

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	EIDPo6/11-018
Project Title	Flying the flagship: delivering the axolotl action plan at Xochimilco, Mexico
Country(ies)	Mexico, UK
UK Organisation	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology
Collaborator(s)	Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana, Unidad Xochimilco (UAM), Mexico. Centro de Investigaciones Biologicas y Acuicolas de Cuemanco (CIBAC) Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), Instituto de Biología Comision Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO - the National Commission for the Knowledge and use of Biodiversity), Mexico.
Report date	15/11/05
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	http://www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/dice/research/axolotl.html

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).

The primary timetable element for the first six months of the second year was 'Workshop 3: training transferred' (9 days – Mexican project team only). However, as noted in the yearly report, because the previously scheduled Workshop 2 "Trainers in action" had to be postponed until June, Workshop 3, originally scheduled for May 2006, was postponed until September 2006. We therefore report here on both workshops.

The June guide-training workshop (5th-15th June) was a resounding success, graduating 21 remeros with the guide-training package, and training 7 remeros as workshop facilitators. The workshop was rather large because representatives from a newly opened nearby visitor centre (5), the Xochimilco Tourism Directorate (3) and the Director of the Xochimilco Archaeological Museum, all participated as observers (they did not receive the full workshop package, only the information folder). However, levels of participant satisfaction expressed in the anonymous feedback forms remained very high, with an overall score of 162 out of a possible 180, the expert presentations being awarded 148/175, and the workshop activities 160/180. The Mexican team reported to us that the September workshop (4th-14th Sept.) was also a very successful event, with the remero facilitators taking the lead in nearly all the workshop activities and its organisation, and with the workshop itself graduating 13 remeros with the guide-training package (a deliberately low number designed to ease remero facilitation). These 13 remeros gave the workshop an overall score of 56/65, the expert presentations 60/65, and the workshop activities 57/65. There will be meeting with the remero facilitators and the Director of Tourism, Xochimilco on our next visit (January 2007) to discuss ways of taking the workshop training package forward.

During the June workshop visiting UK team members took the opportunity to meet with GIA-X researchers and have a GIA-X review meeting. We were pleased to see that the body of axolotl-related research carried out under the co-ordinating umbrella of GIA-X has continued to grow and is producing some very useful and interesting data. GIA-X members conducted a short (3hr) workshop for participants to explore existing research and identify key areas for future axolotl-related research.

A major project-related development has been the IUCN Red List re-listing of *A. mexicanum* from

