

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	640/15/015
<b>Project Title</b>	Tools and training for fern conservation and monitoring, El Salvador
<b>Country(ies)</b>	El Salvador
<b>UK Organisation</b>	The Natural History Museum
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Jardin Botánico La Laguna, Ministerio del Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARN), SalvaNatura
<b>Project Leader</b>	Sandra Knapp
<b>Report date</b>	10 October 2007
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 2
<b>Project website</b>	Not applicable

## **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).**

In June, the first training course was undertaken. There was great interest and demand for the course, and places were allocated to 12 people who came from the academic, government and NGO sectors. There was real interest in more advanced training, and partners have decided to hold a more advanced course in conjunction with the second training course which will be open to participants in both courses.

During the last reporting period there have been two meetings of the conservation network, in April and July (with NHM staff). A smaller group has been meeting regularly to draw up a solid and lasting mission for the group to continue beyond the project and to come up with both short and long term objectives.

One field collecting trip was undertaken per month in this half year, with most attention being paid to the taking of photographs for the guide and to collecting vouchers specimens to represent the diversity of ferns in El Salvador. Two new distributional records for El Salvador ferns have been discovered in this period (i.e. ferns previously not known from El Salvador). Photographs and collection are now complete for 131 (of the ca. 300 to be included in the guides with photographs) of the fern taxa in El Salvador and partial sets of images are finished for approximately 60 more; images are being processed at the natural History Museum and Jardin Botánico La Laguna. A description format has been agreed by the team, tested in the course, and descriptions are being written by Monterrosa, Peña-Chocarro and Knapp.

Due to the complex installation of a new institutional database at the natural History Museum (K-Emu), the programmed databasing of BM ferns has been delayed until K-Emu up and running, if not by end of 2007, we will begin the data entry in another format a transfer the data when K-Emu is operational.

As stated in the first annual report, we have decided to integrate format for fern monitoring (monitoring data sheet) with the recently published MARN monitoring scheme. This has been discussed at network meetings and considerable progress has been made. A monitoring sheet format was tested at during the first training course and modifications are being made.

## **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.**

We are experiencing no real problems, other than there are a lot of fern species in El Salvador! Our plans of course have taken this into account and this amazing diversity will not impede the project.

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

No changes to original agreement, except minor transfers of funds between categories.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:**                      **no/yes, in..... (April 2007)**

**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?**

No outstanding issues.

**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**