

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2013)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	EIDPO042
<b>Project Title</b>	Implementing community-based landscape and resource monitoring to consolidate voluntary conservation
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Mexico
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Global Diversity Foundation
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Instituto de Ecología (INECOL), GDF-Mesoamerica (Investigación y Acción Biocultural, Anima Mundi), Oaxaca State Ministry of Agricultural, Forestry and Fisheries Development, Universidad de la Sierra Juarez and Centro de Investigaciones Tropicales - Universidad Veracruzana.
<b>Project Leader</b>	Gary J. Martin
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR3)</b>	31 October 2013 HYR2
<b>Project website</b>	A general description of the the project is available on GDF's UK website, <a href="http://www.global-diversity.org/mesoamerica/projects/community-monitoring-chinantla">http://www.global-diversity.org/mesoamerica/projects/community-monitoring-chinantla</a> and periodic updates are posted on <a href="http://www.global-diversity.org/news-mesoamerica">http://www.global-diversity.org/news-mesoamerica</a>

## 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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, we have dedicated the third semester of the project to six activities: 1) Monitoring and pGIS programme, 2) Training in participatory monitoring methods, 3) Participatory research and implementation of adaptive management practices, 4) Advanced training for research centres and academic institutions, 5) Dissemination, and 6) Coordination, follow-up and evaluations. These activities have been developed in the three main partner communities of the project: San Pedro Tlapeusco, Santiago Tlapeusco and Nopalera del Rosario.

### 1) Monitoring and pGIS programme,

During this period, basic and intermediate GIS community training was held in the community of Santiago Tlapeusco, with the support GDF-MA/Anima Mundi consultant David Flores, during four work sessions. The first one was held from April 29 to May 2, when a newly formed team was trained in the main concepts and techniques of building thematic maps and georeferencing territorial elements, emphasising the construction of maps of traditional land use and community conservation areas. A second session was carried out from July 30 to August 3: during this session, the team practised GPS use and maps elaboration, and was trained in distance and areas calculation; additionally, the community authorities were more actively integrated into the mapping process. A third practice session was held August 12 to 16. Finally, between August 27 and 31, a fourth session was carried out to provide technical support and to continue the mapmaking. During and between these training sessions, local maps of general themes were created and the foundation was established to start making maps of monitored species and habitats. Another important activity was the production of monitoring programme documents (Activity 1.5); this has started by the design and writing of community-based monitoring protocols in form of how-to guides.

### 2) Training in participatory monitoring methods

We have continued with community researcher training in participatory methods with workshops

in creating and expanding animal registers (Activity 2.1), on animal species abundance and monitoring (Activity 2.3), and on methodologies to assess the socio-economic contributions and effects of conservation (Activity 2.4). From April 30 to May 3, a workshop on knowledge dialogue about local wildlife was held in San Pedro Tlapepusco; community researchers and hunters participated and implemented fauna ethnoclassification exercises in order to generate a graphic understanding of their own classification systems for wildlife, generate information for the following training activities, and add to the animal inventories. A second session of this workshop was carried out on May 27 to 30. The process was replicated in Nopalera del Rosario during May 12-15. The fauna-related training continued from June 23-26, when the fauna community research team in Nopalera participating in the first workshop on wildlife monitoring focused on three species of cultural and economic importance: Tepezcuintle (*Agouti paca*), Temazate Deer (*Mazama temama*) and Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*). Also from June 23-26, the socio-economic community research team at Nopalera participated in the first workshop on methodologies to assess the socio-economic contributions and effects of conservation initiatives.

### 3) Participatory research and implementation of adaptive management practices

Participatory research on vegetation (Activity 3.1) and wildlife (Activity 3.2) monitoring, as well as on socio-economic aspects of voluntary conservation (Activity 3.6), began immediately after the training workshops on the respective topics. A research strategy was established and local research teams began monitoring plant diversity in *acahuales* (fallow fields) of different ages and the three important animal species: Tepezcuintle (*Agouti paca*), Temazate Deer (*Mazama temama*) and Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*). Since then, the GDF-MA team has accompanied local teams during several work sessions during which further monitoring practices have been applied and the methods, advances and problematics have been evaluated and corrected as needed. These work sessions were held from 14-17 April, 27-30 May, 19-20 June, 12-16 August, 2-5 September and September 29 to October 3 in San Pedro Tlapepusco; and from 9-14 September and 22-26 September in Nopalera del Rosario. In addition, documentary research was carried out to complement the expanded inventories of local animals. The information thus generated provides empirical data that, after a joint analysis with the communities, will form the body of information with which to make decisions and to integrate these into the adaptive management strategy (Activity 3.8)

### 4) Advanced training for research centres and academic institutions

We continued guiding the undergraduate thesis of intern Brenda Lira on Chinantec stories as indigenous literature related to biocultural diversity. By accompanying the present project's context and process, Brenda is learning about the biocultural diversity approach, specific ethnographic and anthropological methods to gather information, and ethical good practices for research with communities. GDF-MA team has also contributed to the PhD thesis design of Emma Villaseñor (INECOL), by revising her proposal on the theme of methodological approaches for community research. Finally, on September 10, GDF-MA coordinators Claudia Camacho and Carlos del Campo gave a lecture on ethnoclassification and cultural circles as part of the Course on Participatory Research Methods held by the Education Research Institute of the University of Veracruz, at Xalapa.

### 5) Dissemination

Most dissemination activities were conducted in the first year of the project, while others are planned for the last semester of the project; during this period only one community cross visit (Activity 5.7) was conducted. Community researcher Paula Manuel Martínez, along with GDF-MA field biologist Ana Laura Terán and GDF-MA coordinator Claudia Camacho, participated in a workshop from July 29 to August 2, at the National Centre for the Indigenous Missions, on which the broad theme of community health systems was analysed in the light of traditional resource use, territorial management, institutional relationships, etc. This workshop allowed participants to share and exchange local experiences with attendees from about 15 other indigenous and rural communities.

### 6) Coordination, follow-up and evaluations

From June 20 to July 4, GDF Regional Programmes Director, Emily Caruso made an annual

visit to Mexico to work with GDF-MA team and evaluate local progress. She, along with GDF-MA field coordinator Ronny Roma, travelled to the community of Nopalera del Rosario to meet the field site, the community research team and the local authorities. During this reporting period, GDF-MA staff participated in regional and local community assemblies and working meetings with authorities of Corenchi (May 13), Santiago Tlatepusco (April 29 to May 2), Nopalera del Rosario and San Pedro (July 28 to August 3). We also continued to coordinate with project partners INECOL, through work meetings with the team formed by Luciana Porter, Emma Villaseñor, Matthias Rös and Federico Escobar. In these meetings, they have provided advice and support to design the locally-adapted monitoring methods in which the community researchers have been trained (April 15, June 12). Partner Delfina Luna, from project partner University of Sierra Juárez, continued her collaboration with the revision of methods for wildlife monitoring (April 16, June 5). We formally launched community evaluations through a process of participatory revision of the motivations, achievements, problematics and challenges of the community research teams, led by GDF-MA coordinator Carlos del Campo and field coordinator Ronny Roma. This process was conducted in work sessions held on May 27 to 30 and August 27 to 31 in San Pedro Tlatepusco, and September 9 to 14 in Nopalera del Rosario. Additionally GDF and GDF-MA teams conduct periodic evaluations of the project progress, appropriateness of methods and coherence between the theoretical approaches and fieldwork.

**2a. 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.**

The co-funding that this project has obtained from the EU FP7 COMBIOSERVE project – which has just received a very positive technical review, ensuring its continued funding – provided more travel funds than our original calculation. This has created the possibility of underspending funds from our 'Travel and subsistence costs' budget line. At the same time a need has emerged to buy camera traps to bolster our wildlife monitoring method and computers to assist community-based analysis of results, which are both very appropriate and increasingly popular for indigenous communities in Mexico. We have recently had a small grant approved from the Conservation and Research Foundation, which provides support for three computers and 2 camera traps. Supplying Chinantec communities with additional camera traps would provide a better legacy for the Darwin; the amount transferred would be of 3,000 GBP out of a 'Travel and subsistence' budget of 8,080 GBP, thus more than 10% and requiring authorization.

The Chinantla is one of the most humid regions in Mexico, and the summer of 2013 witnessed heavier than usual rains that interfered with the community-based monitoring activities during the months of August and September. This, in addition to the already reported delay we had during the first months on the project's first year regarding training and community-based research, increase the possibility that by March 2013 the project team won't have all the information necessary to produce sound monitoring programme documents and adaptive management strategies, two of the main products of the project. The six-month extension would allow the project team to finish the fieldwork and written material with the highest quality possible.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS: Yes

Formal change request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

**3a. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No

**3b. If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible through the formal Change Request process.** However, it would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication now of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £ 8,500.00

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

N/A

**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 through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto: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**