

CEPF SMALL GRANT FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: John Lamoreux (No Organization)

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Surveying Sites Containing Highly Threatened and Data Deficient Species in Southern Mexico

Implementation Partners for This Project: N/A

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): Oct 1, 2007 – Aug 31, 2009

Date of Report (month/year): Nov 2009

II. OPENING REMARKS

Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.

Mexico contains more AZE sites than any other country, the vast majority of which are: located in the southern portion of the country, designated on the basis of threatened amphibians, and lacking any formal protected area status. The importance of these sites cannot be overstated - if any one of the sites is lost, an extinction of a known species will occur. The conservation community is committed to conserving these sites and the species confined to them, but lack the basic information necessary to act or plan accordingly. Initiating conservation action in these sites will require detailed site information. Meanwhile, the threats continue. In order for the species in these sites to be protected, site information must be obtained soon.

III. NARRATIVE QUESTIONS

1. What was the initial objective of this project?

This project sought to fill the information gap at AZE sites in southern Mexico by conducting a series of surveys in the Selva Zoque and Chiapas/Guatemala Highlands Corridor to determine the conservation status of highly threatened amphibians.

2. Did the objectives of your project change during implementation? If so, please explain why and how.

No, the objectives were maintained throughout the course of the project.

3. How was your project successful in achieving the expected objectives?

We successfully compiled existing information about AZE sites in the region. We found all but one of the species we sought and were able to report detailed data about these species and the conservation status of the sites that contain them. The one species we failed to find (*Plectrohyla pycnochila*) has probably been extirpated from the mountains

surrounding San Cristóbal de las Casas. We did acquire some previously unreported data pertaining to this species that implies its continued existence at Pueblo Nuevo Solistahuacan.

4. Did your team experience any disappointments or failures during implementation? If so, please explain and comment on how the team addressed these disappointments and/or failures.

One might consider the fact that we could not find *Plectrohyla pycnochila* near San Cristóbal a failure, but we now think it is unlikely that the species persists here.

5. Describe any positive or negative lessons learned from this project that would be useful to share with other organizations interested in implementing a similar project.

An important lesson learned was that museum species records are essential, but cannot be trusted blindly. Also, not all museum records are easily accessible.

6. Describe any follow-up activities related to this project.

The degree of follow-up activities related to this project is less than anticipated. This is principally due to the fact that when we began this project there were more funding opportunities for species conservation. The global economic crisis occurred during project time period (starting in autumn 2008) and it has dramatically altered the ability of non-profits, universities, and government organizations to finance much of the crucial basic research and conservation interventions that are required. There has been some interest in our work following speeches I gave at the “Estrategia para la Conservación de Anfibios Críticamente Amenazados en Chiapas” in Tuxtla-Gutiérrez (29 Jul 2009) and at the AZE Steering Committee meetings in Washington, DC (29 Sep 2009).

Two unintended results of this project were the discovery of a new species of tree frog from Chiapas, which we plan to formally describe and the rescue of 10 individuals of *Plectrohyla acanthodes* (a Critically Endangered frog that might now qualify now as an AZE species as it is only known from a single location). We grew the *P. acanthodes* from tadpoles into froglets and they are now in an *ex-situ* breeding program at Africam Safari Zoo in Puebla.

7. Please provide any additional information to assist CEPF in understanding any other aspects of your completed project.

IV. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
National Geographic Society (NGS)	This was category A funding (project co-financing) in that NGS contributed to	\$19,998.00	NGS money was not spent entirely within the CEPF region, but extended into a portion of

	the direct costs of this CEPF project.		the Mesoamerican Hotspot not covered by CEPF (i.e., Oaxaca).

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

V. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VI. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

Please include your full contact details below:

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