

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 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 | <i>Jon C. Lovett, Douglas MacMillan</i> |
| Report date | 21 st October 2010 |
| Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4) | 1, first report, year 2. |
| Project website | |

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, activities for valuation of carbon services from the demand side were developed. Carbon footprinting tools based on consumption and national statistics were created. A choice modelling survey was designed to capture the value given to carbon sequestration services through reforestation and forest enhancement. Effect of the location of the project within the national context was investigated. The results show that development of a carbon sequestration project close to Guadalajara in La Primavera would be valued eight times more than geographically distant projects in alternative similar Biosphere Reserves, and the probability of participation will be fifteen times higher. This gives a strong indication of the potential to combine carbon sequestration projects within local payment for ecosystem services (PES) programs. The results will enable determination of the potential carbon prices which can be included in a PES scheme for La Primavera. A total of 340 surveys were administered in person and 450 administered using a web-based survey. Application of two techniques enables comparison of methodologies. The factors and drivers of valuation were identified and shown to be: transparency, effectiveness, access to local co-benefits, and costs/economic crisis.

Preliminary results were presented at the 11th Biennial Conference of the International Society of Ecological Economics held in Oldenburg, Germany and the 2nd International Symposium of Carbon in Mexico organized by the Mexican Carbon Program. The results are being developed into papers which will be submitted to academic journals (e.g. Ecological Economics, Environmental Conservation).

Activities are going according to the plan. Currently the team is preparing for implementation of the fieldwork for surveying landowners in the study areas. Fieldwork is being developed in close coordination with the managerial office of the natural protected area of La Primavera and local NGOs. Development of REDD+ policies and framework both in the international negotiations and in the implementation of REDD pilot projects in Mexico is being closely monitored and the team will attend the UNFCCC meeting in Cancun.

The project received press coverage for finding a 'majestic tree' and also for the collaborative work carried out with the 'conservation canines' team from Seattle who came to La Primavera at the invitation of the Darwin Project to search for evidence of Puma presence:

<http://www.milenio.com/node/483005>

http://impreso.milenio.com/node/8794151

http://impreso.milenio.com/node/8797486

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.

Violence and crime in Mexico has increased substantially in recent months. The project team is taking all the necessary precautions. This was one of the reasons for parallel on-line sampling for collecting views of potential buyers of carbon credits because contacting persons at random in some areas of the city could have been dangerous. During the next fieldwork round of visits in rural areas careful attention will be paid to planning of the schedule and security aspects.

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

No.

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.

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