

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

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| Project Title | Building legal and institutional capacity on biosafety in Chile. |
| Country | Chile |
| Organisation | Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD) |
| Project Ref. No. | 162/10/12 |
| Report date | October 2001 |

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

- The *Centro de Derecho Ambiental* (CDA – ‘Environmental Law Centre’) has contacted a number of national experts, governmental and non-governmental, inviting them to form part of the advisory panel for this project.
- The project partner conducted a series of interviews with public authorities, experts, NGOs and private sector representatives. The interviewees from the public sector included representatives from Chile's Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Economy; Health Ministry; Foreign Affairs Ministry; and the National Environmental Commission (CONAMA). The experts interviewed included mainly research scientists from Chilean Universities working on biotechnology and NGOs (both environmental and consumers organisations) active on this issue. Finally, private sector representatives have also been interviewed, including biotechnology companies, an organic farming organisation, and salmon producers. These interviews provided the position of key Chilean stakeholders on biosafety, as well as other valuable information used in one of the research papers.
- CDA has worked on the definition and analysis of Chilean existing policies on biotechnology and GMOs, and also on the review of relevant Chilean legislation in force. This study is now completed.
- CDA has started consideration and analysis of case-studies on biosafety and use of biotechnology in Chile. The main part of this activity has been completed.
- The project partners agreed on the selection of countries where case studies are being undertaken: Cuba, Brazil, Argentina, New Zealand and EU. Terms of reference for the drafting of the case studies were also agreed with the project partner. Initial work on the case studies has begun. FIELD is undertaking the case studies on EU and New Zealand; and CDA those on Cuba, Brazil, and Argentina.
- The project co-ordinator from CDA attended the ICCP-2 meeting held on 1-5 October 2001 in Nairobi, Kenya. Discussions on this project were held with the Chilean delegation to the meeting and the regional co-ordinator for Latin America of UNEP-GEF project on National Biosafety Frameworks.
- With the assistance of FCO, FIELD has contacted the Environment Attaché of the British Embassy in Santiago to inform him about this Darwin project and the forthcoming seminar that will be held in the host country next year to ensure good dissemination of this project and its results.

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 effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

The seminar that will be held in Santiago, Chile, as part of this project has been rescheduled to avoid holiday period and national elections in Chile. The seminar will now be held in the third week of March 2002 (and not in January 2002 as included in the schedule). This change also affects the completion of the research papers on relevant national and international legislation, and comparative law case studies, which will now be finalised in January 2002 (and not in December 2001). These changes have been agreed with the Darwin Secretariat, and should not affect the timely completion of the project

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures.

N/A

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