

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Sustainable management of the black land crab, <i>Gecarcinus ruricola</i> , Colombia”
Country	Colombia
Organisation	Heriot-Watt University
Project Ref. No.	162/11/015
Report date	15 October 2002

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

The original research timetable was affected by the delay in contract issue and agreement, a major consequence being that the project team was unable to study the annual crab migration in May 2002. In the revised schedule it was noted that migratory studies would be undertaken in May 2003 and 2004. This project schedule agreed with the Darwin Initiative was seen as indicative pending the project's initial meeting. The initial meeting of the project team was held in San Andres, 7-9 October 2002 and was attended by Dr Mark Baine and Dr Richard Hartnoll from the UK. The project was extensively discussed and is on track to achieve its objectives. Possible minor amendments to the project schedule and use of funds are currently being discussed with Sylvia Smith of the Darwin Initiative. These involve movement of Year 1 training (December 2002) to the beginning of Year 2 (April 2003), and the use of equipment funds to purchase a laptop for efficient collation and analysis of project data throughout the San Andres Archipelago. These amendments will not affect delivery of the project's objectives.

The reference collection is currently under development and will be completed and added to the computer database on schedule (December 2002). The project team are also currently involved in educational/promotional aspects of the research including television interviews, press releases and, banner and poster production. Crab lore information is also being collated. Dr Richard Hartnoll has also been working with CORALINA biologists on field experiments to identify future survey techniques.

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?

Refer to (1) above.

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

The project team would like to raise the issue of payment of project funds to participating partners from host countries. In some instances, such as with CORALINA, it is impossible for host country organisations to purchase equipment, fund staff etc without having the money already in place. Heriot-Watt University is able to address this in part but the project team feels that it would be more advantageous to have advance funds made available for CORALINA, particularly for the purchase of equipment etc.

Completed forms to: Rose Clarkson, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JK, Scotland. Email: R.Clarkson@ed.ac.uk