



# **Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species**

**Annual Report 2004-2005**

## **1. Darwin Project Information**

Project Ref. Number	162/13/005
Project Title	<i>Community Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Awacachi Corridor, NW Ecuador</i>
Country(ies)	<i>Ecuador</i>
UK Contractor	<i>America Programme, Fauna &amp; Flora International</i>
Partner Organisation(s)	<i>Fundación Sirua</i>
Darwin Grant Value	<i>£174,884</i>
Start/End dates	<i>1 Apr 2004 to 31 Mar 2007</i>
Reporting period (1 Apr 2004 to 31 Mar 2005) and report number (1,2,3..)	<i>1 Apr 2004 to 31 Mar 2005. Report Number 1</i>
Project website	
Author(s), date	<i>Fernando Echeverria (Fundación Sirua), Julio Bernal (FFI)</i>

## **2. Project Background**

The Awacachi Corridor Project is located in the Ecuadorian Province of Esmeraldas in the Chocó Bio-Region. Over the past 5 years, amongst other things, the Americas Programme of Fauna and Flora International (FFI) has been working in collaboration with NGOs and government institutions to protect the last remnant of the Chocó region in the Northern of Ecuador. The aim of the project is the creation of an effective biological corridor linking two key protected areas, the Awa indigenous Reserve and the Cotacachi Cayapas National Reserve). FFI in collaboration with its Ecuadorian partner Fundación Sirua (the original name of the Fundación was Awacachi but it was necessary to change its due to a formal request from the Awa Federation)

This project try to draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve: the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.

Fundación Sirua has purchased around 12,000 hectares of forested lands to establish the core area of the Awacachi Corridor which permits the creation and protection of a biological corridor between the Awa Indigenous Reserve and the Cotacachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve (National protected area) creating a conservation unit of over 250,000 ha.

In the region deforestation is the principal threat to biodiversity. The root cause of poor forest management is disorderly settlement and expansion of the agricultural frontier driven by large extractive industries, poverty, land scarcity, and population growth. The Ecuadorian portion of the Chocó is most acutely threatened, with only 2% of the original lowland forest remaining and has one of the highest deforestation rates in the world.

Forests, river flats, wetlands, and hillsides are being displaced by non-sustainable production of oil palm, among other crops. This trend has been a major cause of habitat and species destruction - particularly in coastal Ecuador, where agricultural activities have caused severe

damage to the ecosystem. All these business that not offer sustainable activities have attracted outside capital (foreign and domestic) and displaced Afroecuadorian and indigenous populations from their traditional activities, forcing them to move to towns and cities or occupy national parks and protected areas This has occurred in the Awá Ethnic Reserve and in the Mache Chindul Ecological Reserve in Ecuador. The effects include overexploitation of land, ecosystem fragmentation, and displacement causing serious conflict over land issues. Oil palm plantations represent the largest monoculture in the province of Esmeraldas creating a negative ecological impact, altering the Chocó landscape as well as polluted air and rivers.

This project funded by Darwin Initiative will help FS to develop and implement environmentally friendly income generation activities work with the communities located in the buffer zone of the Corridor to implement income-generation activities in the area offering income options different than logging and oil palm, preventing the current degrading activities thus assisting communities to develop sustainable alternatives (i.e butterfly farm), and to design a participatory management plan with the communities and an agreement action plan between Cotacachi Cayapas Reserve, Awa Indigenous Reserve and Sirua Foundation to protect this portion of the Choco Bioregion.

### **3. Project Purpose and Outputs**

Purpose:

To secure the biodiversity of the Awacachi Corridor through enhanced local conservation capacity and completion of a participatory management plan for focusing on innovative community income generation projects using non-timber forest products (NTFPs)

Outputs;

- Professional operational arm of FS functioning effectively through capacity building and institutional strengthening.
- Management plan developed and being implemented in key areas within the corridor.
- Biological monitoring system for Awacachi Corridor established and functioning.
- Butterfly farming/ranching facility established and generating income.
- Alternative income generation projects established and yielding income in 2 communities.

*Annex 1. Project Logical Framework.*

The outputs or proposed operational plan has not been modified over the last year. However, we have had suffered delayed in some products:

- In October 2004, incongruence in the budget approved by Darwin was clarified in communication with Carrie Haloun. The overall amount of the budget remained the same. The amount clarified was the corresponding to the FA environmental lawyer, which amount changed from £4000 to £8000 for 2004/2005.
- The Management Plan for the entire Corridor should be finished by March 2005. However, some delays in the production of maps and interpretation of them, have taken the consultant more time that expected, therefore delaying the publication of this work. This product will be finished in the next trimester (April-June 2005).
- According with the chronogram the butterfly breeding unit had to be finished in the last quarter of 2004. Two unforeseen events have delayed the completion of this product. First, the construction had to be postponed until February due to internal problems within the community. After a long process and various meetings with representatives from the community, the inconvenient could be solved, allowing the construction of the facility. Second, after the problem with the community was solved, the consultant was appointed to start the construction of the Butterfly facility at the beginning of March, date when he argued some personal problems that prevented him from travelling. This problem was communicated to the Secretariat as soon as it happens. Finally the construction started the 31 of March so it is expected to have it ready by the end of April 2005.

#### 4. Progress

- Please provide a brief history of the project to the beginning of this reporting period. (1 paragraph).

The current report is the first annual report submitted to the Darwin Initiative; therefore the following narrative corresponds to the first semester of the project. The starting date for the project was April 2004. The first action taken under the present project was the contraction of the GIS mapping of the whole corridor as a previous step to the design of the management plan. Next, meetings with community leaders and NGO's representatives were carried out as part of the participatory management plan to establish the Awacachi Support Committee, to sign MoUs and to identify alternative productive livelihood. In parallel to this, socio-economic and botanical surveys were completed, a first training workshop about biological monitoring techniques for Awacachi's Rangers was delivered and a draft of the management plan started to be developed. Finally, the Butterfly farm feasibility study completed and a community consciousness workshop programmed.

- Summarise progress over the last year against the agreed baseline timetable for the period and the logical framework (complete Annex 1). Explain differences including any slippage or additional outputs and activities.

- **Professional operational arm of FS functioning effectively through capacity building and institutional strengthening.**

As part of the capacity building and institutional strengthening a field coordinator was contracted who spend 100% of his time in the field in close contact with the communities and local organizations. Fundacion Sirua have improved financial and administrative procedures, and currently maintain a continuously two-ways feed back with the FFI's office in Cambridge.

A new Americas Projects Manager based in Cambridge has been appointed at FFI to support the work carried out for Fundacion Sirua in Ecuador, offering remote and in-country support.

In agreement with the project 5 Sirua Foundation members have received training in NGO management (administration and financial issues).

- **Corridor Support Committee established and active.**

The Corridor Support Committee was established during 2004. After its establishment two meetings of the Corridor Support Committee have been held. During the first meeting only few representatives of three local NGOs participated. During the second one, representatives of local communities located in the buffer area such as Durango, Dorado, San Francisco and Ventanas), representatives of three local NGOs, and a representative from the Environmental Ministry took part. Although, the participation in the Corridor Support Committee has been increasing, it is necessary to straightened even more the committee in order to obtain the participation of more communities, more ONGs and other public institutions to disseminate the ideas of conservations of the corridor and to plan together future activities

- **Training in biological monitoring techniques.**

Fundación Sirua's (former Fundación Awacachi) rangers and member of the community have been receiving formal training in basic biological monitoring techniques. To date two specific workshops have been delivered. Training included theoretical aspects and field practices. In agreement with the outputs of the project more that 12 people received training, including: Fundación Sirua's Rangers and Field assistant, members of the Environmental Education programme in S. Lorenzo, community guards from Environment Ministry, and the primary teacher from the San Francisco community school. The training in Biological Monitoring techniques is ongoing.

- **Key infrastructure and training workshops for Butterfly farming in process of completion.**

The infrastructure of the butterfly breeding unit is being constructed and it will be finished by the end of April 2005. Originally the completion of this product was programmed for the last quarter of 2004. Two unforeseen events have delayed the competition of this product. First, the construction had to be postponed until February

2005 due to problems within the community of Durango. After a long process and various meetings with representatives from the community, the inconvenient could be solved, allowing the construction of the unit. Second, after solving the inconvenient with the community, the consultant was appointed to start the construction of the Butterfly facility at the beginning of March. Close to the day of his arrival, he informed that due to personal problems he could not travel to Ecuador during the time agreed. The consultant arrived in Ecuador the 30 of March and the construction started the 31 of March.

During the construction period, it has been organized the attendance of members of the community, rangers and technicians of Fundación Sirua to follow and support the construction process, receiving at the same time practical training in the construction and management of this kind of units. To date a manual for the construction of the butterfly farm has been produced and a manual of procedures for the management of the Ecuadorian farm is being produced. Also a community consciousness workshop was carried out.

- **Production and dissemination of draft management plan.**

A first draft of the management plan has been sent to FS by the consultant. Comments about it, has been made and the document is in the correction phase (some additional information is been gathered). The Ministry of Environment is planning the contraction of the Management Plan of the Cotacachi Cayapas Reserve (RECC) for this reason members of Fundación Sirua have had meetings with members of the Environmental Ministry of the Environment in order to participate in this process. If this participation is accepted the rational is to harmonize the two plans therefore they are based on similar or comparable methodologies, being useful for the protection of the whole area.

- **Alternative income generation projects established**

During this year two rapid impact productive alternatives have been developed in San Francisco Community and El Dorado. These projects are related with small poultry and swine farms for food security, these activities have helped FS to improve the relations with those communities in order to develop in the future another projects. Also, as explained above the infrastructure for the Butterfly farm is in the construction phase in the Community of Durango.

- Provide an account of the project's achievements during the last year. This should include concise discussion on methodologies and approaches by the project (e.g. research, training, planning, assessment, monitoring) and their consequences and impacts as well as results. Please **summarise** content on methodologies and approaches, and, if necessary, provide more detailed information in appendices (this may include cross-references to attached publications).

Training:

- Biological Monitoring techniques for rangers and community people: This training is important because the rangers of FS during many years had protected the area but without specific knowledge of the importance of a monitoring of biodiversity. The training to date has been based on workshops deal from basic concept as species, ecosystem, biological corridor, protected areas to specific training with some field work in monitoring techniques. The results can been seen in the day to day work, in the reports and in the way in which they are dealing with issues related to biodiversity in the communities (importance of the forest in the protection of fauna, flora , water resources etc). During next year this training is going to be complemented with specific training in different taxonomic groups to design a monitoring system in which the rangers are able to gather biological data.
- Butterfly farming training: A first community consciousness workshop was carried out to explain the importance, distribution, classification and uses of the Ecuadorian Butterflies. Currently some training ihas been delivered regarding the construction and management of a Butterfly Farm. at the same time that the infrastructure
- Fundación Sirua staff has been receiving training in NGO management.

Management Plan:

- The mapping of the corridor has been completed. This is an important tool that will allow Fundación Sirua to tackle several issues: to obtain legal titles of some areas, clarifying issues related with borders to avoid future conflicts related with land tenure, and also as planning tool.
- The management plan will not be useful only for the Awacachi Corridor, it is a document that could be used by other organizations as the Environmental Ministry, the Awa community and communities located in the buffer zone in order to fulfilled regional aspirations. A draft has been submitted by the consultant, it is necessary to correct this document, add more information and produce the final document

#### Strengthening of Fundación Sirua:

- Fundación Sirua is an Ecuadorian young local NGO that has been obtaining expertise in order to be competent to manage the Awacachi corridor. During this year the Foundation has increased technical staff, equipment, administrative management (procedures manual), financial management (accounting systems) and improved communications (that allows a near monitoring of FFI).
- Discuss any significant difficulties encountered during the year and steps taken to overcome them.
  - During the mapping work, some communities were reluctant to collaborate in this work. At the beginning they were thinking that the work was been done to obtain lands from the communities to be included into the Corridor Area (protected area). It was necessary to hold numerous meetings to explained the objectives. This explanation plus work opportunities offered to inhabitants (boundary clearance) permitted to improve the communication and to get their collaboration in the mapping process.
  - The process of training in Biological Monitoring techniques suffered a delay because of changes in the rangers team due to low performance of some individuals. The problem of performance in the guards has been solved after the contactation of the field coordinator, person who keeps closer contact with them and can identify quicker any sign of low performance. Also, more specific ToR and contract have been produced.
  - Government instability has delayed in general all the activities carried out in Ecuador by Fundación Sirua. During December 2004 there was a general strike in government institutions delaying any process with some government intervention.
  - The draft of the management plan suffered some delays (explained above). The corrections have been made and it is expected a new corrected version by the end of May. In the main while some additional information have been gathered to add up to the information already taken into account.
- Has the design of the project been enhanced over the last year, e.g. refining methods, indicators for measuring achievements, exit strategy?

It has not been necessary to change or refining methods, neither indicators for measuring achievements. A continuous feedback between FFI and FS has permitted to monitoring the project and fulfilled the goals for the year (with the delays explained above).

- Present a timetable (workplan) for the next reporting period.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Financial year:</i>	<i>Key milestones</i>
<i>31 April 2005</i>	<i>Apr-Mar 2005/6</i>	<i>Biological monitoring system established and functioning</i>
<i>30 Jun 2005</i>	<i>Apr-Mar 2005/6</i>	<i>Training workshops and capacity building for local NGO management completed</i>
<i>31 Mar 2006</i>	<i>Apr-Mar 2005/6</i>	<i>Income generation projects established in two communities</i>
<i>31 Mar 2006</i>	<i>Apr-Mar 2005/6</i>	<i>Strategic review of Sirua Foundation completed and strategy document produced</i>

31 May 2005	Apr-Mar 2004/5	Production and dissemination of draft management plan
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## 5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

- Have you responded to issues raised in the review of your last year's annual report? Have you discussed the review with your collaborators? Briefly describe what actions have been taken as a result of recommendations from last year's review.

NOT APPLICABLE

## 6. Partnerships

- Describe collaboration between UK and host country partner(s) over the last year. Are there difficulties or unforeseen problems or advantages of these relationships?

The relation between FFI and FS is optima. FFI is the oldest conservationist organization around the world with an expertise of more that 100 year. This expertise has been shared with FS which is a young organization but which have a staff with experience in Ecuador. FFI has been support FS permanently, lately a new Americas Project Manager was appointed to give, as part of his duties, support to the Awacachi Programme in Ecaudor

The office of FS in Quito has a good equipment of computation and communication (internet, chat, phone, fax, etc) in this way the coordinators of both institutions are communicated each day in order to obtain the results of the project.

FS has been developing a continuous work with other NGOs, governmental institutions, community organization to disseminate the ideas of conservation of the Corridor, this work is especially important in Esmeraldas Province where FS has a strong presence. FFI has collaborated with FS at international level publicising the Corridor,

Ecociencia the institution appointed in the original proposal to produce the maps did not participate because due to economic reasons. The price requested by them for the mapping process was too high for the quality expected. For this reason it was necessary to contract another consultant that fulfilled the requirements in terms of quality and price (the maps with the quality required were obtained for almost half of the price required by Ecociencia). Ecociencia also was going to collaborate with the Biological Monitoring Process, but because of lack of personnel available to carry out this work, it was necessary to look for other options. Currently this work is going to be supported by the Ecuadorian Museum of Biological Sciences (Museo Ecuatoriano de Ciencias Naturales). They are developing a Monitoring System for the whole Ecuador and Fundación Sirua is interested in using a methodology comparable with the one that is going to be implemented for Ecuador. After formal meeting with the Director ans professional team, they expressed the importance of the area and the interest in signing a collaboration agreement with Fundación Sirua. This agreement will be signed during April 2005.

- Has the project been able to collaborate with similar projects (Darwin or other) in the host country or other regions, or establish new links with / between local or international organisations involved in biodiversity conservation?

The project has been able to collaborate with other projects related with biodiversity. FS as local foundation is developing some projects related with Awachi Corridor such as: CEPF and GCF from Conservation International, Barbara Delano Foundation from UK, Maurice Laing fund from UK, This addiotnal funding has permitted to complement activities like the Management Plan redaction, mapping, productive alternatives, community relations, training and others.

During this year an excellent relations with the British Embassy has been developed in order to collaborate in a mutual way in biodiversity issues in Ecuador.

FS has been increased relationships with other institutions in the area of the Corridor that are working in biodiversity issues as: Environment Ministry, Prodeneus (a local project of the European Union), Provincial Council of Esmeraldas, Municipality of S. Lorenzo, Fundación Alltropic, IUCN (Regional Office South America), Conservation International, WWF, Jatun Sacha Foundation.

## 7. Impact and Sustainability

- Discuss the profile of the project within the country and what efforts have been made during the year to promote the work. What evidence is there for increasing interest and capacity for biodiversity resulting from the project? Is there a satisfactory exit strategy for the project in place?

During this year relationships with several institutions have been improving (ONGs, communities, public institutions). This work has been important to give to know the work that FS is doing through Darwin project in the Corridor. Additionally FS is working with The Ministry of Environment to collaborate in the design of the strategies of the management plan of the Cotacachi Cayapas Reserve by means of a collaboration agreement. A similar work has been done to collaborate with the management plan of the Awacachi Indigenous Reserve in this way it will be possible to join efforts and protect the entire area of the Corridor.

Similar approaches have been made with The S. Lorenzo Municipality in order to collaborate with the technical support in environmental topics and this way to ensure the conservation of areas located in the area of influence.

The National Institute of lands (INDA) which is in charge of the adjudications of land in Ecuador, at the moment collaborates with the Foundation to prevent land problems (invasions) and it is willing to support in the future the legalization of lands part of the corridor, owned by the Fundación but under "possessory" rights

The majority of communities located in the buffer zone are signed agreements of collaboration with FS in order to collaborate with the conservation of the Corridor.

It has been necessary to develop a strategy of communication and an action plan about the project and the actions that are done in Corridor. In this way will be possible to disseminate the ideas of the conservation.

## 8. Post-Project Follow up Activities (max 300 words)

This section should be completed ONLY if your project is nearing completion (penultimate or final year) and you wish to be considered to be invited to apply for Post Project Funding. *Each year, a small number of Darwin projects will be invited to apply for funding. Selection of these projects will be based on promising project work, reviews to date, and your suggestions within this section. Further information on this scheme introduced in 2003 is available from the Darwin website.*

- From project progress so far, what follow-up activities would help to embed or consolidate the results of your project, and why would you consider these as suitable for Darwin Post Project Funding?
- What evidence is there of strong commitment and capacity by host country partners to enable them to play a major role in follow-up activities?

**NOT APPLICABLE**

## 9. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

- Explain differences in actual outputs against those agreed in the initial 'Project Implementation Timetable' and the 'Project Outputs Schedule', i.e. what outputs were not or only partly achieved? Were additional outputs achieved?

There are not differences in the outputs agreed in the initial project implementation timetable. However the finalization of some products has been delayed for problems that have been explained in the questions above. These products are: Draft of the management plan, the implementation in the field of monitoring practices and the delay in the construction of the Butterfly breeding facility.

- Provide details of dissemination activities in the host country during the year, including information on target audiences. Will dissemination activities be continued by the host country when the project finishes, and how will this be funded and implemented?
  - Meeting with the Ministry of Environmental. In this meeting were presented the British Ambassador, staff of Conservation International, technical staff from the Ministry and FS Coordinator. In this meeting the ideas of the project and other issues related with the Corridor were explained in order to sign an agreement of collaboration with the Ministry.

- Meeting with the GEF project to coordinate actions in order to participate in the Management Plan of the Cotacachi Cayapas Reserve.
- Prodeneus Project. This project is funded by the European Union in order to provide sustainable alternatives to the communities at the same time that are developing strategies of conservation such as : watersheds protection and environmental education.
- S. Lorenzo municipality:\meetings with the major and the Council of the Municipality have proven useful to present the project and to show the importance of the Corridor for the region. The Municipality in Ecuador has political power to dictate laws and impose taxes. In this way we are trying to obtain the support through an agreement to reduce taxation (or to exempt from it) due to the environmental services of this conservation area .
- Decentralisation project of the European Union, which its main objective is to increase the attributions of the local governments in issues related with environment that has been until now under the control of the Ministry of Environment.
- Meeting with NGO's (Altropico, Ecolex, Maquipucuna, CI, WWF, etc) to explain about the project and its importance.
- Participation in workshops organized by CEPF fund, Environmental Ministry and San Lorenzo Support Committee. In all these meetings and workshops several institutions were presented and FS had an active participation in order to explain about the Corridor and the different projects.

Dissemination activities are important in order to receive the support of the different organization for this reason this activities will continue when the project finish. The dissemination activities will be implemented through a communication strategy which will be applied at a national level as well as a local level. FS will present proposal to donors in order to obtain funds to cover the expenses of this strategy.

- Please expand and complete Table 1. **Quantify** project outputs over the last year using the coding and format from the Darwin Initiative Standard Output Measures (see website for details) and give a brief description. Please list and report on appropriate Code Nos. only. The level of detail required is specified in the Guidance notes on Output Definitions, which accompanies the List of Standard Output Measures

**Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)**

Code No.	Quantity	Description
6A	12	people to receive training in biological monitoring techniques
6B	2	training weeks
6A	7	Sirua Foundation staff to receive training in NGO management
6B	5	Training days
22		5 field plots for monitoring
6A	1	Manual for construction of a Butterfly Farm
6A	2	Manuals for Organic cacao and poultry production
17A	1	1 dissemination network to be established (Awacachi Corridor Support Committee)
Other	1	Mapping of the entire corridor
Other	2	Feasibility studies for alternative livelihood projects
12A	1	Data Base of GIS

- *In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Details will be recorded on the Darwin Monitoring Website Publications Database. Mark (\*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.*



## 10. Project Expenditure

**Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)**

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project schedule)	Expenditure	Balance

SALARIES*	BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	BALANCE

In October 2004, incongruence in the budget approved by Darwin was clarified in communication with Carrie Haloun. The overall amount of the budget remained the same. The amount clarified was the corresponding to the FA environmental lawyer for 2004/2005.

In communication with Margaret Okot, £5419 were requested as carry forward.

## 11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

- Discuss methods employed to monitor and evaluate the project this year. How can you demonstrate that the outputs and outcomes of the project actually contribute to the project purpose? i.e. what are the indicators of achievements (both qualitative and quantitative) and how are you measuring these?

Indicators:

- Population of key species recovering and illegal resource extraction reduced.  
To date this has been measured by the increase or decrease (percentage) in presence of different species recorded in the ranger reports. When the monitoring system is established, information about group specific will be more detailed.
- Increased capacity for local NGO to manage the Corridor.  
Increase in technical staff, capability to submit new proposal and to make new alliances with key institutions.

- At least two communities involved in successful alternative income generation  
To date there are three communities working with income generating activities
- Strategic review of Sirua Foundation and key staff trained in NGO management and PRA techniques.  
The training has been supported by staff from FFI and by formal training in Ecuador.
- 5 Rangers trained in species identification, classification and other biological monitoring techniques.  
This training has been through theory and practical workshops
- Community members trained in operating a butterfly farming business, production of manual.  
Currently they are following the construction of the butterfly breeding facility and receiving training in situ.
- Feasibility studies completed for alternative income generation projects.  
The feasibility studies has been contracted with institutions or specialist in the different topics. To date two long term income generation studies have been produced: organic cacao and butterfly farming.
- Manuals for alternative income generation projects.  
To date a manual for the production con aromatic cacao has been produced and also a manual for the construction of a Butterfly Farm.

This indicators contribute with the project because are focused in reduce the damage against the Corridor. Each of the indicators give us information to know if biodiversity is increasing, decreasing or stable. At the same time could give information related with the participation of community members, training issues and environmental friendly productive alternatives.

Each of the indicator are being measured in numeric way, where it has been possible. The other in term of the social impact,

- What lessons have you learned from this year's work, and can you build this learning into future plans?

One of the principal lesson learnt has been the collaboration between two organizations (FFI and FS) is important in terms of developing initiatives of conservation.

The communities not always have the reason, how ever it is necessary to communicate with them to avoid misunderstanding in order to keep good relations and the project in execution in all moment.

## **12. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum)**

### **■ I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section**

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project over the year that you consider worth highlighting to ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat. This could relate to achievements already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention e.g. in terms of best practice. The idea is to use this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including e.g. publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin promotion material, or on the Darwin website. As we will not be able to ask projects on an individual basis for their consent to publish the content of this section, please note the above agreement clause.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2004/2005

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2004-Mar 2005	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal:</b> To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The conservation of biological diversity,</li> <li>• The sustainable use of its components, and</li> <li>• The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>To secure the biodiversity of the Awacachi Corridor through enhanced local conservation capacity and completion of a participatory management plan for focusing on innovative community income generation projects using non-timber forest products (NTFPs)</p>	<p>Populations of key species recovering and illegal resource extraction reduced</p> <p>Increased capacity for local NGO, communities and authorities to manage the Awacachi Corridor.</p> <p>At least two communities involved in successful alternative income generation projects by yr 3</p>	<p>Preliminary biological data through ranger reports</p> <p>Management Plan draft document, agreements &amp; MoUs</p> <p>Community agreements (Ventanas, San Francisco y El Dorado communities) and project reports.</p> <p>Butterfly farming feasibility studied completed.</p>	<p><b>Lessons:</b></p> <p>It is necessary to reinforce the biological monitoring training given to date, specially in the importance of gathering data properly</p> <p>The agenda of the communities is not the same of the agenda that has been planned for the project. It is important to consider this fact in order to fulfil the project's goals on time, and to try to anticipate possible misunderstanding that could bring delays in the implementation of the activities proposed</p> <p><b>Actions for next period:</b></p> <p>The main actions planned are: to obtain the final version of the management plan to propose future actions for conservation the area; to start implementing income generation activities; and to finish with the biological monitoring training and to implement the monitoring system;</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p>			
<p><i>Professional operational arm of Awacachi Foundation functioning effectively through capacity building and institutional strengthening</i></p>	<p>Strategic review of Awacachi Foundation (now Sirua Foundation) and key staff trained in NGO management and PRA techniques, CSC established. Organisation</p>	<p>Strategic review of Sirua Foundation (FS) completed</p> <p>CSC established and working.</p> <p>New staff contracted and putting in practice the training given about NGO</p>	<p><b>Lessons:</b></p> <p>Clear procedures make easy the work and the division of labour.</p> <p><b>Actions for next period:</b></p> <p>To deliver more practical training to staff from FS.</p>

	generating own income	management (administrative and financial issues). Technical staff of FS in Quito office and San Lorenzo offices working under clear rules and procedures.	To develop a communication strategy to show FS' work as a conservationist organization in Ecuador; and to disseminate the importance, projects, results and new proposals related with the Awacachi Corridor
<i>Management plan developed and being implemented in key areas within the corridor</i>	Participatory management planning process completed and key Awacachi staff trained in PRA	A preliminary Management Plan draft. Geographic and thematic Maps of all the corridor produced General Community management agreements in which a general support for the activities of the Corridor has been agreed.	<b>Lessons:</b> Controls under consultants have to be tighten to avoid delays and problems related with the delivery of the products. <b>Actions for next period:</b> The final version of the Management Plan Digital maps used as a tool for planning future activities. GIS and PRA training for specific staff in FS. To implement the agreements in the communities through direct activities: sustainable productive alternatives, participation in Awacachi Support Committee, community rangers, environmental education training.
<i>Biological monitoring system for Awacachi Corridor established and functioning</i>	5 rangers trained in species identification, classification and other biological monitoring techniques, ranger field guide produced	2 workshops in biological monitoring techniques delivered(theoretical and field practice) Ranger manual produced. 2 workshops in conflict resolution. 1 workshop in field and tourist guidance.	<b>Lessons:</b> It is important to have a balance between community and "outsiders" guards. The first ones can help in keeping good relations with the communities (and also it is a source of income for the community). The second ones help in avoiding problems related with friendship relations that could result in an ineffective protection of the Corridor. <b>Actions for next period:</b> Practical biological monitoring training (field based) delivered by specialist in different taxonomic groups. To design and implement a monitoring system for the

			corridor.
<i>Butterfly farming/ranching facility established and generating income</i>	Community members trained in operating butterfly farming/ranching business, production of manual	<p>Infrastructure for the butterfly breeding unit contracted and in process of construction</p> <p>14 people in process of training in the construction of this kind of unit.</p> <p>3 people in process of training in management of a Butterfly farm.</p> <p>Feasibility study for Butterfly farming completed.</p> <p>Manual of procedures for the butterfly farming in development</p>	<p><b>Lessons:</b></p> <p>Few specialists could support a work of this kind. In this way the British consultant advice is related with one of the objectives of this project that is to receive UK's professional expertise for fulfilling goals of this project.</p> <p><b>Actions for next period:</b></p> <p>To finish the construction of the Butterfly breeding facility.</p> <p>To finish the training in Butterfly farming</p> <p>Breeding unit working and obtaining income for communities.</p> <p>Breeding unit as a training place for communities.</p> <p>Member of the community in charge of the management of the unit.</p>
<i>Alternative income generation projects established and yielding income in 2 communities</i>	<p>Feasibility studies completed for alternative income-generation projects</p> <p>Community manuals for alternative income generation projects produced</p> <p>Long-term strategy for community development produced</p>	<p>Projects taken into account until date were the product of a consultancy with the communities</p> <p>Feasibility studies for a fast impact income generation project produced (poultry and pig farming).</p> <p>Feasibility study for long term income generation project produced (aromatic cacao)</p> <p>Manuals about cacao nursery and, chicken production produced.</p> <p>MoU with Communities</p>	<p><b>Lessons:</b></p> <p>It is necessary to avoid paternalism in this kind of project. This is especially difficult in the zone where afro-Ecuadorian communities are used to receive the "paternalistic" support of other donors and development agencies for many years.</p> <p><b>Actions for next period:</b></p> <p>Bamboo feasibility study.</p> <p>Organic Cacao plantation training.</p> <p>Identification of other possible income generation projects.</p>