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

## **Half Year Report**

Project Ref. No. 13024

Project Title Inventory and Conservation of the Bryoflora of South Western

**Patagonia** 

Country(ies) Chile

**UK Organisation** Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary University of London

Collaborator(s) Universidad de Magallanes (UMAG)/Omora Foundation, Chile

Report date April - September 2006 (Year 3)

Report No. HYR 3
Project website N/A

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

The project team were able to improve-upon the original commitments in terms of promised outputs for this period (first six-months of Year 3):

- 1) Recommendations submitted for regional development plan and national biodiversity strategy. The project team and their collaborators published with Darwin Initiative funding, a new edition of the "Cape Horn Biosphere Reserve" book, expanding the contents beyond the proposal format to include planning guidelines for the future management of the Reserve. This publication now forms the principal scientific source for environmental planning of the Cape Horn Province. The principal Chilean collaborator on the Darwin Initiative project also contributed the final chapter of "The Biodiversity of Chile", issued by Chile's national environment agency (CONAMA). This book is now the primary published text on biodiversity conservation in Chile, and in turn informs the National Biodiversity Action Strategy and Chile's activities in support of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 2) 1 national press release in host country. 1 project-related article appeared in the Chilean national press ("La Tercera") during the period under review, and two articles appeared in regional newspapers. One article also appeared in the University of Chile magazine.
- 3) 3 research papers submitted to or appearing in peer-reviewed journals. In addition to the two books mentioned above, and the publications listed in the Year 2 Annual Report, project team members submitted three more articles to peer-reviewed journals during the period under review.
- 4) 1 Bryophyte identification manual/photo-guide supplied to UMAG/Omora Foundation and conservation agency staff. This commitment was discharged earlier in the project, with the publication of the texts: "The Miniature Forests of Cape Horn/Los Bosques en Miniatura del Cabo de Hornos" and "Explorando la Micro-Biodiversidad del Cabo de Hornos (see Year 2 Report).
- 5) As a result of findings during the Year 1 expedition, the planned Year 2 expedition was postponed until Year 3, to allow for rainy-season investigations of the drier parts of the study area (Darwin Secretariat informed of re-scheduling). The second field expedition was successfully completed in September 2006 (Prof J Duckett & H Matcham with Chilean collaborators and trainees). This resulted in many more specimens accruing to the project from previously un-collected localities and will lead to further scientific publications based on the new material.

In addition to the above discharged commitments, several extra outputs were achieved during the period under review that were not envisaged in the original project proposal:

- 1) Sourcing of a set of specimen storage cabinets, funding for their transport from the northern hemisphere and payment of staff to set up a dedicated cryptogamic herbarium at UMAG (in addition to the cryptogamic research laboratory already established). This addresses the query in the Review of our last Annual Report concerning the housing in Chile of the duplicate specimen collections accruing to this project.
- **2)** Another 311 person-days of training were completed during the period under review, (144 person-days were scheduled). This brings the project in-line to double the amount of direct training promised, by the end of Year 3. To increase impact, the training was repeated at five separate sites in Chile, instead of the single venue originally planned.
- **3)** Final year project funds have been stretched to allow for specialist audio-visual training materials to be prepared on the "Miniature Forests of Cape Horn", in addition to the already published printed materials. These include videos, power-point presentations, songs ("environmental hymns"), poems and dramas for use in outreach activities with schools.
- **4)** During 2006, UK team members have taken part in many official meetings, public conferences and private discussions with senior Chilean politicians and government agents regarding the future environmental planning of the Cape Horn Province. These include the Governors of the Province and the wider Region 12 of southern Chile, as well as representatives of the armed forces, police, environment, forestry, agriculture, labour and indigenous people's agencies, and academic and community-based organisations.
- **5)** Extra funds have been secured for two UK project members to assist in the construction of the Miniature Forests Nature Trail and scientific/educational Moss Garden in the Omora Foundation's Ethnobotanical Park at Puerto Williams in early 2007.
- 2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities. Due to an unfortunate oversight in financial management of the project, the claim on DEFRA for Year 1 funding was not made in time to secure the reimbursement of Year 1 spending. This resulted in a serious budget shortfall that threatened to curtail activities during Year 3 of the project. However, as a result of efforts to attract extra outside funding, the project team have succeeded in resourcing and exceeding all agreed outputs in Year 3 according to the original project commitments.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? The above issues were discussed with the Darwin Secretariat but no changes were made to the accepted final year timetable or budget. The project team continued to discharge and exceed their commitments to the project within the existing framework, without the need for changes to the original agreement.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in...2006..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: <u>no/yes, in...2006......(month/yr)</u>

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half-year report, please attach your response to this document. Please note: Any <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly. Please send your completed form by 31 October each year per email to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, <u>stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message</u>.