

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2011)

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	27 st October 2010
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	Half year report, year 3.
Project website	A website is being established on www.celp.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).

There were no changes during the last six months in the management structure of the project over the reporting period. The project is lead in the UK by Prof. Douglas MacMillan and Dr. Jon Lovett at the University of Kent. M.Sc. Arturo Balderas Torres is the field coordinator of the project in Mexico, he is based at ITESO currently on a temporary leave to pursue his Ph.D. studies at the University of Twente in The Netherlands.

Work is proceeding according to plan. Fieldwork activities have been concluded; there are only a few interviews pending. Local policymakers in Jalisco, and particularly in Guadalajara, are currently busy as the XVI Panamerican Games are being developed in the city. There have also been changes in local environmental ministries. These are expected to continue because 2012 is an electoral year in Mexico. However carbon offsetting has been positioned in the policy agenda and we believe the DI project has contributed through local publicity. For example, although it is still on a project by project basis, the local Ministry of Environment has published a carbon footprint estimate for the Panamerican Games indicating the amount of resources that may be channelled locally to La Primavera and other local reserves (Milenio 1). Recent newspaper reports where project related topics were published made reference to the potential to use carbon-based figures to match current payments for environmental services made by the federal government (Milenio 2).

Project outputs are being sustainably implemented. Mr. Balderas in collaboration with Selva Negra is working with CONAFOR in the preparation of a domestic voluntary regulation for forest offset projects. Also the joint work of Dr. Skutsch and Mr. Balderas with CONAFOR as part of the pilot REDD+ in Jalisco has allowed participation in the design of local policies. The project lead by Selva Negra is underway and there is already an office established at the community of Ahuisculco and a project coordinator has been hired by the NGO. In terms of academic outputs, two papers related to the project outputs have been submitted to peer-reviewed journals and other three continue under preparation as described in the Year 2 report.

Milenio 1. Agustín del Castillo, 24 October 2011. 6 mdd, costo ambiental de los juegos para la atmósfera. '6 million dollars the atmospheric environmental costs of the Panamerican Games' <http://jalisco.milenio.com/cdb/doc/impreso/9049320>

Milenio 2. Agustín del Castillo, 24 July 2011-10-26 'Un Mercado de carbon para salvar la Primavera' (A carbon market so save La Primavera). <http://jalisco.milenio.com/cdb/doc/impreso/8997422>

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. However the fieldwork activities have been concluded and only a few interviews remain to be completed.

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**