DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES: APPLICATION FOR GRANT FOR ROUND 10 COMPETITION

DEFRA Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Please read the accompanying Guidance Note before completing this form. Give a full answer to each section; applications will be considered on the basis of information submitted on this form. Applicants are asked not to use the form supplied to cross-refer to information in separate documents except where this is invited on the form. The space provided indicates the level of detail required but you may provide additional information on a separate sheet if necessary. Copies of this form are available on disk or by e-mail on request. You are asked also to complete the summary sheet. Although you may reproduce this sheet in a reasonable font, you should not expand it beyond an A4 sheet (leaving the allocated space for DEFRA comments to be made) as additional information will not be taken into account.

1. Name and address of organisation

The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, 20A Inverleith Row, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR

2. Principals in project

Details	Project leader	Other UK personnel (if working more than 50% of their time on project)	Main project partner or co- ordinator in host country
Surname	Gardner		Lara
Forename(s)	Martin		Antonio
Post held	Co-ordinator, International Conifer Conservation Programme		Head of Department
Institution (if different to above)			Universidad Austral de Chile (UACH), Valdivia
Department			Department of Silvaculture
Telephone			
Fax			
Email			

Please provide a one page CV for each of these named individuals.

3. Project title (not exceeding 10 words)

An integrated conservation programme for threatened, endemic forest species in Chile.

4. Abstract of study (in no more than 750 characters)

The rainforests of southern and central Chile represent one quarter of the world's remaining temperate rainforests. They are threatened by logging for woodchip and fuelwood, afforestation, agriculture and grazing. About 90% of the 900 vascular plant species known to occur in this area are endemic. A significant number, many of them listed as threatened by the IUCN, exist only in fragmented forests outside of protected areas. The aim of the programme is to provide long-term protection through an integrated programme of ex-situ and in-situ conservation involving a wide range of stakeholders. This will be accomplished by 1) providing the necessary training for key horticultural and scientific personnel in ex-situ and in-situ conservation methodologies, 2) working with private landowners to establish agreements in order to protect key endemic species and the development of habitat management plans and 3) ensuring the long term success of the project through an international benefit sharing agreement.

5. Timing. Give the proposed starting date and duration of the project.

April 2002 for a duration of three years

6. Describe briefly the aims, activities and achievements of your organisation. (Please note that this should describe your unit, institute or department within a university.)

Aims: - To explore and explain the world of plants.

Activities

i) Researching the origins, diversity and relationships of plants, their significance in the environment and their conservation.

ii) Communicating the results of scientific research through academic and educational publications.

Iii) Maintaining collections of living and preserved plants and fungi and botanical literature for research, education and the public's enjoyment.

iv) Educating school children, university students and the public in botany and horticulture.

v) Promoting plants and plant conservation locally, nationally and internationally

Achievements

i)Arabian plant specialists at RBGE in collaboration with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Arabian institutions are preparing the Flora of the Arabian Peninsula and Socotra. The flora is the first definitive account of this rich floristic region and will appear in five volumes over ten years. Darwin Initiative funded work on Socotra will produce a user-friendly "ethnoflora" for the non-specialist.

ii) RBGE is collaborating with Brazilian scientists in a DFID funded project to conserve the Cerrado region of Central Brazil. The project has identified areas of highest floristic diversity and endemism for future establishment of protected areas. It has also developed sustainable agricultural systems as an alternative to grazing, charcoal production and intensive farming, which have destroyed up to 50% of the Cerrado to date.

iii) The International Conifer Conservation Programme (ICCP) has collaborated with Chilean scientists to research the conservation genetics of threatened conifers in the wild and in cultivation. This important area of research, funded by the Darwin Initiative, has led to the restoration of degraded forests in Southern Chile.

iv) RBGE scientists are leading a Darwin funded project in the Peruvian Amazon training Peruvian scientists, technicians and students in taxonomy, field collection and identification skills and curation and databasing techniques. The project also aims to promote awareness of Peruvian forest biodiversity issues locally, nationally and internationally.

v) Specialists from the RBGE have produced a bi-lingual, three volume field guide to the Dipterocarpaceae of South East Asia. This was complemented by a CD-ROM version

7. Has your organisation received funding under the Initiative before? If so, please give details.

Yes. Since 1995 seven projects have been awarded funding from the Darwin Initiative. These include: The Senda Darwin Forest Conservation and Training Project in Chile (1996–1998); *Lobarion* lichens as indicators of primeval forests in Carpathians, Ukraine (1997-2000); Biodiversity Inventory of the Socotra Archipelago (1997-2000); Mauritius Rare Fern Project (1996-1997); The conservation of Rhododendrons in SW China (1994-1997). Tree diversity and agroforestry development in the Peruvian Amazon (2001-2003); Preservation, rehabilitation and utilisation of Vietnamese montane forests (2001-2004).

8. Which overseas institutions, if any, will be involved in the project? Please explain the responsibilities of these institutions.

i) **Faculty of Forest Science, Universidad Austral de Chile (UACH)**. The principal collaborator in Chile will be Professor Dr Antonio Lara, Head of the Department of Silviculture. Under his leadership, the Department has made an outstanding contribution to the knowledge of the ecology and biodiversity of Chilean rainforests and has taken the lead with many conservation initiatives. The most notable of which has been a World Bank funded mapping and assessment of the natural vegetation resources of Chile, using both aerial and satellite images supported by ground-truthing. This is one of the few examples in the world where a complete country assessment has been undertaken. Much of the Department's work is in collaboration with both governmental and non-governmental organisations. Currently Professor Lara and other members of the faculty are working with the President of Chile in the formulation of new policies for the conservation and sustainable management of native forests.

ii) **Corporación Nacional Forestal (CONAF)** is an autonomous state corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for forests and protected areas. It is responsible for 30 National Parks, 36 National Reserves and 10 Natural Monuments, amounting to 18% of the total land area of Chile. Much of the project will be collaborating with the CONAF office in Concepción but some of the policy agreements will need to be discussed with the administration in central office in Santiago.

Both the above institutions have a good track record in collaborating together on major conservation initiatives.

PROJECT DETAILS

9. Define the purpose (main objective) of the project in line with the logical framework.

To provide key Chilean scientific and horticultural researchers with the necessary knowledge and expertise to enable them to protect populations of threatened endemic woody forest species not included in Chile's network of protected areas. This will be achieved by integrating ex-situ with in-situ conservation – such a multidisciplinary approach will result in a wide range of skills being used and will ensure long-term conservation. All trained personnel will be able to train others. The main elements of the project are:

i) training of key Chilean personnel, both in Chile and the UK, in the processes that are fundamental for the protection of endemic forest species. This will include:

- training in the UK for two students in measuring genetic variability of endemic threatened species using molecular techniques so that the results can be used to help guide conservation policy
- in-country training for the management of ex-situ collections of threatened plant species
- ii) initiating long-term conservation agreements with local landowners who own land containing threatened species.

iii) establishing agreements, within the spirit of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), with the UK horticultural industry and the Chilean government for the sale of Chilean plants of amenity horticultural value. Revenue from UK sales will be used to sustain the long-term conservation of the threatened endemic forest species.

10. Is this a new project or the continuation of an existing one?

This is a new project but complementary to a project that the Universidad Austral de Chile has submitted to the government funding body FONDEF. That project focuses solely on the improvement of current technologies for the propagation of common woody native forest plants in order to meet the ever increasing demand in Chile for common native trees. Projects involving propagation of threatened endemic species and the protection of their habitats, are not eligible for funding by FONDEF.

11. What is the evidence for a demand or need for the work? How is the project related to conservation priorities in the host country(ies)? How would the project assist the host country with its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention?

How was the work identified?

Following widespread conversion of native forests to commercial forestry plantations, particularly in the coastal regions of southern central Chile, conservationists have become increasingly concerned about the long-term future of narrow endemic species. The wider loss of habitats in Chile led to a symposium being held in 1996 aimed at identifying sites in need of urgent protection. It resulted in the publication of 'The red book of priority sites for conservation of the biological diversity in Chile'. Many of these species have been listed in the 1997 IUCN Red List of Threatened Plants (1998) and The World List of Threatened Trees (1998). Recently both Professor Lara and Carlos Le Quesne have visited RBG Edinburgh to discuss how a programme can be developed to help local landowners protect threatened endemic forest trees and shrubs that are on their land. They also requested that the arboretum at the Universidad Austral de Chile (established in 1960) should be further developed to integrate ex-situ with in-situ conservation. The longer-term goal is to develop the arboretum into one of South America's leading conservation centres for native threatened woody plants. To this end the International Conifer Conservation Programme (ICCP), with its 10 year history of developing management tools for ex-situ collections, has been asked to help develop the arboretum so that its collections can be used for future research and conservation programmes. Linking this with training of researchers in plant collection management and biodiversity assessment has been identified as crucial. Recent contacts with several major UK horticultural wholesalers concerning the sale of plants in order to direct some of the profits to the conservation of threatened Chilean plants have been positive. The British Embassy in Santiago has also supported this initiative by offering to assist with negotiations with the Chilean authorities in order to carry this process forward in line with the CBD. Legal advice will be donated by a retired UK specialist.

How is the project related to conservation priorities in the host country?

The temperate forests of southern Chile, with their high levels of biodiversity and endemism (up 90% of the flora), have been recognised as one of the most threatened eco-regions world-wide by the Global 200 Initiative run by the WWF and the World Bank. Many of the tree species are listed in both national and international Red Lists compiled with the IUCN. The Chilean government has placed the management and protection of Chilean native forests at the core of their current proposed National Native Forest Policy. This policy is the result of consultation between the Chilean members of this proposal and governmental officials including the President of Chile. The policy prioritises the conservation and sustainable management of threatened tree species and their habitats. It also recognises the need for technological transfer and increased training in practical aspects of biodiversity management. The aims of this project meet one of the major challenges identified in the proposed policy, as it focuses on the conservation of threatened species and the need for the rehabilitation of their habitats.

How will the project assist the host country meet its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention?

a) monitoring, through sampling and research the components of biological diversity in urgent need of conservation measures (Article 6 & 7); b) in-situ-conservation - establishing a system of protected areas and through research help to develop guidelines for the selection, establishment and management of these areas (Article 8); c) ex-situ conservation of threatened species in Chile for research and their conservation (Article 9); d) training of local personnel through scientific and technical collaboration (Articles 12/16/18); e)Benefit Sharing Agreement (Article 15).

12. In what ways can this project be considered a Darwin project? How does the project relate to the Darwin principles? How would the project be advertised as a Darwin project and in what ways would the Darwin name and logo be used?

This project can be considered as a Darwin projects as it seeks to safeguard and enhance the biodiversity of Chilean forests by: **Promoting** capacity building by giving financial assistance and technical support, forging collaborative links between Chilean institutions and local people; b) supporting training programmes in Chile and in the UK; c) providing research that helps to measure biodiversity and assist conservation strategies; d) including initiatives that generate financial support for long-term conservation through incentives such as the sale of plants within Chile and the UK in order; e) promotion of key aspects of the Convention on Biological Diversity such as benefit sharing through the transfer of knowledge and the generation of income from the sale of Chilean plants in the UK

Publicising the work of the Darwin Initiative, the Darwin logo will be used on all publications and on all the main signs in the Arboretum and at sites of protected natural populations. The logo will also be used by the UK horticultural trade to promote the sale of Chilean plants for the benefit of threatened endemic Chilean plants. Trainees will be known as Darwin Scholars.

13. Set out the proposed timetable for the work, including the programme's measurable outputs using the output measures.

Project Outputs				
Year	Output Number	Description		
Year 1 2002	23 (Unspecified)	Undertake discussions with UK horticultural industry on the commercialisation of ornamental Ohiloon plants		
April May-Feb03	9(4)	 Chilean plants. Chilean personnel to start prioritising sites for protection, with landowners. Habitat management plans including long-term agreements for habitat protection will be produced. (x5) 		
Nov02	12a(1) 4c,d(3,3)	• Installation of BG-BASE TM to manage ex-situ collections and necessary database training		
Nov02	13a(1) 4c,d (1,2) 8(2)	• Evaluation of current plant collections in the arboretum of UACH and the development of a year workplan for establishing new plantings of conservation importance. Start process of accessioning existing plants of conservation importance		
	23 (Unspecified)	• Start dialogue through CONAF with governmental agencies for CBD based agreement for commercialisation of Chilean plants in the UK		
Apr-July02	4c,d (1,16)	• Commence four month training in the UK on the management of plant collections for ex-situ conservation for Darwin Scholar		
Jan-Feb03	8(7) 4c,d (3,12)	• Inventory of sites with threatened endemic woody plant species - collection of appropriate		
	8(1) 14a(1) 4a,b	material – herbarium, seed for ex-situ work, DNA		
	(3,3) 4c,d(10,10)	• Four day workshop in plant collections and database management, involving UACH staff, governmental and non-governmental organisations		
Apr-Apr	15abcd (2,2,1,2) 19ac(1,2)	• Press releases in Chilean and UK local and national newspapers, interviews on Chilean local and		
Year 2		national radio		
May-Oct03	4c,d(1,24)	• Six month training/research in UK - genetic variability of endemic species for Darwin Scholar		
May03-Feb04	9(4)	• Chilean personnel continue protection work with landowners. Habitat management plans including long-term agreements for habitat protection will be produced.		
	23 (Unspecified)	• Continued dialogue with CONAF, Chilean governmental agencies and UK horticultural industry for CBD based agreement for UK commercialisation of Chilean plants		
May03-Feb04 Jan-Feb04	22(5)	• Arboretum staff establish field plots of threatened endemic species using material collected in Year 1		
8(10) 4c,d (3,12) • Inventory of sit		• Inventory of sites with threatened endemic woody plant species – collection of appropriate material – herbarium, seed for ex-situ work, DNA		
	8(2) 14a(2) 4a,b	• Propagation workshop involving UACH staff, governmental and non-governmental		
Apr-Apr	(6,6) 4c,d(13,13) 15abcd (2,2,1,2)	organisations, plant records workshop involving UACH and staff, governmental and non- governmental organisations		
	19ac(1,2)	• Press releases in Chilean and UK local and national newspapers, interviews on Chilean local and		
Year 3 May-Oct04	4c,d(1,24)	 national radio Six month training/research in UK into the genetic variability of endemic species for Darwin 		
Jan-Feb05	8(9) 4c,d (3,12)	 Scholar Inventory of sites with threatened endemic woody plant species – collection of appropriate 		
May04 -	13b(1) 9(4)	material – herbarium, seed for ex-situ work, DNA		
Feb05		• Chilean personnel continue protection work with landowners. Habitat management plans including long-term agreements for habitat protection will be produced.		
May04-Feb05	22(5)	• Arboretum staff establish field plots of threatened endemic species using material collected in Year 2		
Mar05	11b(3)	 Submit 3 papers to peer reviewed journals on the conservation of threatened endemic plants Publication of manual for the management of living conservation plant collections 		
Mar04	7(1)	 Publication of manual for the propagation of threatened endemic plants 		
Mar04	7(1)	 Agreement with CONAF, Chilean governmental agencies and UK hort industry for CBD based 		
Apr Apr	23 (Unspecified) 15abcd (2.2.1.2)	agreement for commercialisation of Chilean plants in the UK		
Apr-Apr	15abcd (2,2,1,2) 19ac(1,2)	• Press releases in Chilean and UK local and national newspapers, interviews on Chilean local and		
Jan-Feb05	14a(1) 8(3) 4abcd(5,5,10,10)7(5)	 national radio Final seminar – review of training , presentation of field work results, presentations by trainees, review of arboretum development and conservation strategies developed during project 		

Key Milestones		
Year/Month	Description	
(starting April)	(include travel dates, drafts and other processes that support the delivery of outputs)	
Yr1 Apr2002	Project starts	
Apr-July2002 Apr-May2002	Arrival, training and departure of first Chilean Postgraduate Darwin Scholar (CPDS) in UK Initiation of talks with Chilean govt. and UK horticultural industries	
Nov 02	First visit by UK staff - installation of database, training, production of development plan for arboretum	
Jan-Feb03	2 nd UK staff visit – project progress review, 2 nd training, field work, habitat management plans produced	
March03	Annual report	
Yr2 May-Oct 03	Arrival, training and departure of second CPDS in UK	
By Nov03	Establishment of field plots in arboretum using material collected during Jan03 visit	
By Dec03	Habitat management plans in place	
Jan-Feb 04	3 rd UK staff visit – project progress review, 3 rd training, field work, annual report (3/04)	
By March 04	Benefit Sharing Agreement, 2 nd Annual report	
Yr3 May-Oct 04	Arrival, training and departure of third CPDS in UK	
Dec04	Submission of papers to peer reviewed journals, final drafts of manuals	
Jan 05	dissemination seminar	
Jan-Feb05	4 th UK staff visit – project progress review, 4 th training, field work, habitat management plans produced,	
March 05	Final Report	

14. Do you know of any other individual/organisation carrying out similar work? Give the details of the work, explaining the similarities and differences.

To our knowledge there are no other projects that integrate ex-situ and in-situ conservation for the threatened endemic species of this region. No other projects involve Benefit sharing agreements. FONDEFF, a Chilean government organisation is considering a proposal for the commercial production of common woody species in Valdivia. The proposed Darwin project will complement this project, as it will focus on the threatened species that are outside of the remit of the FONDEFF proposal. The people trained by the Darwin project will be able to use the knowledge and experience gained to ensure that the FONDEFF project follows good practice by ensuring the use of local provenances to maintain genetic integrity.

15. Will the project include training and development? Please indicate how many trainees will be involved, from which countries and what will be the criteria for selection. How will you measure the effectiveness of the training and will those trained then be able to train others? Where appropriate give the length of any training course.

Training Activity	Dates	Who will participate, how many will participate and for how long?
Year1 Conservation collection management	04/02-07/04	1 postgraduate Darwin Scholar; 4 months in UK
Liv.Coll. Manag. Propagation/ records	11/02	3 postgraduate Darwin Scholars; 1 week each
Plant collection and database management	01/03-02/03	3 undergraduate, 10 postgraduates Darwin Scholars; 1 week
		each
Field training in conserv. and habitat assess.	01/03-02/03	3 postgraduate Darwin Scholars; 4 weeks each
Year2 Molecular techniques for conservation	05/03-10/03	1 postgraduate Darwin Scholar; 6 months in UK
Propagation of endemic threatened plants	01-02/04	6 undergraduate, 10 postgraduate Darwin Scholars; 1 week
		each
Plant collection and database management	01-02/04	3 postgraduate Darwin Scholars; 1 week each
Field training in conserv. and habitat assess.	01-02/04	3 postgraduate Darwin Scholars; 4 weeks each
Year3		
Field training in conserv. and habitat assess.	01-02/05	3 postgraduate Darwin Scholars; 4 weeks each
Molec. Techniques for conservation	05/04-10/04	1 postgraduate Darwin Scholar; 6 months in UK
*Criteria – trainees selected on basis of the		*all trainees will be able to train others. Effectiveness will be
extent of their direct involvement in		monitored during the repeat visits by the UK specialists and
conservation work and the likelihood that they		by regular project progress reviews.
will be able to put the training into practice		*all trainees are from Chile

16. How will trainee outcomes/destinations be monitored after the end of the training?

Annual visits to Chile by UK specialists will provide adequate opportunities to make thorough assessments of the training that has been undertaken in Chile. Certificates of Achievement will be awarded to those achieving their expected outcomes. Darwin Scholars trained in the UK will be closely supervised during their work; those involved in the DNA research will write joint scientific papers for publication in peer-reviewed journals detailing the outcome of their research. The horticultural trainee will produce a final report on the work carried out.

17. How is the work of the project expected to continue after the end of grant period? A clear exit strategy must be included.

One strength of the project is that there is good provision for the continuation of the project after the end of the grant period. In terms of financial support, one aim of the project is to secure a long-term agreement with the UK horticultural industry to fix a levy on selected Chilean plants sold in garden centres so that this income can be used to sustain the protected habitats with threatened endemic species. The trained staff in Chile will be able to use the knowledge and skills gained to train future field technicians, students etc. in helping to further develop the project. This work will continue to be carried out in the context of the native forest policy being developed jointly by the Chilean members of this proposal and the Chilean President.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

18. Describe how progress on the project would be monitored and evaluated in terms of achieving its aims and objectives, both during the lifetime of the project and at its conclusion. How would you ensure that it achieves value for money? What arrangements will be made for disseminating results? If applicable, how would you seek the views of clients/customers?

A series of exchanges between Chile and the UK will ensure that staff of both countries will monitor the progress of the project. Each visit from the UK experts will include time for evaluating the results of the work undertaken and the effectiveness of the training. Financial monitoring will be via the RBGE Finance Division. Results will be disseminated through research papers in peer-reviewed journals. Results will also be disseminated in Chile as habitat management plans, conservation collection and threatened plant propagation manuals. The necessary progress reports will be submitted to DEFRA and the monitors.

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
Goal To assist countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources with the conservation of biological diversity and implementation of the Biodiversity Convention			
Purpose To provide Chilean researchers and local land-owners with the knowledge and skills to enable them to protect populations of threatened forest species not included in Chile's network of protected areas, by integrating ex- situ with in-situ conservation, in line with the objectives of the national native forest conservation and management policy.	Development and implementation of habitat management plans, ex-situ collections, agreements with local owners, Chilean government and UK horticultural industry 35 Chilean researchers and horticultural staff trained in and able to display the skills necessary for protecting threatened species outside of protected areas Production of manuals and other publications containing protocols for habitat management, ex-situ collection management and propagation	Annual visits by UK experts Workshop/training reports Publications (manuals research papers etc) available to trained Chilean personnel and other interested parties Oral presentations by trainees Data collected and collections established by Chilean staff and discussed with UK experts during visits	That the need for integrated ex-situ and in- situ conservation programmes will continue That agreements made will continue to be honoured

Logical framework. Please enter the details of your project onto the matrix using the note at Annex B of the Guidance Note.

Outputs	Measurable Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
1. Agreement with UK horticul- tural wholesaler and the Chilean government to commercialise amenity Chilean plants as a source of income to support the long-term conservation of threatened endemic	- Signed international agreements obtained fulfilling the requirements of the CBD	- Agreements implemented and working	Agreements made are honoured by contracting parties
 species. 2. Develop agreements with local landowners for the long-term protection of key habitats containing threatened endemic 	 Signed agreements obtained which comply with Chilean legislation Formal recognition of new protected areas 	- Protected areas designated	 Continued support from local landowners Wild fires do not cause habitat loss
species.3. Develop the arboretum of (UACH) into a centre of excellence for the management of research exsitu conservation collections	- Key Chileans trained in appropriate skills	- Completed training, establishment of ex-situ collections	- Continued support from the UACH
Activities Networking with local landowners in order to identify priority sites	- Suitable sites identified and agreements established	- Management plans produced	- Landowners will co- operate
Meetings with Chilean government officials and UK horticultural trade to discuss the commercialisation of Chilean plants in the UK	- Agreements obtained which comply with the CBD	- Agreements working	- Parties continue to honour agreements
Botanical survey supported by voucher herbarium specimens	- Species lists compiled, herbarium specimens identified and mounted with full documentation	- Species lists published and herbarium material disseminated	
DNA and propagation materials collected	- Plants successfully propagated. DNA samples used for biodiversity assessment research	- Manual and peer-reviewed scientific papers published	- Populations can withstand seed collections
Practical in-situ measures taken	- Protected areas fenced	- Protected areas recognised	
Collection and propagation of horticultural plants for commerce	- Plants successfully propagated and grown on	- Plant acquisitions achieved in line with signed agreements	
Training Chilean scientific and horticultural students in methodologies necessary for conserving threatened endemic species	- Fully trained personnel	- Relevant publications and manuals produced and personnel carrying out conservation work	Opportunities for employment in conservation work will be available
Long-term management plan for arboretum	- Publication of plan for internal use and as a model for other collection holders	- Implementation of Plan	- Continued commitment from UACH
Planting of threatened species for ex-situ conservation.	- Established plantings of threatened endemics		
Installation of a database for managing ex-situ conservation collections	- Dataset containing plant records of germplasm in arboretum	- Improved collections of endemic species fully documented and reported on in UACH internal reports	