

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report Form

<b>Project Title</b>	Sustainable management of the black land crab, <i>Gecarcinus ruricola</i> , Colombia”
<b>Country</b>	Colombia
<b>Organisation</b>	Heriot-Watt University
<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/11/015
<b>Report date</b>	8 October 2004

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

The education programme continues to take place including work with schools on the finalisation of next year’s curricula, activities with the Black Crab Clubs and eco-fun vacations. Black crab bulletins are being produced, a 2005 calendar is under design, the lore booklet is in press and the children’s book is in translation. The documentary has been drafted and is under review. A pop-song with video has been produced.

The majority of biological and socio-economic data collection for analyses has been completed including population surveys and catch and effort estimates. This data has largely been or is in the final processes of being analysed. The first set of terraculture experiments has been completed and a second set of experiments has begun. Two workshops are planned in November 2004 for presentation of the research’s findings and discussion on future conservation and management, before development of the management plan. The terraculture feasibility study is being completed and Arne Britton is nearing completion of his MSc.

The project team are beginning to develop papers for submission to peer-review journals.

### 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?

CORALINA’s main researcher for the project has resigned 2.5 years into the project and concludes her current contact in mid-October 2004. Dr Baine is currently in discussions with CORALINA to appoint a suitable replacement.

A number of problems have arisen from time to time regarding project staffing in San Andres. This relates in the main to internal CORALINA administration, which at times has unfortunately affected the duties of personnel devoted to this project and has hindered progress of the project at crucial times. The project remains on course, mainly due to the exceptional dedication of existing project personnel and a greater than envisaged input from Dr Hartnoll and Dr Baine. This will be discussed with CORALINA in November 2004.

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

No