

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162/12/016
Project Title	Indigenous Methods to Sustainably Manage Riverine Plantations, Amazon Region
Country(ies)	Colombia, Brazil and Peru
UK Organisation	University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
Collaborator(s)	Blanca de Corredor – Colombian coordinator, AICSE (organizations/communities see attached programme copies) ACITAM, AZCAITA, Sabedores, leaders of communities in Amazonia, Banco de la Republica, Leticia, FIUPAM, INBRAPI, Brazil, communities San Antonio del Isla Cacão, Perú.
Report date	<i>1st December 2004 (received 22 Feb 2005)</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 2</i>
Project website	

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

Agreed Baseline timetable	Actual Progress
March 2004 – 1 training workshop for techniques in land management and comparison with western techniques (1 week)	April 12-16, 2004 - 1 training workshop for techniques in land management and comparison with western techniques (1 week) later schedule to suit local participants details of (around 110) participants from (18+) communities. Activities and details will be included with flier etc in end of year report.
Mar – July 2004 – 1 field visit at most appropriate time (dependent on river levels) to Leticia and surrounding areas	April 1 – May 1, 2004 Field trip to Amazonas, Colombia by BdeC, AMM, AIG, GB, CG, Eudocio Becerra Vigidimas, Isaías Román Sánchez, Ismael Mendoza Rivera to Leticia and to communities Santa Sofía, Ronda, Macedonia, Pto Nariño, La Tacana (Km 11) and community Km 14.5 Carretera Leticia – Tarapacá), Isla Cacão and Caballo Cocha, Perú, and Tabatinga, Brasil. July 8-20, 2004 - Ann Mitchell visit to Colombia July 9-17, 2004 – short field visit to Leticia and surrounding communities
	May 2 – June 10, 2004 Visit of Dra Blanca de Corredor to Scotland – coordination of work

	<p>July 13-15, 2004 – Short pre-workshop entitled: ‘Interculturalidad y Pensamiento Indígena’ – 2 days 40 people (organised by ACITAM and leaders from <i>resguardos</i>) in Amazonian communities at Santa Sofia and Leticia (Banco de La Republica). Preparation and coordination for November workshop entitled ‘Sabedores, sabedoras: metodos de recuperación, preservacion y manejo de la selva y de la várzea’.</p> <p>Activities and details will be included with flier etc in end of year report.</p>
	<p>September 2-20, 2004 – AIG,AMM + project assistant (Mairi Mitchell) visit to Colombia.</p> <p>Sep 3 and 16-17, 2004 field trip to Leticia.</p> <p>Sep 4-16, 2004 visit to Manaus (BdeC, AIG, AMM, MM) INPA to seek field experts to help in várzea agroforestry eg. Consulting contacts in INPA such as Dra. Maria Theresa Fernandes Piedade (limnologist) and colleagues working with Max Planck Institute. We invited staff from INPA to November Workshop in Leticia.</p>
<p>Jul – Aug 2004 – Commencement of preparation of educational material</p>	<p>April 2004 – visit of Andrés Corredor to Santa Sofia, Amazonas – commencement of planning of educational material by means of a short workshop. The plan is to prepare cartillas with pictures, drawn by the school children (mostly Tikuna), [and/or to produce songs] representing the indigenous knowledge of várzea use and management by the abuelos(as) of Santa Sofia, and accompanying bilingual (Tikuna, Spanish) text. Also to compile video (with appropriate subtitles) film(s) along complimentary lines to the cartillas.</p> <p>Andrés Corredor had meetings with professors of the local school, Daniel Bautista and others to discuss these plans and to orientate the children and abuelos(as) such as Don Manuel Chota and Doña Carmen del Aguila.</p> <p>Pre-workshop July 2004 – Planning of Educational Cartillas with ACITAM and communities – memorandum of intent, discussions/agreements.</p>

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.

Unexpected developments have been increasing costs of travel due security, increased no. of participants in workshop, need to do pre-workshop in July 2004 to orientate participants – run by ACITAM but monitored by us. We have also had difficulty in taking a specialist over from UK (security issues) and following the first year reviewer’s advice, have looked for more local specialists without success. On talking this over with the reviewer (MTR) he has suggested that we do not spend more time and energy looking for another specialist and use our resources to collate the vast amount of material collected and in putting together the educational material. Due to the high success of the 2004 workshops and following the guidelines from the reviewer, we would like to like to drop UK workshop (planned for April 2005) or postpone to 2006 and concentrate efforts in the next Colombian workshop now programmed for May 2005 (Banco de la Republica, Leticia) with associated pre-workshops as necessary. The impact on the project will be to keep momentum up in the communities (due to high success of previous workshops), progress to keep leaders focused on rehabilitation of várzeas.

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

We have discussed the possible changes with the project monitor. Security issues have been discussed with secretariat (May 2004) and SH (October 2004).

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

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

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

Yes, increased costs of transport, larger number of participants in workshops, need for pre-workshops. We would request a meeting to discuss these extra costs and to seek Darwin financial assistance for this.

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 by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M and E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**

The reviewer of the 1st year report requested clarification on a number of points;

a) a clearer picture with regard to the scientific research (more detail on methodology, preliminary results).

The project mainly uses a methodology of participative observation together with written and audio-visual means to document traditional methods of management of várzea/forest and it is not the intention to carry out phytochemical studies or produce peer reviewed scientific publications immediately. The technical products of the project (manual, video, etc.) have not yet been produced. These are programmed to be produced in 2006 although some funds may need to be brought forward into 2005 as work has already started with the multi-ethnic community in Santa Sofia, Amazonas, Colombia.

The main impact of the project to date has been to strengthen the cohesion, organisation and self esteem of indigenous groups, by bringing together indigenous leaders and “sabedores/as” in a collective effort to revive their cultures and their traditional methods of ecosystem management. The project team is working closely with indigenous communities and the institutions in and around Leticia, by way of workshops on topics relating to indigenous and ‘western’ methods for recuperation, preservation and management of the rainforest and the várzea and the knowledge relating to this. We usually hold pre-workshops, some weeks before the main meeting to orientate the community and these meetings are arranged by the local people with our help. Additionally we make field trips to the communities to hear directly from the people themselves, and to see for ourselves, some of the problems/solutions relating to their management of the forest.

The project has recorded a vast amount to traditional knowledge on the properties and uses of floodplain and forest plants and, based on this knowledge, the sabedores/as are taking steps to recuperate areas of flooded forest that have lost a lot of their former diversity.

For example, the people of the multi-ethnic community of Santa Sofia, Amazonas, Colombia (e.g. Carmen del Aguila [ethnia Tikuna] and Manuel Chota [ethnia Cocama] and family) have planted medicinal plant gardens near their houses and at the school, as demo plots. The school children are being taught by the abuelos/as, *via* mythology and practical demos, the traditional management of plants and their inter-relations with other flora, fauna both terrestrial and aquatic, i.e. the diverse environmental interactions and impacts. This is impacting right now on the community and the children will take this legacy forward to the future.

Some of the community (e.g. Mario Gutierrez, MG, ethnia Cocama) are re-planting the surrounding secondary flooded forest with species that he has noted as becoming scarce through man’s intervention. E.g. Castanha Silvestre (May be a *Bertholletia sp.* Fam. Lecythidaceae), the fruit of which are eaten by various primate species that are prey for other predators such as jaguar and eagles, etc. but Castanha Silvestre also serves as a source of medicines and eg timber/artesanal for the local community (a fact that has probably resulted in its disappearance from the forest immediately surrounding Santa Sofia, to the North and West Amazonas). Already, since the first workshop of this project, MG has planted around 500 seedlings representing about 25 species of flooded forest trees, many of which have been cut down indiscriminately in the past and at a level below that of the ‘high-water level’ where infection may enter the cut surface and the ‘rebrotos’ (new shoots/re-growth) are unlikely to survive the next flooding. The plantlets that MG has planted and continues to plant are grown from seed he collected from wild plants in virgin forest and using soil taken from near the parent plant which is likely to carry symbiotic mycorrhizae (these are seedlings that would probably not have survived in their ‘crowded’ environment near the parent tree form many reasons). We filmed more than 25 species that MG had planted incl. Palms (e.g. Açaí or *Euterpe oleracea sp* that are food for many species incl. Fish, birds and man!), wild fruit spp

Castanha Silvestre and other timbers/medicinals e.g. Huacapurana (probably *Campsiandra sp.*, Caesalpinaceae) which is both silvicultural and used for treatment of prostate cancer. He planted 20 Castanha Silvestre in about an hour and we have film of most of the area that MG has planted out. These were wild-collected seeds, germinated by MG in his huerta/garden, and therefore represent wild germplasm that is worth conserving. Many of the seedlings already planted by him are around 1-2 metres in height and putting out new growth; these were obviously planted last season and have already survived at least one inundation so we estimate their survival rate as high. We hope that MG, with some help from the team over the coming months, will present an overview of his work at the next workshop programmed for May 2005.

The community of Macedonia e.g. Augusto Falcón (Cocama) and Germán Peña (Tikuna) and relatives, have similar plantations, in places that were almost denuded in the recent past (potrero or grassland for grazing livestock) by over-farming, etc, much of this by colonists/evangelicos. These plantations were started at the beginning of the project and are located on the higher-level várzea. The lower várzea is used by the population of Macedonia for fast-growing crops such as rice, peanuts, a variety of bean crops, melons and yuca (*Manihot spp*) that can be sown, grow to maturity and produce a useful harvest in the short 'dry season' of approx. 4 months.

We have also visited the *terra firme* resguardos on the carretera Leticia-Tarapacá, for example at Km 7.5, the community of Sabedor Jitoma Safiama (ethnia Uitoto) and the organisation AZCAITA. Cacique Jitoma has spoken to us of the 'new wave' way that people (mostly youngsters? but also a lot of older folk who should know better) are collecting produce from the wild or from cultivations. He said he was concerned that people nowadays seem to prefer to use 'the easy way' to collect useful forest products such as palm fruit. For example, in order to collect **one** bunch of ripe palm fruit e.g. Aguaje/Canagucho (*Mauritia flexuosa*), Chontaduro (*Bactris gasipaes*) or Açai, (*Euterpes sp.*) folk will cut down the whole palm tree (which may be seen as easier than climbing up the often prickly/spiny tree) rather than harvest the ripe bunch itself in the traditional way. Therefore, in order to collect just one commodity, many a single plant part, some in the community are now willing to destroy the whole tree; i.e. not leaving the tree to continue providing that commodity and possibly other useful things (fibre, fruit, seed, rebrotes/estaca/cuttings, resin/sap, oil, bark, medicine etc for man's use, a platform for much biodiversity such as epiphytes, lianas, animals & birds, nectar/pollen for insects, bats, fruit for animals, fish etc, much of which would be classified as 'renewable' resource). Cacique Jitoma and his family gave us several other examples of this type of thing.

Reading in publications such as 'Tropical Trees: the potential for domestication and the rebuilding of forest resources' ITE Symposium #29/ECTF symposium # 1, Eds RRB Leakey and AC Newton, Aug 1992, HMSO, this type of harvesting has long been out of hand in many parts of the world and species that were once thought of as locally abundant (almost 'weeds'!) are now locally under threat of extinction even though they once formed extensive oligarchic forests.... This is the kind of thing that MG has taken on board and is taking steps to reverse for a number of várzea tree species around Santa Sofia at the moment.

The Ritual and Mythological aspects – based on indigenous traditions that can only be studied at appropriate times (e.g. during night; the Uitoto for example only discuss 'sacred' things in the mambadero at such times) with sabedores from different tribal groups e.g. resguardos of Santa Sofia, Macedonia, Pto Nariño, the carretera Leticia-Tarapacá as well as with Eudocio Becerra Bigidimas, Isaiás Román Sánchez and others in Bogotá. We are fortunate to be working in the Leticia (Trapeçio Amazonico) area as the work is benefiting from the biodiversity in the form of indigenous and other people in the project who are willing to discuss local problems related to the várzea.

This, as we see it, represents short, medium and long-term effect, direct impact on a wide spectrum of the local population & exit strategy for the project.

These local Amazonian folk are taking a firm grip of the reins in this project and are actively seeking to share their knowledge with others in their communities and elsewhere.

The project has accumulated a vast amount of information on traditional knowledge of forest and floodplain plants and their uses. The indigenous people have focused their attention in the initial part of this project on medicinal plants of the várzea and this has acted as a good 'entry point' for the project team. This research is mainly in the form of video/audio, written notes and photographs. A major task for the second half of the project is to edit, sort, check, organise and catalogue this information and produce the initial dissemination and training materials planned. Because the indigenous people have an oral tradition they have chosen video, audio and music as appropriate media for dissemination of information, at least in the first place.

b) The nature/extent of the medicinal plants component,

The project focus is on management of the floodplain. The indigenous people have focused their attention in the initial part of this project on medicinal plants of the várzea and this relates to their preoccupation with their health, which is closely linked with that of their environment.

This is reflected in the priority given by the indigenous people themselves and this, with the capacities of some of the project team (the main core team, BdeC, AMM and AIG, has been joined by a medical team with field experience and interests in the traditional use of medicines by indigenous people), was therefore a good 'entry point' to initiate project activities in the workshop scenario. As outlined above, dissemination of indigenous knowledge at daytime workshops held in lecture theatres is not the normal forum for most of the Amazonian communities. We have been passing the responsibility for organization of the workshops to the indigenous people (e.g. ACITAM), and they themselves have chosen conference topics that reflect their priorities. Our project work in the field, however, has centred on the broader aspects of the várzea and its management, and this is reflected in the work, for instance, of Mario Gutierrez (Santa Sofia, *see above*) who is re-introducing wild tree species, that have disappeared from the region (mostly due to man's intervention in the recent past), to the secondary forest surrounding Santa Sofia and Augusto Falcón and Germán Peña (Macedonia) are re-planting land, that has been used intensively for farming, with forest species and other useful plants.

Some direction from the core team will obviously be required for the coming workshops e.g. the pre- and main workshop in May 2005 and we will be disseminating results from the communities to-date on várzea management and educational materials produced in Santa Sofia etc, at these subsequent workshops.

c) expenditure

Accounts are appended below (foll. page):

Item	Budget	Expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
¹ Office costs (e.g. postage, telephone, stationery)			
²³⁴ Travel and subsistence			
⁵ Printing			
⁶ Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment			
⁷ Others			
Salaries:			
Blanca de Corredor			
Ann Mitchell			
Indigenous leaders/elders			
Consultant: Dr. Phil Mason			
Secretaries			
⁸ legal secretary work			
⁹ Transport/messenger and workshop cost/payments			
Andres Corredor/assistants			
TOTAL			

¹ Some stationary/office costs have been taken out of workshop budget

² Does not include AMM travel - £- lack of funds to pay out

³ Overspend due to using taxi chauffeur plus private river transport – essential for security of project team

⁴ We would note that we have only paid out very basic subsistence to visiting participants of workshops (this does not include project team)

⁵ Printing costs have been included in Workshop budget

⁶ Overspend due to high participation and including folk from remote communities

⁷ This budget is for films and developing etc – we have not put through receipts for this due to high overspend in other areas

⁸ Legal secretary work has not been included in our budget – it has become necessary due to our work on rights of indigenous authorship

⁹ Part of increased costs of workshops