

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2008)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14-025
<b>Project Title</b>	Developing integrated assessment of biodiversity in secondary forest in Belize
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Belize
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Natural History Museum UK, Belize Audubon Society, Wildtracks
<b>Project Leader</b>	Lindsay Maskell
<b>Report date</b>	October 31 <sup>st</sup> 2008
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	Hyr4
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.ceh.ac.uk/sections/eaf/EAFBiodiversityassessmentinBelize.htm">http://www.ceh.ac.uk/sections/eaf/EAFBiodiversityassessmentinBelize.htm</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 was given an extension until the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008.

Soil samples have been collected and are being analysed in the US (via the links with the Belize Citrus Growers' Association). Additional data, on soil compaction, was collected across the mosaic of land-use histories – with a recently acquired professional-grade soil penetrometer. Results from both are being incorporated into the analysis.

Further analytical work has been carried out, a poster with results from the project was presented at the 2nd Natural Resources Management Symposium at the University of Belize organised by the Belize chapter of the Mesoamerican Society for Biology and Conservation. This work has subsequently been written up and submitted as a short paper for the Society's journal '*Mesoamericana*'.

Analysis continues. Another project visit is planned for the end of November to bring together research findings so far, however, this visit was unanticipated in the original proposal and further funding is required.

## **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.**

The only problem that the project has encountered in this period is the involvement of the project leader and other CEH staff in the multi-million pound project for defra 'Countryside Survey'. Unfortunately CS is due to report in November 2008 and has conflicted with completion of the project. This has been resolved with the Darwin initiative by an extension to the project until the end of December and the final report due 3 months after that. With the planned visit at the end of November to finalise analysis and report writing the project will complete to this schedule.

**Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Yes.

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

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:**    **no/yes, in.....(month/yr)**

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

Some additional funding is required to cover soil analysis and a final project visit. This will be discussed with the Darwin secretariat. Approximately £4000 (£3963.74) is required. Some of this (£1463.74) is needed to pay for field staff time and analytical work and some (£2500) for field trip expenses for UK staff, CEH will provide funding to cover staff time for the remainder of the project (£5000).

**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 planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.**

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at [Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk) . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**