

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Access to genetic resources, benefit sharing and traditional knowledge in Chile
Country	Chile
Organisation	Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD)
Project Ref. No.	162/11/011
Report date	October 2002

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

- FIELD and Chile's *Fundación Sociedades Sustentables* (FSS – 'Sustainable Societies Foundation') have agreed and signed an MoU describing the allocation of work among the two partner organisations and their commitment to carry out the work under this Darwin project.
- The project partner has started working on the analysis of national experiences related to access to genetic resources and related intellectual property rights (IPR) issues. In addition, FSS has identified a local legal consultant to assist with the research and review of relevant national legislation and policy on biodiversity, genetic resources and traditional knowledge, and agreed terms of reference for the consultant's work.
- The project co-ordinator from FSS has undertaken a field trip to the South of Chile to research on applications of traditional knowledge. This information and related-experiences will be included in the country report assessing the country's legal and institutional framework on the issues of access to genetic resources, benefit sharing and traditional knowledge.
- The project partners have agreed on the selection of countries whose legal and policy regimes on access, traditional knowledge and IPRs are being researched as case studies in this project. The three countries are Peru, Costa Rica and the sub-regional access regime of the Andean Community, as very interesting examples of relevant legislation and policy of interest for Chile. Initial work on the case studies has begun and is being carried out by FIELD.
- Work has been initiated by both partners on their respective research papers: (i) FSS is working on the country report analysing national experiences on access to genetic resources, and (ii) FIELD has begun work on the overview of the relevant international legal and policy instruments related to access to genetic resources, benefit sharing, traditional knowledge and IPRs.
- The project partners have discussed the possible region where the sub-national seminar will be held in May 2003, pending a final decision between Chile's Region VIII and Region X.
- FIELD has contacted the Environment Attaché of the British Embassy in Santiago to inform him about this Darwin project, the project partner, its main activities and the forthcoming seminars that will be held in the host country next year.

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?

Changes to the financial conditions of the Darwin Initiative grants and delays in getting the contract finalised with DEFRA have resulted in further delays in the starting date of this project, as the final letter

of offer of the grant was received in June 2002. Consequently, there has been delays in getting the funds transferred to the project partner, who had also to delay the finalisation of the contract with a local legal consultant to carry out the research and review on relevant national legislation on access, benefit sharing and traditional knowledge in Chile. This situation created a new delay in the project activities, as the national report will not be finalised until March 2003, moving the dates when the sub-national workshop will be held, now rescheduled for May 2003 (instead of March). These changes to the project activities have been communicated to and 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.

The change in the format of the grant payments, from advance payments to payments in arrears, may create financial difficulties to the project partner in undertaking activities that entail up-front payments such as the organisation of seminars.

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