

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

Project Ref No	Darwin Ref. 16-001; UEA Ref. R15176
Project Title	Community-based sustainable management of forest resources in Amazonian extractive reserves
Country	Brazil
UK Organisation	University of East Anglia, UK
Collaborator(s)	(1) Secretaria do Estado do Meio Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Sustentável (SDS) , State of Amazonas, Brazil; and (2) Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Natural Renewable Resources (IBAMA) , Brazil
Project Leader	Prof Carlos Peres
Report date	April – September 2010
Report No.	HYR 3
Project website	http://www.tropicalforestresearch.org/projects/jurua.aspx

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).

Notwithstanding the logistical and funding concerns expressed in our last report and written communication with DEFRA via email, the ‘home stretch’ of project field activities were developed in the best possible form, with the final data collection expeditions taking place during May, July and again in September. Beyond the agreed project baseline, a data convergence workshop was held with the project ‘*monitores*’ at our Bauana Field Station in November 2010. Carlos Peres in this occasion taught a freshing-up course on line-transect censusing of wildlife populations that included both an emphasis on field procedures and data analysis. Eight reserve managers from elsewhere in the Amazon were also able to participate in this field course thanks to a generous grant from the Brazilian Ministry of Environment (ICMBio). As a result of this field course and other workshops taught as part of this project, we will be launching the first booklet in Latin America describing the best-practice guidelines for line-transect censusing in tropical forests (to be published in Portuguese and Spanish).

Other activities developed during the reporting period—beyond the routine field activities agreed in the project baseline—include:

- a) A quantitative applied ethnobotany study supported by the local communities we work with, and executed in the field by Brazilian MSc student Débora Peterson over a 4-month period and then submitted as a Master’s thesis¹ in August 2010.

¹ Peterson, D. 2010. *Quantitative ethnobotany of forest dwellers: drivers of congruence in vernacular nomenclature of Amazonian trees*. Unpubl. MSc thesis in Applied Ecology and Conservation, University of East Anglia, Norwich.

- b) The results of the experimental harvest of *Copaifera* oleoresin was published as “Newton, P. Watkinson, A.R., Peres, C.A. 2011. Determinants of yield in a non-timber forest product: *Copaifera* oleoresin in Amazonian extractive reserves. *Forest Ecology and Management*, 2: 255-264”, constituting one of the project’s first published papers.
- c) Preliminary results of the weekly household surveys were presented as a poster to the Student Conference for Conservation Science at the American Museum of Natural History, New York in November 2010.

- d) Further papers from the *Copaifera*, NTFP and household survey components of the project are in draft format.
- e) End of data collecting for the following activities: Household weekly interviews (cultivated products, nontimebr forest products, game hunting, fishing) ; Community-level harvesting profiles including the weighing and measuring of Hunted animals; Faunal and Fruit censuses along the linear transects
- f) End of bone decomposition and leaf litter decomposition experiments conducted in both terra firme and várzea forests
- g) Additional understory bird assembly sampling done by Carlos Peres and Regina Yabe (8 additional netlines of 20 nets each operated for three consecutive days)
- h) Further negotiations with the **ProBUC** monitoring programme implemented by our partners, SDS-Amazonas, under regular consultation with **PMJ** (our Darwin project) involving discussions about long-term data acquisition, data analysis, and outputs. This programme is now funded for 5 additional years, thanks to a generous grant from the Betty & Gordon Moore Foundation (USA) to the Environmental Secretariat of the State of Amazonas (CEUC/SDS). This is the best possible exit strategy for a Darwin project that was necessarily short-lived, thereby showing a lasting impact in the way the conservation and management performance of sustainable development forest reserves in lowland Amazonia can be monitored over a long time frame.

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.

Although project field activities were largely on track over the reporting semester, project finances were severely overstretched and the project continued to struggle given the gradual devaluation of the GBP (£) against the Real (R\$); as repeatedly explained to LTS (Darwin/DEFRA) over email communication. Some of the highest project expenses were again fuel costs in Carauari, which are approximately twice the price per litre of the major state capitals in Brazil, and wage labour from project field assistants (*monitores*) and boat operators. In addition, the western Brazilian Amazon, including the headwaters of the Rio Juruá, experienced a severe 'mega-drought' with record low water-levels in the 380-km section of Juruá river upstream of Carauari, which comprises the main project study area. This severely disrupted fluvial navigation transport via tugged barges, including the fuel and food supply from Manaus to Carauari. Gasoline and Diesel was therefore in very short supply along the central Juruá during the dry season of 2010. What little fuel was available in Carauari became even more expensive adding further duress to project finances. We therefore shifted most of the routine field activities to dugout canoes powered by more economic small outboard motors. Project investigators and field staff managed to further overcome these difficulties by increasing radio contact from the Bauana research base with the project 'monitors'; regular visits to all the target communities; delaying payments and data collection by one month; and on one occasion by 'borrowing' an emergency fuel supply with the owner of the largest petrol station in Carauari.

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

The issue of project finances has been repeatedly discussed. We subsequently came to a remedial arrangement in which the budget structure was altered to deflect more project resources to Travel and Subsistence.

Discussed with LTS:	yes, during several emails in 2010
Formal change request submitted:	yes, in.....(March-April/2010)
Received confirmation of change acceptance	yes in.....(May, 2010)

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

No X

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?

No

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**