

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162-12-017
Project Title	Building capacity and determining disease threats to endemic Galapagos fauna
Country(ies)	UK, Ecuador
UK Organisation	Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London
Collaborator(s)	Galapagos National Park, University of Guayaquil
Report date	31 st October 2004
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	

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).

Most activities in the lab are operational but some cosmetic infrastructure work remains outstanding due to delays in Park administration (see below). The sampling and protocol development component of the project has been running well, with significant advances in vector and native species sampling. A programme of mosquito prevalence mapping is close to completion, which is feeding in to a mosquito molecular analysis project. Similarly a project to collect blood samples from domestic dogs and sea lions to assess disease transfer between the two is also near to completion, and the serological analysis of this material will begin shortly. Two papers related to the project have been submitted, one on a risk assessment for West Nile Virus invasion, and one on the redetection of an important mosquito vector for avian diseases in the archipelago. Both papers were written with institutions collaborating on disease work in Galapagos. The project has also contributed to the development of policy documents for the mitigation of West Nile Virus threat, and the management of wild life disease through the vaccination of domestic animals that are now being considered by local and national government bodies. Training/fieldwork visits by the UK staff have proceeded as scheduled.

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.

The Galapagos National Park Service has experienced significant problems due to the removal of the Park Director by the central government of Ecuador for political reasons and his attempted replacement with a candidate unacceptable to the majority of Park staff. This led to public demonstrations and confrontations between Park staff and local supporters of the replacement director. A new interim director has been installed until a candidate acceptable to all parties can be found. However, the Park remains weakened as a result of the actions of central government. The impact of this on the project has largely been at an administrative level, for example, during the demonstrations the Park offices were closed, so the efficiency of the processing of project finances by the Park was reduced. Meetings have taken place with the new interim director, and he continues to support the project to the full extent. At no point were project staff or property threatened with physical danger. The processing of day to day finances by the Park remains a problem which has hindered some activities and reimbursement of staff for 'petty cash' expenses. We are now looking to run this expenditure via the University of Guayaquil. If

the situation remains stable there should be no major delays to the project timetable.
Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?
Discussed with the DI Secretariat: yes , in September/October 2004
Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no , in.....(month/yr)

<p>3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p> <p>The Project leader, Dr. Simon Goodman is moving to the Department of Biology, University of Leeds, UK with effect from the 1st of November 2004 and from early 2005, the project funding should be moved to this Institution. However, the Zoological Society of the London remains a full member of the project, and there will be no changes to the implementation of the project. The Secretariat will be contacted directly about this.</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.**