

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Genetic diversity and management implications for high Andean guanaco populations in Peru.
Country	Peru
Organisation	Cardiff University
Project Ref. No.	162/12/022
Report date	21st 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 began on 1st July 2003, with a series of events organised by CONOPA in Lima between 1st-10th July. These were extremely successful for promoting the project in Peru and in bringing together the key stakeholders. The events organised for this week were:

1. An exhibition and seminar held in conjunction with the Peruvian Congress, CONOPA and the British Embassy which was hosted by the Peruvian Congress between 1st-7th July entitled 'The applications of DNA in Peru: South American Camelids'. An evening conference was held on 4th July as part of this exhibition at which Professor Bruford, Dr Wheeler and Mr Artaza gave presentations about the application of molecular genetic techniques in conservation and about research into South American camelids. This conference was introduced by Congressman Adolfo Latorre Lopez and Gustavo Pacheco Villar (Fifth Vice-President of the Congress). The conference was attended by an invited audience comprising parties and organisations with an interest in camelid research
2. Professor Bruford was invited to speak about biotechnology and conservation of animals in danger of extinction at the 57th Anniversary conference of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of San Marcos University, Lima.
3. An evening reception was held on 8th July at the home of Mr Ian Davies, the Deputy Head of the British Embassy Lima, to which representatives of organisations with an interest in camelid research were invited.
4. An evening seminar was organised at INRENA (National Institute of National Resources) on the 'Applications of biotechnology for conservation of endangered species in Peru' at which presentations were given by Professor Bruford and Dr Wheeler.
5. A stakeholders meeting was held at INRENA drawing together representatives from organisations whose support is necessary for the Population and Habitat Viability Assessment at the end of the project. These organisations are CONACS (National Council for South American Camelids) and INRENA, the two government organisations with legal responsibility for the guanaco, CONAM (National Council of the Environment) and SNVG (National Society of Vicuna and Guanaco). This meeting was well attended and the support of the stakeholders was gained for the future of the project.

During this first week the sampling regime was decided and Trainee 2 will commence sampling shortly. Peruvian trainee 1 (Jorge Rodriguez) arrived in Cardiff and he is attending the Conservation Biology course in Cardiff University. He is being trained in modern molecular genetic methods in the laboratory by CD. Microsatellite analysis is beginning with eleven loci which have been previously shown to be polymorphic in guanaco. Trainee 2 (Kathryn Yaya) spent 21 days in Sept/Oct observing guanacos at Calipuy and developing strategies for sampling.

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?

This project began on 1st July 2003, since it was requested by DEFRA that the start date was postponed for two months. Consequently, the dates for some key milestones have been put back by two months especially during the first year of the project. Notably, Jorge Rodriguez arrived in Cardiff on 13th September which is later than expected due to the prohibitively high airfare from Peru to UK before 11th September. The CD and JR will return to Peru on 10th March 2004 until the end of August 2004. The first conservation biology course will be held in July 2004 instead of in June. The rest of the timetable remains unchanged except for the PHVA which will be held in Lima in April 2006 rather than in February.

Sampling has been impeded by one particular official at INRENA, who has so far refused to issue the permit necessary to allow sampling to commence. A meeting is scheduled imminently to try to resolve this problem.

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

As agreed with Silvia Smith, we will apply separately for annual pay awards on the PDRA salary as these were not costed in the original proposal.

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