

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	14-048
Project Title	Galapagos Coral Conservation: Impact Mitigation, Mapping and Monitoring
Country(ies)	Ecuador
UK Organisation	University of Edinburgh
Collaborator(s)	Charles Darwin Research Station, Conservation International, Galapagos National Park Service, WildAid
Project Leader	Professor Terence P. Dawson
Report date	31 st October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	3
Project website	www.geos.ed.ac.uk/research/globalchange/group4/Galapagoscoral.html

- 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 has entered into the final year of current Darwin Initiative funding, and has primarily concentrated on data analysis, publication preparation and dissemination activities over the last 6 months. Data preparation has involved creating new database modules for the new type of data collected. Aside from the recent coral data, part of a broader impact analysis is also taking historical datasets from 1994-2000 and getting them into the necessary format to address the question of how post ENSO (El Nino) recovery of habitat forming species such as corals has been compromised by over-extraction of top end predators regulating urchin grazing. This forms part of the extension/ broader scope inferences that extends beyond the funded lifetime of this project. Also CDF divers are documenting the coral diseases observed in the Northern islands and trying to estimate the impact of the current cold water impact upon Wolf and Darwin colonies.

Darwin buoy installations were showcased and explained in a two day marine reserve exposition for the Galapagos community in September. WildAid continues to make arrangements and is finalising arrangements with the Ecuadorean Navy to facilitate the delayed installations of the moorings. Although the deployment is delayed, we are pleased not only that the final institutional agreements have been reached, that the tourism sector has agreed to provide additional moorings and that this Darwin Initiative project catalyzed a significant additional donation that will result in the installation of at least 15 moorings.

A full catalogue of recorded species for Wolf and Darwin highlighting new observations will be included in a Special Edition of "Galapagos Research", a peer reviewed local research publication produced by the Charles Darwin Foundation, that will showcase the work of this DI project.

Monitoring data derived from the project will be passed onto the National Park Service as a series of useful indicators. Although outside of the scope of the DI project, CDF has been working to develop an information management system that channels information

in easily understood indicators into a centralised GNPS database for the marine reserve. The current intention is to search for counterpart funding to continue this work which will have open internet access for all Galapagos sector groups to assess independently the change in Galapagos Marine Reserve (GMR) resources over time, while giving decision makers a powerful tool to compare biophysical/ ecological information against socio-economic, cultural and governance indices in the GMR.

The coral monitoring work, as with the evaluation of inter-tidal communities needs to be continued; particularly in the wake of recent concerns for coral health and global warming/ acidification of the world's oceans. Efforts are underway to secure sustained funding for these activities with GNPS in the future.

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.

Although we have completed all the main tasks of the project, negotiations between the Park Service, project partners and Ecuadorian Navy regarding mooring buoy deployments have taken more time than expected. We are keen to make the most of the project's exciting discoveries and advances on interinstitutional cooperation, and to this end are working with a locally-based partner, FUNDAR-Galápagos, to develop more outreach activities (see below). These issues will not affect the overall outcome of the project deliverables, although we have requested a no-cost extension to end the project on 31st March 2008 (it was originally scheduled for November 2007).

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

Yes, an email request was made in October 2007.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: -no/yes, in October 2007 (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: -no/yes, in October 2007 (month/yr)

2. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? None.

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 . 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**