

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.

