

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	17-017
Project Title	Innovative Governance Models for Marine Protected Area Management in Ecuador
Country(ies)	Ecuador
UK Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Collaborator(s)	Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano
Project Leader	Robert Bensted-Smith
Report date	30 Oct 2010
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR2
Project website	-

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

1. Governance system development:

Management Committee (MC) meetings are going as scheduled at Machalilla National Park (MNP), likewise the Pre Management Committee (PMC) at Galera San Francisco Marine Reserve (GSFMR), but not yet at Jambelí mangrove area.

A management plan chapter on GSF governance system has been drafted by a sub-group of the PMC and will now be finalised and proposed to the Ministry.

The inter-institutional coordination for patrols and control at MNP is progressing well, with 4 coordination meetings and 5 operations at sea in this period.

2. Adaptive resource management strategies:

At GSFMR local NGO Nazca Institute has already negotiated initial (one-year) recovery measures for lobster, so FFI and Nazca have agreed to collaborate on designing the participatory monitoring programme and analysing results. FFI has obtained co-financing for this monitoring work, but does not need to raise additional funds for resource management actions as such, as Nazca has this covered by other sources.

At MNP an initial workshop in June on *Spondylus* identified key elements of a conservation strategy. Data suggest that a return to population levels able to support significant use may take a long time, which would limit practical opportunities for adaptive management. We are continuing discussions on this.

3. National framework and capacity:

FFLA has facilitated and FFI participated in two workshops about the national MPA sub-system. The Ministry of Environment has decided to distinguish between a network of MPA's under the auspices of the Ministry and a national MPA sub-system, which would need to embrace various categories and parent institutions (e.g. local government MPA's).

4. National and international awareness:

National dissemination continues through 2 videos on Youtube, 2 leaflets about MNP management, and limited distribution of other course- and workshop-related materials. Dissemination is planned to increase as we enter the second half of the project.

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. Jambelí

FFI and FFLA made an assessment of the needs and opportunities for support to the mangrove concession (strictly: "agreement for use and guardianship") model at Jambelí, as requested by

the Ministry of Environment. We have identified potential results and interventions (see response to reviewer's questions at the end of this report). However, progress on finalising them and implementing the programme in Jambelí has been slowed down by (i) delay in the recruitment of individual to organise the work at Jambelí and (ii) changes of leadership in both the relevant Sub-Secretariats (Coastal & Marine Management and Fisheries Resources). These obstacles are being overcome.

Zoning

FFI has secured co-financing for the zoning process at GSFMR. We will ensure that the process is overseen by the PMC, thereby reinforcing its role in important decisions.

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

No. The one issue requiring discussion with LTS is the redefinition of end-of-project results for Jambelí. We know the general scope (see response to reviewer, below) but need to agree the specifics with the Sub-Secretary of Coastal and Marine Management then contact LTS.

Discussed with LTS: **no**

Formal change request submitted: **no**

Received confirmation of change acceptance **no**

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

Yes No

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**