

**Reference number 13/006**

***DarwinNet***

***The Peru-Ecuador Dry Forest Clearing-house Mechanism***

**BirdLife International**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2004/2005**

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

## **Annual Report**

### **1. Darwin Project Information**

Project Ref. Number	13/006
Project Title	DarwinNet – the Peru-Ecuador Dry Forest Clearing-house Mechanism
Country(ies)	Peru & Ecuador
UK Contractor	BirdLife International
Partner Organisation(s)	Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional – Ecuador Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional – Peru Fundación Probosque - Ecuador
Darwin Grant Value	£195,951
Start/End dates	July 2004 to July 2006
Reporting period (1 Apr 2004 to 31 Mar 2005) and report number (1,2,3..)	1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005, Report No. 2 (first annual report).
Project website	<a href="http://www.darwinnet.org">www.darwinnet.org</a>
Author(s), date	Jeremy Flanagan, David Thomas & Rob Williams. 28 April, 2005.

### **2. Project Background**

The **Equatorial Dry Forests of NW Peru and SW Ecuador** are recognised as one of the most threatened biota on earth and a global conservation priority. The region, known also as the **Tumbesian Endemic Bird Area**, covers some 130,000km<sup>2</sup>, and has exceptional levels of endemic species. But widespread habitat destruction has resulted in many globally threatened species. Recognizing the importance of this region **BirdLife** is in the process of implementing various activities, including **DarwinNet**, to improve the conservation and sustainable development of the remaining forests. To assist in the conservation of this region DarwinNet was developed between BirdLife and in-country partners. As an ecoregion based clearing-house mechanism it is based on the interchange of information and experiences to enhance decision making, raise awareness, set conservation priorities and build capacities amongst stakeholders, civil society and other interested parties in the region (donor agencies, etc.). The project is in direct response to recommendations of the Convention on Biological Diversity on the setting up of sub-regional / thematic focal points of the Clearing-house Mechanism. The project works in collaboration with the CBD National Focal Points for Ecuador (Ministry of Environment) and Peru (National Environment Council).

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

#### **Purpose**

Policies for land use and development in the dry forests of NW Peru and SW Ecuador that are consistent with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the sustenance of local livelihoods.

## Outputs

1. Increased transfer of and access to biodiversity & other information.
2. Enhanced awareness and capacities.
3. Systematised information on experts and grey material.
4. Systematised GIS/spatial information.
5. Enhanced communications between stakeholders.
6. Enhanced dissemination and publicity.
7. Strengthened institutional capacities for Peruvian and Ecuadorian partner organisations.
8. Strengthened institutional capacities for public and private institutions in region.
9. Priority conservation areas for forests and species in Peru-Ecuador identified.

Original Logical Framework of project is presented in Annex 2. Achievements for the first year are presented against the Logical Framework in Annex 1. Outputs have not been modified over the first year, nor has the original operational plan.

## 4. Progress

The project officially started in July of 2004, which means that this first year report covers a period of 9 months. From this date until the end of 2004 the project was focused on in-country training of project partners with the participation of experts from the BirdLife secretariat in Cambridge. At the same time various publicity materials were designed (posters, factsheets, leaflets, posters, banners, etc.) for distribution in the region. Also, after training of project personnel, design of the project webpage and GIS were initiated. In January and February 2005 the project was 'officially' launched at national levels in Lima and Quito with the participation of the CBD National Focal Points (Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment and Peruvian National Environment Council) and the British Embassies in both countries. After the official launches the project embarked on the series of training presentations given throughout the region to local authorities, NGOs and other stakeholders. The 3 proposed 'DarwinNet offices' have been established within the offices of in-countries partners, providing a physical space, equipment and communications necessary for the smooth running of the project, as well as a point-of-contact where stakeholders can make direct consultations.

Progress over the first nine months has been positive, but some adjustments and flexibility in scheduling were necessary to accommodate national holidays, team meetings (availability of people from two different countries) and reporting. The table below gives a summary of progress, with explanations of major differences below.

Date	Agreed baseline timetable from original proposal	Progress against agreed baseline table
July 2004	3-day project planning workshop	8-9 May: pre-project meeting between BirdLife and partners in Macara, Ecuador. 20-21 May: 2nd pre-project meeting with team in Loja, Ecuador to define work plan, budget details, etc. 26-28 July: team planning workshop in Loja.
July 04-Mar 05	On-going development	22-23 July: Meetings in Lima with CONAM, CDC, British Embassy and Natural History Museum. 29-30 July: Meetings in Quito with Ministry of Environment, BirdLife International and British Embassy. 2-3 Aug: Meeting in Guayaquil with ProBosque. Sept 13-14: Lima - meetings with CONAM, CAN, British Embassy, CEZA, Natural History Museum, PNUD, UDEP.
Sept 2004	Workshop on webpage design & management	Held 4-8 October (5 days)

Oct 2004	GIS and Database workshop	Held 12-19 November (7 days)
Oct 2004	DarwinNet manual published	Not completed, see below for explanation.
Oct 2004	2-day tri-monthly project meeting	Held 22-25 August in Guayaquil.
Oct 2004	First 6-monthly report to Darwin submitted	Delivered on time.
Dec 2004	DarwinNet webpage on-line	Webpage on-line see <a href="http://www.darwinnet.org">www.darwinnet.org</a>
Jan 2005	First DarwinNet newsletter produced	Not completed, see below for explanation.
Jan 2005	10 factsheets on conservation produced	Completed, see below.
Jan 2005	National project launches Quito/Lima	Completed, see press releases.
Jan 2005	2-day tri-monthly project meeting	13-15 February in Guayaquil
Feb 2005	Evaluation of training courses	13-15 February in Guayaquil
Mar 2005	20 training presentations in region	Completed, see below for additional notes.
Mar 2005	2 <sup>nd</sup> DarwinNet newsletter produced	Not completed, see below for explanation.

### Notes on progress with activities

Pre-project meetings: Although the project officially started in July, upon notification that the proposal had been successful two 'pre-project' meetings were held in May to advance with various aspects of the project.

On-going development: Mentioned in the table above are additional meetings held with stakeholders. On-going development activities generally include collection of information for the production of Species Actions Plans, factsheets on conservation, on-line library, communications and meetings with stakeholders, etc.

Webpage design workshop: Although a 10 day workshop was originally proposed, this proved impractical when having to unite participants from several cities in two different countries, especially when such people are involved with the project for only 50% of their time. As an alternative an intense workshop was conducted over 5 days and this has been supported with shorter sessions of training over the last 5 months – the total input/output is unchanged. While the workshop was originally planned for September it had to be moved to October due to availability of participants.

GIS and database workshop: Again a total of 10 days was originally planned, but again this proved unworkable, especially with the participation of visiting experts from the BirdLife Secretariat in Cambridge. To overcome this an initial shorter 3 day workshop on GIS was held in Loja for team members. This was then reinforced with an intense 7 day workshop (equivalent in total hours to a 9 day workshop) with the BirdLife experts. The workshop had to be moved from October to November to accommodate the participation of the visiting experts from the UK.

DarwinNet manual: While originally proposed to publish this in October of 2004, it has been decided to delay this until later in 2005. The original idea was to produce an extended Spanish version of the 'additional information' document presented with the proposal to the Darwin Initiative. However, as most of this information is now freely available on the project's website the concept of this output has been redesigned. Based on the experiences of the training presentations throughout the region and other information gathered the proposal now is to produce a CD format output in late 2005 for distribution during the second round of training presentations in early 2006. The CD will contain information collected during the year, which will serve as a hard-copy of the project's advances.

DarwinNet newsletters: These newsletters have not been produced on time. The purpose of the newsletters is to publish information received from stakeholders on their activities, projects and other news. As the project has only recently started to gather a significant stakeholder base this output has been delayed until sufficient information is received to warrant its production. However, once more stakeholders are using the mechanism the production of newsletters will be put back on schedule.

Factsheets on conservation: To date, ten factsheets have been produced. The first batch of factsheets deal with general topics (what is BirdLife International, the Darwin Initiative, the CBD, a CHM, etc) to inform stakeholders of the origins of the project. Future factsheets will deal with more region-focused topics and will involve the participation of stakeholders in their production.

20 training presentations: The original target was 20 presentations to a minimum of 200 participants. However, in total 18 presentations were given, but to more than 650 participants (see Annex 4.). Additionally, given the interest in the project further presentations have been programmed for May, 2005.

Publicity and Dissemination: As part of the project the following publicity materials have been produced and distributed in the region (see Annex 5 for copies):

4,000 project posters (60 x 40cm). 4,000 project leaflets (A4). 6,000 project factsheets (A4). 3,000 project folders (32.5 x 23cm). 1,000 posters (39 x 60cm) on the amphibians and reptiles of the region. 1,000 mouse pads with 5 different designs of the flora and fauna of the region. 25 t-shirts for project team members. 50 t-shirts for important representatives of national and regional authorities. 6 project banners (2 per DarwinNet office) for use during public presentations. 200 business cards for each team member.

**Additional activities:** Within Peru the CBD-NFP of Peru, the National Environment Council (Consejo Nacional del Ambiente CONAM) is implementing regional and thematic nodes of the national CHM. To this end DarwinNet is recognized as a thematic node by the Peruvian government for the dry forests of north-west Peru (an area covering the political departments of Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque, La Libertad and Cajamarca). Through this the project is actively participating in a process of consolidation of these regional/thematic nodes (there are 4 in total), through additional meetings and communications.

*Research* – the project does not involve field research as such, but activities are orientated towards office-based research, in the collation of information related to the conservation and sustainable development of the region, which in turn is fed into project outputs such as the on-line library, factsheets, Species Action Plans, etc. This is what is referred to as ‘on-going DarwinNet development (collation and dissemination of new / existing data)’ in the project proposal.

*Training* – project staff have received training in GIS (programmes: CartaLinx, MapInfo, ArcView) and in database management (Microsoft Access). This involved instructors / experts from the BirdLife secretariat in Cambridge travelling to Peru to conduct workshop. Also of importance is that representatives of the Peruvian National Environment Council and the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment were invited to participate in training workshops, thereby further consolidating the project’s relations with both states.

*Planning* – project planning follows the original project implementation timetable, although this has been enhanced with additional meetings and constant communications between partners. Furthermore as an addition to the signed agreement between the Peruvian National Environment Council, the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment and BirdLife, a work plan was appended to the agreement (see Annex 4).

*Monitoring* – progress is measured against the timetable of activities and outputs.

- Discuss any significant difficulties encountered during the year and steps taken to overcome them.

The project is rooted in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and information and experience exchange mechanisms (CHMs). At a national level Peru has implemented its national CHM ([www.conam.gob.pe/chm](http://www.conam.gob.pe/chm)) and is now implementing regional/ thematic nodes. In Ecuador however, and although the Ministry of Environment is identified as the National Focal Point for the implementation of the Convention, the country has yet to implement its national CHM. To some level this has presented a challenge to the project in that DarwinNet represents a regional and thematic node for Ecuador in advance of the implementation of its national CHM. However, and importantly, through the project the NFPs of both countries are communicating more and the possibility of a south-south collaboration, with Peru assisting Ecuador in the implementation of its national CHM, represents an interesting opportunity and one which the project is promoting.

Political instability in Ecuador is an issue of importance. The Minister of Environment and other top-level employees of the Ministry of Environment have been changed once during the course of the project. Also, with the ousting of the ex-president of Ecuador it is highly likely that there will be more changes within the Ministry of Environment. Although this means that new contacts will have to be established at higher levels within the Ministry, the representative of the Ministry for the implementation of the national CHM has not changed recently and communications have been maintained regarding the implementation of the project, especially between the Peruvian National Environment Council and the Ministry. As a strategy to reduce impacts from changes within the Ministry of Environment in Quito, the project through its offices in Loja and Guayaquil coordinates activities directly with regional offices of the Ministry in these cities.

The basic design of the project has not changed over the first 9 months of the project. For comments regarding exit strategy see under point 7.

Timetable (work plan) for the next reporting period.

Date	Activity
Apr05-Mar06	On-going DarwinNet development (collation & dissemination of new / existing data)
Apr 05	2-day tri-monthly project development meetings with team members. 1st Annual report submitted
Apr 05	First versions of priority map, GIS, expert directory & library on-line
May 05	3rd DarwinNet newsletter published & circulated
Jun 05	10 additional (t=20) factsheets on conservation, management and planning produced & online. 4th DarwinNet newsletter published & circulated.
Jul 05	2-day tri-monthly project development meeting.
Sept 05	5th DarwinNet newsletter published & circulated. DarwinNet Tumbesian EBA Meeting during the VI National Ornithology Congress in Chiclayo, Peru, with participation of Ecuadorian scientists.
Oct 05	2-day tri-monthly project development meeting. 2nd 6 monthly report submitted 6th DarwinNet newsletter published and circulated.
Nov 05	10 additional (t=30) factsheets on conservation, management & planning produced and online. DarwinNet Forum during the II International Conference on Dry Forests in Loja, Ecuador.
Dec 05	20 Species Action Plans produced by Dec 05
Jan 06	7th DarwinNet newsletter published & circulated. 2-day tri-monthly project development meeting.
Mar 06	20 feedback training presentations throughout region.

## 5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (**NOT APPLICABLE**)

## 6. Partnerships

Collaboration with host country partners in Peru and Ecuador has been very positive, especially in part due to the BirdLife Americas Office in Quito maintaining constant communications and regular visits / meetings with partners. There have been no difficulties. Relationships are moreover strengthened through the fact that BirdLife together with country partner Naturaleza & Cultura Internacional (both the Peru and Ecuador offices) are implementing another project in the border region funded by the Community Fund of the UK National Lottery Charities Board. Together with the Peru office of Naturaleza & Cultura Internacional, BirdLife will also be implementing a programme directed at the conservation of Important Bird Areas in north Peru, funded by the British Bird Fair. Additionally, with country partner ProBosque in Guayaquil, Ecuador, their private reserve is recognised by BirdLife as an Important Bird Area.

Most importantly the project has collaborated directly with the Clearing-house Mechanism of the Convention of Biological Diversity in Montreal, with very positive results and with the project being recognised by the CBD-CHM as a globally unique example of a binational, thematic (dry forests) Clearing-house Mechanism.

The project has been collaborating with the Peruvian botanist Reynaldo Linares-Palomino, who is currently researching at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, under a Darwin Scholarship (2004-2005) with the project 'Tree diversity and conservation priorities in Peruvian seasonally dry tropical forests'.

Due to the nature of the project (establishing a mechanism of information exchange) the project has established a wide variety of new links with local, national and international organisations, with which the project maintains regularly communications. The project has been presented to over 700 representatives of national, regional & local governments, national and regional NGOs, rural communities and other stakeholders.

As mentioned under Point 4. the project is collaborating with the Peruvian National Environment Council (CONAM) on the implementation of regional/thematic nodes within Peru. To this end the project has been collaborating with regional nodes in Iquitos, Huancayo and Arequipa.

## **7. Impact and Sustainability**

The project has attained a high profile in both Peru and Ecuador in a short period of time. This is due in part to the 3-party signed agreement between BirdLife, the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment and the Peruvian National Environment Council (see Annex 5) and the national project launches in Lima and Quito.

The launch event in Lima was organized by the Peruvian National Environment Council, the Comunidad Andina de Naciones - CAN (subregional political bloc consisting of Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia) and project partner Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional-Peru. The event was held at the CAN secretariat in Lima. Presentations were given by the Ecuadorian Minister of Environment; the President of the Peruvian National Environment Council; the British Ambassador in Peru; BirdLife International representative Dr. Amiro Perez; and on-behalf of the project, Jeremy Flanagan.

The launch event in Quito was organized by the Ministry of Environment and project partner Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional-Ecuador. The event was held at the Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar. Presentations were given by the Ecuadorian Minister of Environment; on behalf of the Peruvian National Environment Council - Cesar Villacorta; the British Ambassador in Ecuador; BirdLife International representative Dr. Ian Davidson; and on-behalf of the project, Jeremy Flanagan.

Both launch events had national press coverage (see Annex 7). These events have proved important in increasing interest in the project amongst stakeholders at national and international levels.

As part of the exit strategy the project is building regional and national capacities with stakeholders and forging strong ties with the NFPs of both countries. Project partners have received the necessary training and equipment to ensure the project continues after Darwin funding finishes. Also BirdLife is committed to the region, not only through DarwinNet but through several other initiatives and projects, which serve to maintain BirdLife's presence and contacts with project partners and other stakeholder within the region.

## **8. Post-Project Follow up Activities (NOT APPLICABLE AT THIS STAGE)**

## **9. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination**

DarwinNet manual not produced as originally planned and newsletters No. 1 and 2 have not been released as scheduled. Explanations for the late delivery of these outputs are provided under section 4.

### Additional outputs:

An important additional output (and mentioned in the original proposal) has been the permission to use the logos of the NFPs of Peru (National Environment Council) and Ecuador (Ministry of Environment) on project materials. Permission from the CBD to include the CBD-CHM logo on materials represents another important achievement and reflects the interest by the CBD in the project.

At the 10<sup>th</sup> CBD-SBSTTA meeting in Bangkok in February, 2005 the project presented a poster, representing another important additional output and further interest by the CBD in the project (see Annex 3).

Based on the poster presented in Bangkok the project was invited by the CBD to attend a regional meeting on CHMs in Latin America and the Caribbean, in Brasilia in March, 2005. The project was presented to the c.30 representatives from other countries. To date this has proved the most significant additional output.

The project has facilitated the release of a CD containing all reports, published articles, press releases of the NGO ProAvesPeru. This CD has been freely distributed to stakeholders in the region and reflects the core concept of DarwinNet in promoting the open exchange of information.

Another output and work-in-progress by the project is the re-release in digital format of the BirdLife International book: *Best, B.J., & Kessler, M. 1995. Biodiversity and conservation in Tumbesian Ecuador and Peru. BirdLife International, Cambridge. U.K.* As the original files used

to publish the book are unavailable and the book has sold out, the project has rescued the information by scanning all text and diagrams. The next stage will be to produce a .pdf format version of the book and re-release it freely via the project's webpage and on CD.

Additional publicity materials have been produced (apart from the poster and leaflet mentioned in the original proposal). These include a factsheet on the project, folders, mouse pads, t-shirts, banners, and additional posters on the flora and fauna of the region. All these materials have been distributed throughout the region.

From the original proposal the target output of 2 national press releases is stated, this has been surpassed with 5 national press releases and 10 regional press releases for the reporting period (see Annex 7).

Dissemination of information lies at the heart of this project – the main purpose of the CHM is to disseminate information on the region in a usable, accessible form. Specific activities focussed on disseminating awareness of the existence of the project and the importance of the region have been centred on the official launches in Lima and Quito and 18 presentations throughout the region to stakeholders. A summary table of the regional presentations is given in Annex 4. Presentations have been directed at target audiences of regional and local authorities, NGOs, universities and rural communities. Presentations were also organised in collaboration with regional authorities, or regional offices/representatives of the Peruvian National Environment Council or the Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment.

DarwinNet is being set-up and hosted by national partner organisations (NGOs and government). This increases the probability that the dissemination function of DarwinNet will be funded and implemented after Darwin Initiative funding ends. However, some additional resources are likely to be needed, and these are currently being evaluated with a view to raising basic running costs through funding applications during the next two years.

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

Code No.	Quantity	Description
14A	1	3 day planning workshop for project partners
6A	1	10 day workshop on web design, up-keep for partners
6A	1	5 day workshop on GIS & satellite imagery
6A	1	5 day workshop on databases
7	various	Project Manual, poster, leaflet, factsheet, mouse pads
17A	2	Project webpage on-line, listserver initiated
16A, 16B, 16C	-	First DarwinNet newsletter
7	10	10 factsheets on conservation & natural resource manage.
14A	2	2 National project launches in Quito & Lima
15A	5	2 national press releases (Peru & Ecuador)
6A	18	18 training presentations throughout region, to +650 participants
16A, 16B, 16C	-	Second DarwinNet newsletter

**Table 2: Publications**

Type *	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
(e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	(title, author, year)	(name, city)	(e.g. contact address, website)	
CBD Technical Series No. 10	Flanagan, J.N.M., Solís, R, & Sneary, M. 2004. DarwinNet – A binational, ecoregion-based CHM for the dry forests of Peru and Ecuador. (in press).	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal	CDB (in press) (see Annex 3 for copy of article/poster)	-



## 10. Project Expenditure

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

Item	Budget	Expenditure	Balance
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## 11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

Progress is measured against the project timetable of activities and outputs, which provides the simplest measure of progress and in-line with reporting procedures for the Initiative. In-country evaluation is through regular team meetings and constant communications between BirdLife and partner organisations. Outputs and outcomes are beginning to contribute to the project purpose. However, the implementation of CHM is a process which depends on time to slowly gain acceptance with stakeholders, collect and disseminate information, etc. To this end the following year will be more important in terms of showing how the outputs and outcomes are contributing to the project purpose.

Understanding that the implementation of DarwinNet is a process and that it also has to adapt to the necessities of regional stakeholders is the main lesson learnt this year. From the regional presentations it is evident that the region suffers from various problems which threatened its biodiversity. Therefore DarwinNet has a crucial role in facilitating information exchange amongst stakeholders and providing them with an open forum to disseminate their information, experiences and perspectives.

**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**

- Three-party agreement signed between BirdLife International, Ecuadorian Ministry of Environment and the Peruvian National Environment Council to support project. Agreement was signed during official launch events in Lima and Quito, with the Minister of Environment of Ecuador, Sr. Fabian Valdivieso, the President of Peruvian National Environment Council, Sr. Carlos Loret de Mola, and Dr. Ian Davidson representing BirdLife.
- Poster given at 10<sup>th</sup> CBD-SBSTTA meeting in Bangkok during February 2005 with good feedback from the Darwin Initiative (Sarah Moon) and CBD-CHM representative (Marcos Silva). Text version of poster to be included in CBD Technical Series (*en prep.*).
- Based on SBSTTA poster the project was invited to the Second Meeting on Latin American CHMs in Brasilia in March 2005, organized by the CBD secretariat. Again with good feedback from representatives from other countries, the CBD-CHM representative (Marcos Silva) and GBIF representative (Beatriz Torres). Textual evidence of participation included in official CBD report of meeting (*en prep.*).
- Note on project included under the 'What's New' section of the CBD webpage during April of 2005 (<http://www.biodiv.org/default.shtml>).

**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: 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.</p>			
<p><b>Purpose</b> Policies for land use and development in the dry forests of NW Peru &amp; SW Ecuador that are consistent with the conservation &amp; sustainable use of biodiversity &amp; the sustenance of local livelihoods</p>	<p><i>(insert original purpose level indicators)</i> DarwinNet being used by full range of stakeholders. Evidence of development policies &amp; practice that take account of biodiversity &amp; the environment &amp; sustain local livelihoods.</p>	<p><i>(report impacts and achievements resulting from the project against purpose indicators – if any)</i> Acceptance by CBD-NFPs, CDB &amp; regional stakeholders of DarwinNet. DarwinNet is being used by wide range of stakeholders, which will increase with time.</p>	<p><i>(report any lessons learned resulting from the project &amp; highlight key actions planning for next period)</i> DarwinNet’s impact on national &amp; regional policy making is time-bound. Concept of CHMs limited at regional levels, especially in Ecuador. Actions: promote greater cooperation between Peru and Ecuador NFPs. Strengthen relationships with regional stakeholders through communications &amp; meetings.</p>
<p><b>Outputs</b> <i>(insert original outputs – one per line)</i></p>	<p><i>(insert original output level indicators)</i></p>	<p><i>(report completed activities &amp; outcomes that contribute toward outputs &amp; indicators)</i></p>	<p><i>(report any lessons learned resulting from the project &amp; highlight key actions planning for next period)</i></p>
<p>1. Increased transfer of &amp; access to biodiversity &amp; other information.</p>	<p>DarwinNet functioning online; site being visited by a range of stakeholders in Peru, Ecuador &amp; internationally.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.darwinnet.org">www.darwinnet.org</a> on-line. Registered visitors from Peru, Ecuador and 28 other countries.</p>	<p>Telecommunications &amp; internet usage more advanced in Peru. Actions: strengthen DarwinNet through non-internet means (telephone/fax, visits and additional meetings).</p>
<p>2. Enhanced awareness &amp; capacities.</p>	<p>Resource materials (fact sheets)</p>	<p>10 Factsheets available on-line, as planned for reporting period.</p>	<p>Producing factsheets in .pdf format time consuming in terms of design, therefore switching to .html format for webpage.</p>
<p>3. Systematised information on experts &amp; grey material.</p>	<p>Directories / library.</p>	<p>Expert/institutions database on-line, <u>ahead</u> of schedule Library on-line, <u>ahead</u> of schedule</p>	<p>Expert database functioning but needs more publicity so that more stakeholders use it. Library: classifying grey material has been an issue (i.e. include or not university thesis) also scope of material</p>

			to be included or not (i.e. limit library to just biodiversity related topics or include social information).
4. Systematised GIS/spatial information.	GIS – databases.	Available on-line.	Fully functioning GIS not on-line yet, but clickable thematic maps are being developed.
5. Enhanced communications between stakeholders.	Listserver established. No. of members subscribed, traffic registered.	Mail-list established, no. of members subscribed = 210.	Action: increase number of members.
6. Enhanced dissemination & publicity.	Newsletter. Publication dates adhered to. Number of recipients.	Newsletter behind schedule.	Action: put newsletter back on schedule.
7. Strengthened institutional capacities for Peruvian & Ecuadorian partner organisations.	Min. 8 staff from 3 partner institutions trained (as trainers) in topics relevant to CHM management.	Partners trained in SIG, databases, webpage design.	Action: seek additional training in advanced topics for this year.
8. Strengthened institutional capacities for public & private institutions in region.	2 x 20 training presentations throughout region (min. 800 people/institutions).	18 training presentations given to +650 people, as planned for reporting period.	Action: follow-up on presentations with direct communications with people who attended presentations. Where possible seek to give additional presentations throughout coming year.
9. Priority conservation areas for forests & species in Peru-Ecuador identified.	Priority map produced & distributed. 20 Species Action Plans.	Priority map available on-line, as planned for reporting period.  10 Species Action Plans on-line as planned for reporting period.	Okay.

*Note: Please do NOT expand rows to include activities since their completion and outcomes should be reported under the column on progress and achievements at output and purpose levels.*

**Annex 2.** Original Logical Framework from project proposal.

<b>Project summary</b>	<b>Measurable indicators</b>	<b>Means of verification</b>	<b>Important assumptions</b>
<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: 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.			
<b>Purpose</b>			
Policies for land use and development in the dry forests of NW Peru & SW Ecuador that are consistent with the conservation & sustainable use of biodiversity & the sustenance of local livelihoods.	<b>DarwinNet</b> being used by full range of stakeholders.  Evidence of development policies & practice that take account of biodiversity & the environment & sustain local livelihoods.	Hit-counter, on-line user registration form & feedback form.  Application of information & recommendations in decisions on development, management & land use.	Stakeholders understand & incorporate information into their work areas.  Government, local NGOs & other institutions (e.g. university) attract additional support to maintain project activities.
<b>Outputs</b>			
1. Increased transfer of & access to biodiversity & other information.  2. Enhanced awareness & capacities.  3. Systematised information on experts & grey material.  4. Systematised GIS/spatial information.	<b>DarwinNet</b> functioning online; site being visited by a range of stakeholders in Peru, Ecuador & internationally.  Resource materials (fact sheets)  Directories / library.  GIS – databases.	Feedback from authorities (e.g. Min. Env. in Ecuador, CONAM in Peru) provides assessment on quality & contents. Number of 'hits', types of users.	Project staff sufficiently trained to design & implement high quality CHM & resource materials.
5. Enhanced communications between stakeholders.	Listserver established. No. of members subscribed, traffic registered.	NFPs &/or other authority (Darwin) included as members.	Stakeholders willing to collaborate in open forum.
6. Enhanced dissemination & publicity.	Newsletter. Publication dates adhered to. Number of recipients.	NFPs &/or other authority (Darwin) included as recipients.	Stakeholders willing to contribute information to newsletter.
7. Strengthened institutional capacities for Peruvian & Ecuadorian partner organisations.	Min. 8 staff from 3 partner institutions trained (as trainers) in topics relevant to CHM management.	Participants' attendance and assessment records (GIS systems, databases, website).	Staff continue in present employment after training. Effective skills transfer takes place (trained people act as trainers).
8. Strengthened institutional capacities for public & private institutions in region.	2 x 20 training presentations throughout region (min. 800 people/institutions).	Participants' attendance and assessment records.	Stakeholders willing to participate in presentations.
9. Priority conservation areas for forests & species in Peru-Ecuador identified.	Priority map produced & distributed. 20 Species Action Plans.	Feedback from stakeholders on value, quality & utility of outputs.	Sufficient baseline material available. Effective inter-institutional collaboration.
<b>Activities</b>			
Project Team Training (for recipient countries) & project management meetings.	<b>Activity Milestones. NOTE: all dates have shifted forward from Stage 1 Logframe.</b>		
CHM development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project planning workshop (Jul 04) • GIS / Satellite image and databases (Oct 04) • Webpage design, Adobe Acrobat and Macromedia Flash (Sept 04) • Trimonthly project development meetings with team (Oct 04, Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct 05, Jan, Apr, Jul 06)</li> <li>• On-going <b>DarwinNet</b> development (collation &amp; dissemination of data) (Jul 04-Jul 06) • <b>DarwinNet</b> manual published (Oct 04) • <b>DarwinNet</b> webpage on-line (Dec 04) • 1st versions of priority map, GIS, Directory &amp; library online (Apr 05)</li> </ul>		

Publicity & advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National project launches (Jan 05)</li> <li>• 1st of 8 bimonthly newsletters (Jan 05)</li> <li>• 20 training seminars throughout region (Mar 05)</li> <li>• 20 Species Action Plans (by Dec 05)</li> <li>• 40 factsheets on conservation &amp; management (by May 06)</li> <li>• Continuous press (incl. TV &amp; radio) coverage (Jul 04-Jul 05)</li> <li>• 20 feedback seminars throughout region (Mar 06)</li> </ul>
Project M&E.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluation of training courses (Feb 05)</li> <li>• Reports to Darwin (Oct 04, Apr 05, Oct 05, Apr 06, Oct 06, Sept 06)</li> <li>• Project &amp; staff evaluation (Jul 06)</li> </ul>

## DARWINNET – A BINATIONAL, ECOREGION BASED CHM FOR THE DRY FORESTS OF PERU AND ECUADOR

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Keywords: CHM, dry forest, Tumbesian, Peru, Ecuador

### Introduction

The equatorial dry forests of northwest Peru and southwest Ecuador or the Tumbesian Endemic Bird Area (Fig 1.) have been identified as one of the most threatened ecosystems on earth and a global conservation priority. The region (covering c.130,000Km<sup>2</sup>) has exceptional levels of endemism, but widespread habitat destruction has resulted in many globally threatened species (Fig. 2.). The region also has some of the highest poverty levels for each country. Balancing conservation with sustainable development that meets the needs of rural communities is the challenge now faced if this unique region is to be conserved. The 1998 Peace Agreement between the two countries now facilitates bilateral initiatives to promote conservation and influence regional development. Responding to the critical status of this region, a binational, ecoregional-based Clearing-house Mechanism (CHM) has been initiated, called DarwinNet.

Funded by the Darwin Initiative of the British government, the project is implemented by BirdLife International through local institutions and in collaboration with the CBD National Focal Points of Peru (Consejo Nacional del Ambiente CONAM) and Ecuador (Ministerio del Ambiente). Considered the first of its type globally this multinational, transboundary and stakeholder driven initiative will efficiently gather, repatriate, analyze and disseminate information on this region. This will raise awareness of its importance, establish conservation priorities, and build capacities for its conservation amongst stakeholders thereby consolidating policies for land use and development that are consistent with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The mechanism also responds to recommendations of the CBD to the COP for a decentralized network of sub-regional and thematic focal points, as well as CHM development to assist developing countries in gaining access to information. It also embraces several thematic areas and cross-cutting issues as outlined by the CBD, as well as regional strategies within the Comunidad Andina de Naciones (CAN).

The role of BirdLife International in the documentation of global biodiversity, global conservation programs and policy-making is widely accepted, and it is now recognized as an international thematic focal point of the CBD. Global directories of Endemic Bird Areas (EBAs) and Important Bird Areas (IBAs) as well as a constant reassessment of threat status of bird species prove essential tools for governments, NGOs, donor agencies and alike. Within this framework of actions the Tumbesian Endemic Bird Area is of particular importance. Ranked in the top four of the 118 EBAs identified globally, few EBAs have more endemic and threatened species. With the area's importance clearly established there is now the need to mobilize activities towards a more concerted approach towards its conservation and sustainable development. Therefore DarwinNet represents the next logical step in a process of information exchange, experience sharing and, importantly, empowerment at local and regional levels within Peru and Ecuador. This article presents an overview of the mechanism, with emphasis on its operational components and community-level participation.

### Structure of DarwinNet

As is generally accepted a CHM is not solely based on an internet portal, but involves (or should) other important components, such as meetings, general monitoring activities and dissemination mechanisms. The DarwinNet mechanism will function through four principal components:

1) webpage: this will gather and disseminate information from within and without the region, as well as providing factsheets on threatened species, experiences in conservation and development, and other relevant information in digestible formats with public-friendly text .

2) meetings: here emphasis is placed on taking the mechanism to the people. (a) Twenty training presentations throughout the region in early 2005 will foster stronger relationships with stakeholders, these presentations will then be repeated in 2006 to gather feedback and assess progress. (b) Within the region the mechanism has three DarwinNet offices (Fig 1.), strategically placed to cover certain geopolitical areas. These provide a physical space for direct consultations with DarwinNet institutions responsible for information compilation within its respective area. (c) In 2005 the mechanism is co-funding two important conferences; the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Dry Forests (in Loja, Ecuador) and the 6<sup>th</sup> National Peruvian Ornithology Conference (Chiclayo, Peru), where side-events will further develop DarwinNet. (d) The mechanism will also promote and attend other relevant meetings.

3) monitoring: with a longer-term outlook, the mechanism will start to gather information in order to provide general status reports on the region every two-to-three years. General indicators will include (amongst others): status of protected areas; changes in threat status of species, hectares of forest lost, reforested, protected, with management plans; and positive or negative changes in national legislation.

4) bulletin: produced and available via the webpage, direct e-mailing and hard copies, bulletins will provide concise information on conservation, sustainable development and the mechanisms advances.

The above approach ensures that the information required reaches the correct stakeholder and information compilation is facilitated at all levels. Above all it is important to recognize that stakeholders are not just users of the information (demand), but also its source (supply), thereby stimulating a two-way interaction.

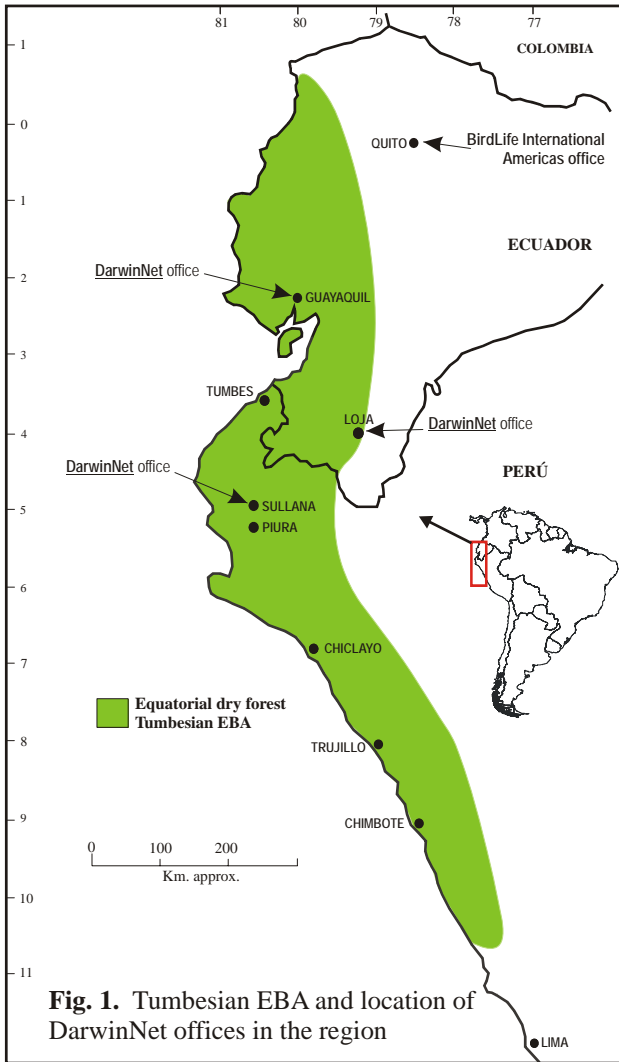
## **Integrating communities**

Rural communities are the stakeholders most dependent on the adequate conservation and development of the remaining natural resources. With limited technological capacities special consideration needs to be given to how they will participate in (and benefit from) the mechanism. This is an important issue to be addressed by the mechanism and is broadly summarized by Fig. 3, where general stakeholders are listed by their direct dependence on natural resources and their IT capacities, and where the triangle approximates the total number of people involved at each level, i.e. the number of people in communities and civil society far outweighs people in the scientific community, but their IT capacity is low. To integrate communities the mechanism will develop a network of associate institutions and individuals throughout the region (Level 1 participant in Fig 4.), who through the project's training presentations will align themselves with the mechanism, creating a common approach to information exchange and management. These institutions will then act as the link with communities in their work areas, permitting a two-way flow of information and experiences from communities (Level 2 participant) to regional DarwinNet offices and vice versa. Also, depending on the proximity of a community the DarwinNet offices are available for direct consultations as well.

## **Conclusion**

Although at an early development stage, through DarwinNet Ecuador and Peru will have taken a major, resource efficient and innovative step towards meeting their obligations under the CBD. It will catalyze binational co-operation for management of biodiversity and will serve as a model for similar critical ecosystems shared by more than one country. By creating a greater awareness of the values, functions and services of forests amongst all stakeholders DarwinNet will help promote their sustainable use. The outcome will be enhanced conservation of the region's environment based on a fair and equitable sharing of knowledge and resources.





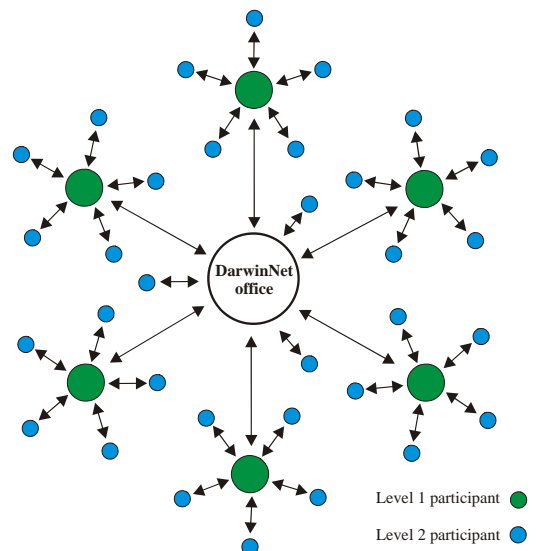
<b>PRIORITY: CRITICAL</b>
<b>Key habitats:</b> Tropical lowland to montane evergreen forest, deciduous forest, arid lowland scrub
<b>Main threats:</b> Severe habitat loss (e.g. due to cultivation, grazing, logging)
<b>Biological importance:</b> High
<b>Threat level:</b> High
<b>Estimated remaining forest cover:</b> 5-10%

Endemic bird sp.	Threatened	Total
Confined to Tumbesian EBA	14	45
Shared with other EBAs	1	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>55</b>

**Fig. 2.** Overview status of Tumbesian EBA



**Fig. 3.** Stakeholder IT capacity and natural resource dependence



**Fig. 4.** Network of associates and communities

**Annex 4.** Summary table of regional presentations.

City	Coordinated with:	Location of event	Attendance	Date	Instit.
<b>PERU</b>					
Talara	Relaciones Publicas, Municipalidad Provincial de Talara	Sala Municipal Javier Pérez de Cuellar	24	02.03.05	NCI-P
Sullana	Relaciones Publicas, Municipalidad Provincial de Sullana	Auditorio Municipalidad de Sullana	65	03.03.05	NCI-P
Tumbes	Gerente de RRNN Gobierno Regional, Ing. Manuel Leiva	Sala Gobierno Regional de Tumbes	51	14.03.05	NCI-P
Cajamarca	Secretario Ejecutivo Regional – CONAM, Ing. Eduardo Dios Aleman	Sala Gobierno Regional de Cajamarca	26	18.03.05	NCI-P
Trujillo	Secretario Ejecutivo Regional – CONAM, Ing. Pedro Dongo	Sala de conferencias Hotel El Brujo	28	21.03.05	NCI-P
Chiclayo	Presidente Comisión Ambiental Regional de Lambayeque, Ing. Carlos Rendón Ortiz	Sala de conferencias Hotel Garzas	73	23.03.05	NCI-P
Piura	Gerente de RRNN Gobierno Regional, Ing. Augusto Zegarra Peralta	Sala Gobierno Regional de Piura	46 <b>(313)</b>	29.03.05	NCI-P
Piura	Universidad Nacional de Piura	Por ejecutar	-	11.05.05	NCI-P
<b>ECUADOR</b>					
Macara	Dirección Regional Loja - Zamora Chinchipe del Ministerio del Ambiente. Ing. Jorge Zaruma  Departamento de Medio Ambiente del Municipio de Macará. Ing. Marco Quishpe	Auditorio Municipalidad de Macará	12	08.03.05	NCI-E
Loja	Dirección Regional Loja - Zamora Chinchipe del Ministerio del Ambiente. Ing. Jorge Zaruma	Auditorio Pablo Palacio – Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana. Núcleo de Loja	32	09.03.05	NCI-E
Machala	Jefe de la Oficina Técnica Machala del Ministerio del Ambiente. Ing. Víctor Hugo Pasaca	Auditorio Dr. Nicolás Castro – Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana. Núcleo El Oro	42	29.03.05	NCI-E
Huaquillas	Jefe de la Oficina Técnica Machala del Ministerio del Ambiente. Ing. Víctor Hugo Pasaca	Salón Auditorio del Centro Binacional de Integración y Desarrollo Fronterizo - CODEFRON	30	30.03.05	NCI-E
Guayaquil	Departamento de Medio Ambiente de la Municipalidad de Guayaquil	Pedro Carbo de la Municipalidad de Guayaquil	20	18.02.05	ProB
Guayaquil	Centro Empresarial las Cámara de Guayaquil	Mezanine Centro Empresarial Las cámaras	12	02.03.05	ProB
Sucre,	Departamento de Medio	Sala de sesiones “Maria	50	06.03.05	ProB

Bahía de Caraquez	Ambiente de la Municipalidad de Sucre Bahía de Caraquez	Eugenia Loor de Ruperti" del Gobierno Cantonal de Sucre			
Jipijapa	Universidad Estatal del Sur de Manabí y Departamento de Ecología y Medio Ambiente de la Municipalidad de Jipijapa	Auditórium Edificio Central de la Universidad Estatal del Sur de Manabí	67	18.03.05	ProB
Portoviejo	Departamento de Medio Ambiente de la Municipalidad de Portoviejo	Sala Inmetro, del Gobierno Cantonal de Portoviejo-Manabí	30	23.03.05	ProB
Salinas	Feria Artesanal Salinas 2005	Museo Arqueológico Naval de Salinas	10	27.03.05	ProB
Olon, Santa Elena	Ministerio del Ambiente, oficina técnica de Santa Elena y Fundación Natura, Capitulo Guayaquil, Comuna Olon.	Casa comunal de Olón, del Cantón Santa Elena - Guayas	36 <b>(341)</b>	31.03.05	ProB
<b>18 events</b>			<b>654 total</b>		

NCI-P: Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional-Peru, NCI-E: Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional-Ecuador, ProB: Fundacion Probosque.