

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Climate Change and Conservation of Galapagos Bird Species
Country	Ecuador
Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Research Unit (WildCRU), Oxford University
Project Ref. No.	162/12/0118
Report date	31 October 2003

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months 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 was implemented according to the schedule. Project planning was carried out between April and July 2003 in conjunction with staff from the Galapagos National park Service, the Charles Darwin Foundation and the Wildlife Conservation Research Unit of the University of Oxford. Between August and October 2003, an intensive field season took place in the Galapagos. Key project milestones were accomplished according to the agreed plan and DI project timetable.

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. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

The Director of the Galapagos National Park Service (GNPS) left his post unexpectedly early this year. A permanent replacement has not yet been appointed, and the role has been fulfilled meanwhile by interim Directors. These changes affected neither the budget, nor the timetable, for the project; however, it was necessary to invest additional time in project planning through meetings with interim Directors. Despite the unusual circumstances, the GNPS provided the required staff and transportation according to the agreed project timetable and commitments. This issue has not been discussed with DEFRA, because a new Director is due to be appointed soon, after which long-term agreements will be established to allow timely implementation of various project activities. No changes to the original agreement are required at present.

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

We have benefited enormously from conducting detailed project planning in conjunction with all project partners. We suggest that DEFRA should encourage project personnel to incorporate such a process into all DI projects, to better facilitate successful project implementation.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, Email: stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk