

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

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

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14-048
<b>Project Title</b>	Galapagos Coral Conservation: Impact Mitigation, Mapping and Monitoring
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Ecuador
<b>UK Organisation</b>	University of Edinburgh
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Charles Darwin Research Station, Conservation International, Galapagos National Park Service, WildAid
<b>Report date</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2006
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	2
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.geos.ed.ac.uk/research/globalchange/group4/Galapagoscoral.html">www.geos.ed.ac.uk/research/globalchange/group4/Galapagoscoral.html</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).**

During this phase we completed a 2<sup>nd</sup> research cruise to Wolf, Darwin and Marchena islands, which was conducted from 18-24 May 2006 to undertake further monitoring and mapping of coral sites. A total of 18 zooxanthellate species were observed over the 7 day period. Several of these species were probably present, but not encountered in the 1970s. Also, at least 3 new species (*Pocillopora effusus*, *Pocillopora inflata*, and *Pavona chiriquiensis*) have been named since the 1970 survey, and possibly an additional new species of *Leptoseris* was collected during the Darwin Initiative 2006 cruise. The coral samples collected during this latest survey are currently being prepared for systematic morphological and molecular analyses. During the cruise period, we hosted a 'Marine Sciences' seminar series workshop to the scientists, fishermen, tourist guides and boat crew, which comprised 8 topics presented by the International science team. One MSc thesis has been completed, and 3 peer-reviewed journal publications are currently being prepared or have been submitted by the project team.

**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.**

None – although we have experienced a slight delay in the importation of the buoy mooring equipment due to customs processing (about 2-months). However, I can confirm that the moorings, along with the hydraulic gear for installing the screws, have been delivered to the Galapagos Islands in November 2006. We are confident that the mooring buoys will be deployed within the current financial year.

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

Yes - Funds were requested and brought forward into the 2005-2006 financial period for the purchasing of the mooring equipment. No other change to the project plan is required at this stage.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	no/yes, in April 2006 (month/yr)
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

<p><b>3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</b></p> <p>None at this time.</p>
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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.**