Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No. 13/011

Project Title Sustaining livelihoods and protecting biodiversity through development

of pez blanco aquaculture.

Country MEXICO

UK Organisation Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling

Collaborators Prof. Lindsay G. Ross and Dr. Carlos A. Martínez Palacios

Report date 31 October 2004

Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4) (2004/1)

Project website http://www.aqua.stir.ac.uk/GISAP/Darwin/index.htm

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).

This mid-term report is summarised against milestones from the original project document. In broad terms, despite some start-up delays, milestones have been met and in some aces exceeded. All activities are now running and at present we expect to meet output targets by the end of the present project year in March.

Milestones from project proposal	Original target date	Progress on milestones to date (end October 2004)
Management group first meeting	4-5/04	To be established during November
Identify & appoint staff	5/04	Appointed Mexican project staff members, Mr V Peredo & Ms A Ahumada. Appointed short-term local project manager, Dr Antonio Campos Mendoza Identified UK RA, Mr J Morales
Train trainers in biodiversity and extension issues for project	5-6/04	An 80 hour course was imparted to members of the Department of Agriculture (SEGARPA-Jalisco) and the Institute of Aquaculture and Fisheries of Jalisco state. This course involved the technology transfer of pez blanco aquaculture. Two delegates were involved. They will transfer all this information to rural areas in Jalisco, allowing with this the diversification and improvement of rural aquaculture through pez blanco.
Train stakeholders in pond management and ongrowing using participatory techniques	6-7/04	A campesino group from Ichupio were trained in the construction and development of earth ponds, installation of plastic liners and preparation of ponds for the introduction of pez blanco juveniles. The training involved the preparation and fertilization of the pond, inoculation of phyto- and zooplankton and monitoring of water quality parameters. A further workshop is planned for early 2005
Conduct baseline livelihoods assessments in conjunction with above	6-7/04	To be conducted with next workshops in early 2005.
Train 2 staff members in MSc Sustainable Development at Stirling.	9/04	Mr Peredo & Ms Ahumada travelled to Stirling to study Sustainable Aquaculture. This will prepare them for management of the project from mid-2005.

Develop at least 1 campesino pond site; start trials	12/04	The first pond site was completed in October. The first juveniles of pez blanco will be introduced in early November. This Campesino pond will be used as a base for further introductory training on pond management
Develop at least 1 SME pond site; start trials	12/04	Contacts made: To be arranged
Complete construction of key hatchery (from complimentary funding)	3/05	Work commenced in October 2004. Expected completion date is now January 2005
Train stakeholders in pond management and harvesting techniques.	2-3/04	Next workshop to be arranged
Publish significant results in journals	4/04 to 3/05	Paper on effects of salinity published in Aquaculture. Papers prepared for Atherinid meeting, Argentina, 2004. Papers prepared for World Aquaculture Soc, Bali, 2005.
Promote biodiversity issues through press and fisheries department.	4/04 to 3/05	Article published in Fish Farmer, May 2004 Article in press Aquaculture News, Jan 2005 Article in press, Ciencia y Desarrollo, CONACyT, México. Short article on Project shown on local TV station Web pages initialsied

- **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.
- a. This project was originally planed to start in April 2004, but due to initial communication delays some time was lost. Nonetheless, preparatory work started in June and the project started on July 1st. Despite these delays, milestones are now being met and outputs achieved.
- b. Because of the above delays, some parts of the forecast budget spend are delayed. However, we expect to be fully on track by December.
- c. Again, because of the delays, we are somewhat behind in commencing work with policy makers (SEGARPA and COMPESCA). This was also due to lack of communication from the personnel in those institutions. This will be partially solved during the November visit of Professor Ross (November) when we will organize our first meeting of the Advisory group which should increase the interest of the policy makers in the further development of this Darwin Initiative Project.

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

No; not necessary at this stage.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: No

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: No

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

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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> 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&E Programme, <u>stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please</u> state your project reference number in the header of your email message.