

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Biodiversity basics strengthening sustainability of the Yasuní Amazonian rainforest, Ecuador
Country	Ecuador
Organisation	The Natural History Museum
Project Ref. No.	162/10/016
Report date	30 October 2002

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

April-September 2002: undergraduate students 1 and 2 (of 6) receives 6 months of training, completing 8 of 12 and 6 of 12 months, respectively; undergraduate student 3 (of 6) receives 1 month of training, completing 1 of 12 months; field trainee receives 6 months of training, completing 9 of 12 months training; Darwin Fellow receives 6 months of training, including 5 weeks in UK, completing 12.5 of 26 months; Huao trainees receive 175 person-days of training, bringing total to 240 of anticipated 480 person-days, and 39 Huao individuals participate, bringing total to about 50 participants (data from September not yet available).

August 2002: NHM project leader to Yasuní for 3 weeks, and Quito 1 week, to train Darwin Fellow, students and Huao; first local workshop for Huao from the communities of Guiyero and Dicaro held at Esta-ción Científica Yasuní (3 days, 15 Huao, 2 students, Darwin Fellow, field trainee and NHM leader)

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?

As explained in the Annual Report, 2001/2002, we are slightly behind schedule.

In addition, severe flooding of the Tiputini River at Estación Científica Yasuní in May-June 2002 prevented the team from training there during May. (Water was up to 1 m deep between the buildings, soaking the floorboards of the lower walls and hastening rotting.)

Undergraduate student 4 (of 6) was unable to start in September, but will start in February. We hope to select the remaining two students to start in February as well.

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

No