

# Darwin Initiative

## Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14-040
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION NETWORK FOR PRIMATES IN ECUADOR (PRIMENET)</b>
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Ecuador
<b>UK Organisation</b>	The University of Sussex
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Ecuador Terra Incognita, QNCE (National Herbarium of Ecuador : administrators - Corporación Botánica Ecuadendron), Los Cedros Biological Reserve
<b>Report date</b>	30th September 2006
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	Half Year (Report 2)
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.primenet.org.uk">www.primenet.org.uk</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).

- Educational campaign at national and local level completed with distribution of special issue of magazine Terra Incognita to highlight the plight of habitat and primates in NW Ecuador 22, 000 copies at National level – 4000 free copies to target local communities.
- The UK project leader engaged in two field visits over this period to review and supervise fieldwork (16<sup>th</sup> May – 14<sup>th</sup> July) and to coordinate the parabiologist training course (6<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September). Fieldwork included MSc student supervision and travel to communities to recruit parabiologists for training course. In addition, a field team from the University of Sussex (2 Senior lecturers - Remote sensing/climate change plus a technician) aided the PI in carrying out a pilot project investigation of novel low-altitude aerial photography method for habitat assessment (Currently this has led to the development of Leverhulme project proposal to investigate climate change on primate carrying capacity metrics and would contribute to the goal of establishing the Los Cedros Biological Reserve as a Research and Training Centre).
- 4 MSc students completed their theses within the PRIMENET project (MSc Primate Conservation, Oxford-Brookes University UK) with support from all partners; in addition an Ecuadorian student completed her undergraduate thesis (Universidad Catolica, Ecuador). A number of undergraduates gain field experience on placements (Total 8 Ecuadorian Students: Botany, Primatology, Environmental Education and 1 UK student; University of Sussex) with the help of funds contributed by the Holly Hills Trust (£2000).
- Press release UK resulted in Radio interview BBC Southern Counties and local press interest.
- Parabiologist training materials (Text, DVD, presentations) completed, local staff trained in leading practical modules of the parabiologist training course.
- Parabiologist training course (100 hours) completed with 25 participants from 6 communities of the Southern Buffer Zone of Cotocachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve attending and successfully

completing course (11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2006). There was such a demand for the course that community members from Mindo (Ecotourist guides) covered their food costs for the course. An additional 3 day course in the use of DISTANCE 5 (run by the UK PI) for field survey data analysis was attended by Ecuadorian and International ecologists (18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September).

**Habitat Assessment:** To date the botanical team have completed a general plant collection, a rapid habitat assessment and established a one hectare permanent plot at the Los Cedros Biological Reserve (in collaboration with the Missouri Botanical Garden). Data analysis is now being carried out in collaboration with the University of Sussex. The draft rapid habitat assessment methodology is complete.

**University of Sussex (GIS database):** The large scale GIS map of the buffer zone of the Cotocachi Cayapas Ecological Reserve is nearing completion (To be launched in 2007). A collaborative MSc project (MSc Primate Conservation, Oxford-Brookes) is currently underway to develop primate specific fragmentation statistics for habitat assessment of classified LANDSAT imagery.

A member of the Network for Social Change and trustee of the Holly Hills Trust visited the PRIMENET project and invited the PI, project botanist and MSc students to accompany him to visit a number of sustainable livelihood project supported by his organisation and Rainforest Concern in the region. Following the parabiologist training PRIMENET has been invited to apply for funds for community-level exchange programmes to take place. This would allow parabiologists to visit a number of successful sustainable livelihood schemes with the aim of implementing them on return to their communities thus forming a foundation for one of our key objectives – development of sustainable livelihoods.

**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.**

No major developments in this area.

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

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:**

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:**

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

I wish to compliment the reviewer of our year 1 report; the feedback given is helping us to focus our goals and I would appreciate his/her comments on future reports, should this be possible. In response to suggestions made I will ensure that future partner country reports will be translated or summarised in English to aid project evaluation. In addition we are in consultation regarding recommendations related to our stated aim and will report on this in our yearly report.

**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 by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, [stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk](mailto:stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk). The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**