

## Project Update: December 2010

The first stage of the research involved interviews with local conservation practitioners regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the current conservation policies and schemes in Chiapas and Oaxaca. During these months, I've had the opportunity to attend to one experiences' exchange on private reserves and another one on community conservation with people from different parts of the south of Mexico and Guatemala. Currently, the case studies are being developed. The first case study is the municipality of San Miguel Chimalapa where there is a community conserved area that has been formally recognised recently and with many factors still being defined. The second case study will be in El Triunfo Biosphere reserve which will start in January 2011. The data already gathered are currently being processed and analysed in order to provide the recommendations that enable conservation programmes to really support voluntary conservation initiatives with an emphasis in community conservation.

