

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Biodiversity and Colombian Coffee Farmers: Capacity Building for Added Value
Country	Colombia
Organisation	CABI Commodities and Cenicafe
Project Ref. No.	162/11/014
Report date	April – September 2002

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

Initial visit: PS Baker (CABI) visited Colombia in July to plan activities for the first year of the project. With Duque, Botero and Salazar of Cenicafe he developed plans for: a) The opening workshop (October 2002), b) Selection of field sites; c) Development of initial questionnaire

Subsequent activities: Farm semi-structured interviews. Researchers from Cenicafe met with coffee extensionists and agreed to develop the project in two contrasting municipalities of the department of Caldas:

- a) Manizales: the veredas (parishes) of Manizales, Santa Clara and Morrogordo. These three districts comprise many smallholder communities and have substantially traditional coffee producing technology under shade.
- b) Palestina: the veredas of EL Higuerón, La Muleta, La Plata and Los Alpes. This zone is characterised by intensive farms with little or no shade.

These veredas have a total of 477 farmers, of which 120 will be sampled. This is ambitious and may have to be reassessed according to experience. These veredas were then visited to establish initial contact with farmers to explain the nature of the project and conduct trial questionnaires.

Group activities: In addition to the above planned individual encounters, group meetings have been planned, with extensionists, in the municipality of Pereira in the department of Risaralda in the veredas of Cantamonos, Guacarí and El Jordán.

Reserves: The process is underway to identify forest remnants and reserves in the study area, with the assistance of extensionists with local knowledge. An interdisciplinary committee has been set up to develop a pilot plan to manage a local reserve known as Plan Alto, which includes scientists from various departments of Cenicafe.

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?

Initial training, workshop and sampling behind schedule due to a late start but we are confident we will be back on track by the end of the first year.

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

No

