

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2011)

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 2011
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
Project website	General updates on the project are available on GDF's UK website, http://www.globaldiversity.org.uk/projects-in-mesoamerica

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 FY3 have been dedicated to the continued community training and building of local capacities, dissemination of results and coordination with partner institutions. We also started the process of writing the management programme document for the voluntary protected areas focus of this work.

Capacity building: Through several working sessions from May through September, we developed local capacity-building directed to the development of the management programme for local voluntary protected areas.. Specifically, in June and September, the local research teams and other community focus groups worked intensively with the GDF-MA field coordinator to define concepts, actions and rules for the management programme, and to include all information previously gathered through local research. The GDF-MA team, along with community groups, started writing the management programme documents. As a complementary activity, the GDF-MA team and 6 community representatives from the communities of Nopalera del Rosario and Santiago Tlapeusco attended the summer workshop on "Indigenous Peoples and the Green Economy" organised in Mexico City by the Mexican National Centre for Indigenous Missions (CENAMI in Spanish).

Internal capacity building. The Darwin project supported capacity-building activities for the GDF-MA field biologist team (two women and one man).. The activities included: a) participation in the symposium "Social perspectives on human-carnivore conflict", at the 3rd Mexican Congress of Ecology, on April 6th; b) participation in the 3rd basic course on rainforest wildlife management techniques, held at Cuetzalan, Puebla, on May 19-22; c) participation in the 2nd Workshop of Pedagogical Exchange, held at Guelatao, Sierra Juárez, Oaxaca on July 11-15; and d) attendance at the workshop "Understandings and Methodology in Popular Environmental Education", held at San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, on August 22-26, and organised by the Popular Environmental Education Network of Chiapas, Mexico (REPACHIS in Spanish) and the Centre for Education and Promotion of Sustainable Development of Cuba (CEPRODESO in Spanish). These training activities have facilitated the development of capabilities of the GDF-MA team, fostering more professional and fine-tuned methodologies for both wild fauna management and environmental education, which are shared with the community during research and education work.

Training events: Community training during this period was focused on intensive working

sessions focused on the development of the management programme and training on community-based natural resources management (CBNRM). In June and September, the GDF-MA field coordinator worked with different community stakeholders in focus groups that allowed reflection on the importance of the management programme, the concepts involved – both scientific and local – and the ways in which it can be implemented. Training on CBNRM continued with four training sessions on vampire bat collection, management and control, held in April, May, June and September, and reaching nine community researchers in two communities. We have also finalised our training sessions on community mapping (CM) and participatory Geographical Information Systems (pGIS), with a final session held in June at the community of Nopalera del Rosario. In this session, the 3D and other thematic maps produced were presented to the community in a formal meeting. In April and May, project leader Gary J. Martin visited the project site and, on April 28th, led an advanced reading seminar on community conservation and Payments for Environmental Services with a small group of researchers in the city of Oaxaca.

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 ethnobiology methods, has been finalised during the first semester of FY3, and the process of integrating all the gathered information into the management programme document has been initiated. Local research has been also been integrated into the pGIS and CM processes and outputs. The local research teams are conducting community registering of biological resources through digital photography. Collaboration with the biological research station, nature refuges and community cultural centres, to produce and deliver joint results, continued through the permanent use of infrastructure, capacity building of personnel and joint dissemination of results. Finally, two biodiversity fairs were conducted in the community of Santiago Tlapeusco (April) and Nopalera del Rosario (July), with the participation of local families.

Dissemination: We have prepared documents, articles, and public presentations for the dissemination of information regarding the project's approach and results, including: a) a public presentation on April 30th entitled "Community research", at the symposium "Community Forest of the Sierra Norte, Oaxaca", organized by Florida International University and CIECO; b) a journal article entitled, "When formal and market-based conservation mechanisms disrupt food sovereignty: Impacts of community conservation and payments for environmental services on an indigenous community of Oaxaca, Mexico", based on the work that student Tomás Ibarra and collaborator Antonia Barreau developed in FY2 on the effects of local conservation activities on the hunting, nutrition, and eating patterns of local families; c) a public presentation on September 2nd, entitled "Community conservation initiatives" at the seminar "Biocultural Patrimony of Territories, Cultural Landscapes and Conservation Public Policies" at the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History; and d) a congress abstract entitled "Community-based studies of territory and habitats to support traditional management and biodiversity conservation in a Chinantec community in northern Oaxaca, Mexico," sent to the International Congress of Ethnobiology to be held in May 2012 in Montpellier, France.

Coordination: We have maintained an ongoing collaboration with our main partner, Corenchi, through attendance at their general meetings in May, July and September, in which the GDF-MA team presented the progress and results of the project. We have also had permanent coordination meetings with other collaborators, such as our legal advisers Francisco López Bárcenas and Guadalupe Espinosa Saucedo, and our pGIS consultants Narciso Barrera and David Jiménez.

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 relevant

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

N/A

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 X

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.

N/A

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**