## **Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report**

(due 31 October 2009)

Project Ref. No. 17-027

Project Title Market Based Scheme for Conservation in La Primavera Forest Mexico

Country(ies) Mexico

**UK Organisation** University of Kent formerly University of York

Collaborator(s) Arturo Balderas Torres

Project Leader Jon C. Lovett, Douglas MacMillan

Report date 21<sup>st</sup>October 2009

Report No. (HYR 1, first report, year 1.

1/2/3/4)

Project website Still be be established. Reports about the project are available on

the University of ITESO blog:

http://blogs.iteso.mx/ambiental/?cat=35

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).

According to the timetable presented below, project is going according to schedule.

| Activities  | Months | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Comments   |
|---|--------|----|----|----|----|--|
| 1.1 Identify the biological corridors and delimit study area              | 1      | X  |    |    |    | Completed  |
| 1.2 Classify the study area according to land-use and tree crown          | 1      | X  |    |    |    | Completed to be updated when new satellite imagery is available. |
| 1.3 Set carbon measuring points and field work logistics                  | 1      | Χ  |    |    |    | Completed  |
| 1.4 Provide training to work team   | 1      | X  |    |    |    | Completed  |
| 1.5 Perform field work  | 7      | X  | Χ  | Χ  |    | Completed  |
| 1.6 Data analysis to determine carbon content and sequestration potential | 3      |    |    | Χ  | Χ  | On going   |
| 1.7 Writing and dissemination of the first part of the report             | 5      |    |    |    |    | On going, Formally planned for 1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Year 2.   |

April-September 2009. In April 2009, the team started planning activities and gathering relevant information about the study area: previous studies, literature, local policies and statistics and satellite imagery. An initial meeting with the project's partners took place in May to discuss with them planned activities for the first year, especially those related to forest inventories and carbon measurement. During this period relevant new contacts were established with the National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR), the University of Guadalajara, The Trust for the Administration of the Forestry Development Program in the State of Jalisco (FIPRODEFO), The Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Economics Program and the Mexican Carbon Program (PMC). The study area and potential biological corridors were delimited using GIS analysis. The methodology for fieldwork was defined. This was to study the oak-pine forests which are the prevalent vegetation in the area; stratification was made on the basis of tree crown cover in order to link plot information with GIS analysis and obtain regional figures of biomass and carbon content. In collaboration with personnel of La Primavera and Universidad de Guadalajara two teams were assembled and trained. 100 plots (900m<sup>2</sup>, 30x30m) within the Natural Protected Area of La Primavera were established. Currently eight undergraduate students from ITESO, two from Universidad de Guadalajara and one lecturer from ITESO have been trained and have participated in the project. Fieldwork sites where the rare Mammillaria jaliscana was found were recorded using GPS. This species is endemic to western Mexico and is classified as threatened according to national law.

The completed first phase of data collection will be used for preliminary statistical testing to ensure the sample is large enough for the relevant analyses. Information from the forest inventory and GIS are being analyzed to obtain figures of the carbon stored in arboreal vegetation and potential for carbon sequestration.

Distribution of Plots Established.



Comunicación Social ITESO, Luis Ponciano.

Preliminary results were prepared in September and presented at the International Carbon Symposium in Mexico in October. ITESO's communication office has followed the project progress and is publishing updates within the University's communication channels and is preparing a press release.

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.

In March-April 2009, the unexpected influenza outbreak in Mexico resulted in a suspension of activities, including academic activities that delayed the starting of the project in Mexico by a couple of weeks. However this has not delayed progress of the project. The change of Dr. Jon C. Lovett from The University of York to the University of Kent in September has been arranged and all administrative requirements fulfilled. No changes in the work plan were necessary. We look forward to working with the University of Kent and also maintaining good contacts with our colleagues in York.

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

The change of Dr. Jon C. Lovett to The University of Kent has been discussed and agreed.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: yes. Initiated July 2009, agreed with DI Secretariat on 12 Oct 2009.

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no, in (month/yr) No Changes needed.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No. everything is fine so far.

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