

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	14 -060
Project Title	Sustainable Management of Ornamental Fish Species in Mamiraua, Brazil
Country(ies)	Brazil
UK Organisation	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Collaborator(s)	Sociadade Civil Mamiraua (SCM)
Report date	4 October 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	

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 Sustainable Ornamental fish project commenced in June 2005. All work is currently on schedule.

Progress against agreed baseline timetable: Project infrastructure has been established and technical and financial reporting mechanisms are in place. Project team recruited – see section 2.

- Further research into the current UK ornamental trade was initiated in June 2005 and a preliminary discussion paper was produced by our Economic Expert in September 2005. Links have been made with all sectors of the UK industry including retailers, wholesalers, trade associations and the industry press to enable promotion of project.
- A review of existing certification systems for the sustainable use of natural resources is currently being undertaken by the Trade Advisor to investigate appropriateness for the Amazonian freshwater fish trade. This will be completed by Christmas 2005.
- Biological baseline surveys have been undertaken within the Mamiraua Sustainable Development Reserve (MSDR) during two two-week survey periods, July and September 2005. Prior to the field work, two junior biologists were trained in the surveys techniques by the Head Biologist. The biological monitoring protocols have been drafted by the SCM Project Leader and Head Biologist and are being currently being reviewed by the project team in order to agree the future long term survey strategies to monitor sustainability of the trade. These should be agreed by December 2005.
- It was agreed by the Project Team to use the standard sociological research methods that have been used extensively within the MSDR. In August 2005, the newly recruited sociologist was trained by the Head Sociologist. Furthermore, first contact has been made with the local communities about the creation of the fisher associations for the establishment of an ornamental fish industry.
- The collation of background information for the Catchment Area Management Plan has been initiated by the project team in Brazil. This includes gathering information on ornamental fish capture methods, historic trade routes etc, which will lead to the effective management of the ornamental trade.
- Research into the husbandry and water quality factors that affect fish welfare have been built into the biological surveys and these will be expended to include *in situ* monitoring and trials.
- The list of fish species suitable for extraction is being developed through the current biological, welfare and commercial research. It is important that all these factors are taken into consideration

when agreeing the final species list. The most appropriate methods for catching these ornamental fish to minimise stress to the fish and the environment will also be determined and the capture methods will be trialled as part of the biological surveys.

- Contact has been made with the trade and government officials in Manaus, Brazil, to enable the production processes and systems to be investigated and documented. The project was introduced to the representatives of IBAMA (Brazilian Environmental Protection Agency) and the Exporter's Association of Amazonas. Both are looking forward to working with the project. Current trade regulations have been determined in Brazil through consultation with the Superintendent of the IBAMA Amazonas and internationally.

Additional activities:

- An international meeting sponsored by Traffic, IUCN and the World Wildlife Fund, Colombia was held in Bogotá, Columbia, to discuss the South American ornamental fish trade. Our Trade Advisor, was invited and presented a paper entitled 'Socioeconomic aspects and sustainable development of the ornamental fish commerce of the Rio Negro, Brazil'. This provided a great opportunity to meet scientists, regulators, NGO representatives, and exporters involved in the international trade in ornamental fish from Brazil, British Guyana, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela and launch our project. The Superintendent of IBAMA, Amazonas was so impressed with the event that he has promised to conduct two workshops in Amazonas. One would include trade, academic, regulatory, and NGOs. Another would include the same participants plus fishers and the fisher associations to be realized in the municipality of Barcelos. The project will be instrumental to facilitating these workshops.

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.

Despite an extensive search, we have been unable to recruit a suitable Project Manager with the correct skills for the budget available. As such, it has been decided that the Trade Advisor will take on the additional responsibilities but with some administrative support. For political reasons, it is important that the Project Manager be of Brazilian descent. Therefore, the title of Project Manager may be given to the Project Leader. There will be no change to the timetable of project activities. There will also be no change to the total budget but it will be necessary for some reallocation of staff salaries to cover the increased work load and responsibilities of the Trade Advisor/Project Manager and to cover the administrative costs.

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

This was discussed with the Darwin Secretariat informally. There are no changes to the original agreement required.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: **yes no/yes, in...October 2005... (month/yr)**

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: **No 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?

Sophie Oliver, UK personnel, has changed roles within ZSL. As such, she will no longer be working on the project. Sophie's responsibilities will be carried out by Alison Shaw, Project Leader, and so this will not affect the budget except there will be a greater financial input from other funding sources (ZSL).

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 . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**