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Details of Award

NERC Reference : NE/G00840X/1

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Capacity building for carbon- and biodiversity-based payments for ecosystem services in the Peruvian Amazon

Applicant: [Dr T Baker](#), University of Leeds, Sch of Geography**Grant Application****Co-Investigator:** [Dr D Del-Castillo](#), Research Inst of the Peruvian Amazon, UNLISTED**Co-Investigator:** [Dr JR Healey](#), Bangor University, Sch of Environment and Natural Resources**Co-Investigator:** [Dr J Jones](#), Bangor University, Sch of Environment and Natural Resources**Grant held at:** [University of Leeds, Sch of Geography](#)

Science Area:	Terrestrial	ENRIs:	Biodiversity Global Change Natural Resource Management
Secondary Classification:	Cross-Research Council	Science Topics:	Conservation ecology Ecosystem-scale processes and land use

[Science Classification details](#)**Overall Classification:** Terrestrial**PRC:** ESPA Strengthening research Capacity

Abstract: We regularly hear about tropical forests in the media. Documentary programmes report on their great diversity - more than 50% of all species are found in these ecosystems - or their importance as a store of carbon, as they contain 60% of all carbon found on land. However, we also hear about their destruction: how economic pressures and population expansion drives their clearance by small-scale farmers, how large agribusinesses convert vast areas into oil palm plantations or soy bean production, and how pressures to extract minerals and oil from tropical forest regions is increasing as the price of these commodities rise. Not only does deforestation lead to a loss of biodiversity, it also adds to the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and hence increases the rate of climate change: deforestation of tropical forests contributes 25% of all carbon dioxide emissions by humans. Many attempts have been made to derive economic benefits from tropical forests. However, recently a new system has emerged: the idea that by creating a market and giving economic value to the environmental benefits or 'ecosystem services' like biodiversity and carbon storage that tropical forests provide, it is possible to obtain money to protect standing forest. In theory, these payments could be used to address the poverty that is widespread and acute in many tropical forest regions and is an important cause of deforestation. One mechanism for how these payments might work, is that projects and countries that reduce rates of deforestation will be able to sell the resulting reduction in carbon dioxide emissions on international carbon markets or through bilateral agreements. This idea is being promoted as a component of an international agreement to succeed the Kyoto protocol - the international treaty designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions - as well as in voluntary markets. Governments and NGOs are also actively developing schemes to fund projects that directly help to preserve other attributes of tropical forests, such as biodiversity. It is this broad concept of payments for ecosystem services that our project aims to address. In theory, the possibility to reduce the rate of tropical deforestation, conserve carbon stocks and biodiversity, and alleviate poverty through a single mechanism, is very attractive. However, the details of how these schemes might operate is the subject of a vigorous debate. Important issues surround how to measure and monitor the carbon or biodiversity that a project claims to protect, the appropriate institutional framework in regions where property titles are often unclear, how payments actually reach local communities and whether they achieve the goal of poverty alleviation in an equitable way, the participation of local communities in the projects themselves, and the effect that payments might have on the activities of these communities, including increasing the rate of deforestation outside project areas. Addressing these issues requires an interdisciplinary team. We have therefore assembled a broad range of university, NGO and government institutions with relevant expertise to identify the research and training that is required to develop such projects, with a focus on the Peruvian Amazon. Peru is a particularly good place for this kind of project as the rain forests are some of the most diverse in the world but they face increasing pressure from logging, oil exploration and from rising levels of access due to road building. Key governmental and NGO institutions are strongly motivated to combat these threats through new projects based on payments for ecosystem services with the twin objective of alleviating the high levels of local poverty. The strong links that we have with these organisations means that our results will be readily applied in existing protected areas. As a result we aim to create a blueprint for how these projects could work both in Peru and in the wider Amazonian region.

NERC Reference: [NE/G00840X/1](#)**Award State:** 60 - Sent**Period of Award:** 1 Dec 2008 - 31 May 2009**Award Type:** Directed**Value:** £70,557**JeS Grant State:** 2 - Announced[\(FY details\)](#)**Programme:** [Directed ESPA Strengthening Research Capacity](#)

Authorised funds only

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FDAB - Financial Details (Award breakdown by headings)

Estate Costs	Indirect Costs FeC	Investigators DA	Other Directly Allocated Costs	Other Directly Incurred Costs	Other Staff	Travel & Subsistence
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£4,133	£22,711	£10,661	£335	£4,419	£14,701	£13,597
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