

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	15/023
Project Title	Conservation of endangered coastal biodiversity hotspots of Central Chile.
Country(ies)	Chile
UK Organisation	University of Oxford
Collaborator(s)	University of Talca, CODEFF, CONAMA, CONAF, small woodland owners and small forestry countries.
Report date	25 th October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 1</i>
Project website	<i>Available end of October</i>

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).

Progress by both Chilean and UK partners has been good relative to the timeline provided in the original document, although there has been some slippage due to the need to move the first Planning Meeting from May to July. Activities to date are summarised under: (i) research; (ii) environmental education and extension; and (iii) management.

1. Research.

1.1 A participatory planning process was used to identify and map 55 initial sites, across the coastal range of region VII, as suitable for the initial Rapid Biodiversity Surveys (RBS). These sites represent the range of native vegetation remaining in the coastal range and are strongly based on the local knowledge of the project collaborators. A selection of these areas was visited by all project participants during the Project Planning Meeting in July.

1.2 Microsatellite markers have been identified in *Gomortega kuele* and are currently being tested for suitable variability. In addition, all populations of *G. kuele* have been sampled for DNA and reproductive biology experiments have been started.

2. Environmental education and extension.

2.1 Meeting regarding website design have been undertaken to define format and content. The website will be on-line at the beginning of October and will provide a central resource for the promotion of the research results among the project collaborators and other interested parties.

2.2 The daily newspaper press in Talca has been used to promote the main objectives and activities of the project. PowerPoint presentations suitable for local foresters and forestry companies have been prepared.

2.3 The Project Planning Meeting in July was used as an opportunity to learn of the interests of local stakeholders in the Darwin project and discuss with them the project objectives.

3. Project management.

3.1 The Project Planning Meeting in July was used to discuss in detail the objectives of the project and

plan the main events for the year. Furthermore, it was an opportunity to review the commitments of each of the collaborating organisations for the different parts of the project.

3.2 A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the Darwin Project has been drafted in English and is currently being translated into Spanish.

3.3 Regular coordination meeting between the Chilean collaborators (UTAL, CODEFF, CONAF, CONAMA, Forest Companies) have been established.

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.

The start of the project was slowed by the difficulty of getting all the project partners together for the first planning meeting; this was held in July rather than May. The most significant issue has been ensuring the regular transfer of financial resources to collaborators at the University of Talca. This issue has now been resolved.

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: no, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no, 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

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.**