

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162/12/012
Project Title	Xaté palms (<i>Chamaedorea</i> spp.) in Belize: conservation and sustainable management
Country(ies)	Belize
UK Organisation	Natural History Museum (NHM), London
Collaborator(s)	Belize Forest Department, Belize Botanic Gardens, Ya'axché Conservation Trust
Report date	23 rd October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	Final Yr.
Project website	http://www.nhm.ac.uk/research-curation/projects/xate/ http://www.nhm.ac.uk/nature-online/science-of-natural-history/science-at-the-museum/our-global-reach/

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

The project is in its final six months and good progress is being made towards delivering the final outputs before the end of March 2007. For the most part, the research component is being prepared for publication. The second major paper from this project was published in October (Economic Botany 60(3): 265-283), and a third paper was accepted to the journal PALMS in August 2006. Three other manuscripts are being prepared (1 x GIS; 1 x molecular; 1 x regional review). In addition, all the project interim reports to the Belize Forest Department are being converted to pdf files for loading onto the on-line governmental the Belize Clearing House Mechanism. The *Chamaedorea* photo ID guide has been completed and hardcopies distributed around Belize. In addition it is available for downloading at the website: www.fmnh.org/plantguides/. A photoguide to the remaining palms of Belize has been completed and 50 copies distributed to NGOs, the Forest Department and Conservation organisations for feedback. Once amended a further 100 copies will be distributed this will also be available on-line at the website above. All the training components of the project were completed last year ahead of schedule. The permanent sample *Chamaedorea* plots were revisited and re-surveyed in July 2006 and will delivered to the Forest Department in March. The management plan to the Chiquibul is being prepared and this will be ready by the end of the project. The feasibility analysis of xaté eco-labelling schemes and supplemental local cultivation of xaté has been completed (see final year reports 2004-2005 & 2005-2006) . The geo-referenced database, and GIS maps are being prepared and it is anticipated that they will be given to Belize Information Centre and BFD in February 2007. The BBG Education Officer is still employed at the BBG and involved in regular school and public education work related to xaté and NTFPs.

NHM staff have so far spent nine weeks in Belize, and the project PI is currently in Belize (October 3rd – November 31st) to discuss the final preparations to bring closure to the project and to discuss and develop Post project funding ideas.

In summary, all project outputs will be delivered on time and no slippage is anticipated.

<p>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 affect the budget and timetable of project activities.</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p> <p>NA</p>	
<p>Discussed with the DI Secretariat:</p>	<p>no/yes, in..... (month/yr)</p>
<p>Changes to the project schedule/workplan:</p>	<p>no/yes, in.....(month/yr)</p>

<p>3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No</p>
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If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**