International Congress of Ethnobiology in Tofino, Canada. During the ISE Congress from May 9<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>, Irma Juan presented preliminary results of the project through the oral presentation “Community management programmes for Indigenous Voluntary Conserved Areas in Oaxaca, Mexico – the experience of community research teams in two Chinantec communities”, within the session “Community Conservation in Context: Can Designations Embrace the Diversity of Global Experiences?”, moderated by Dr. Martin, the project leader. Dissemination of results and integration of local students has been achieved through their participation in the CM and pGIS workshops. Online videos on community mapping in San Pedro Tlatepusco (<http://globaldiversity.blip.tv/file/4325887/>) and the construction of a participatory 3-dimensional model (<http://globaldiversity.blip.tv/file/4330375/>) were produced and uploaded.

**Coordination:** We have maintained the ongoing collaboration with our main partner, Corenchi, through attendance at their general meetings on April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 8<sup>th</sup>, July 17<sup>th</sup> and September 18<sup>th</sup>, in which the GDF-MA team presented the progress and results of the project. On July 26<sup>th</sup>, we conducted the first project partners meetings to analyse project progress, with the participation of Salvador Anta (Conafor), Fernando Mondragón (Geoconservación), Dr. Gary J. Martin (GDF) and other representatives from both institutions. While Dr. Demetria Mondragón, from CIIDIR-Oaxaca, is still abroad on her sabbatical, she still contributed by reading and commenting on the general report and minutes. We have also had permanent coordination

meetings with other collaborators, such our legal advisers Francisco López Bárcenas and Guadalupe Espinosa Saucedo, and our new pGIS consultants Narciso Barrera and David Jiménez.

**Evaluations:** On September 19<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, we conducted two community project evaluations in Santiago and San Pedro Tlapeusco, with the respective Community Research Teams (CRT)

**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.**

We would like to change the attendance to the following events included in the original proposal:

Instead of presenting of project results at the COP 10 of the CBD conducted on October 18<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, we would like attend the 13<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the International Association for the Study of the Commons on January 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2011. The latter will provide a more adequate context to present our experience, with more participation of people working on subjects relevant to our project, such as the study of commons in community conservation. We have already been accepted as presenters in sessions on “Integrating Local Populations in the Management of Protected Areas” and “Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas as Commons” as well as a Policy Forum on “Community Conserved Areas”.

Instead of presenting of results at the 2010 Society of Conservation Biology Meeting, which was held on July 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> in Alberta, Canada, we will be attending the II Latin American Congress of Ethnobiology, to be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> in Recife, Brazil. This change will allow us to present and discuss our preliminary results to a Latin American audience that share similar social and environmental context with our case of study.

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

We consider these changes as routine, but please inform us if official agreement is needed.

**Discussed with LTS:** no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

**Formal change request submitted:** no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

**Received confirmation of change acceptance** no/yes in.....(month/yr)

**3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No

**If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.**

**Estimated carryforward request:** £

**4. 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.**