

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

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
Project Leader	Dr Stephen Harris
Report date	26 th October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	http://www.darwinmaule.cl/

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).

1. An environmental education video on native Chilean forests and their conservation has been completed. This is currently being multiplied for distribution to rural educational organizations, NGOs and other stakeholders in the Maule Region.

2. Radio transmission capsules for a documentary on endangered Chilean plants, especially in the communes of Chanco, Cauquenes, Pelluhue and Constitution, have been prepared and the most effective routes for dissemination of this material at regional level is being investigated.

3. Five environmental education talks have been given to mixed-sex rural schools (10-15 years old) in the Coastal Mountain Range of Maule, as well as other organizations in Talca.

4. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by principal Chilean players. See 2 below.

5. 64 sites in native forest on the eastern slope of the Coastal Mountain Range and west to the ocean have been surveyed, using Rapid Biodiversity Survey (RBS) techniques. 2,294 herbarium specimens have been collected, representing 320 species, in 240 genera and 95 families. All of this material has been deposited in the herbarium at the University of Talca.

6. Three undergraduate theses from students in Forest Engineering (University of Talca) are in progress.

7. Seminars on RBS techniques have been given at the 50th Annual Meeting of the Society of Biology of Chile and XIX Annual Meeting of the Botanical Society of Chile, Pucón-Temuco-Chile.

8. Microsatellite genotyping data complete for 22 populations of *Gomortega keule* (Gomortegaceae) sampled for 653 adults, and 1386 seeds collected from 126 adults. All adults and seedlings geolocated.

9. Manuscript published: Lander T.A., Boshier D.H., Harris S.A. (2007) Isolation and characterization of eight polymorphic microsatellite loci for the endangered, endemic Chilean tree *Gomortega keule* (Gomortegaceae). *Molecular Ecology Notes*, Published as 'Online Early' 22 June 2007 doi: 10.1111/j.1471-8286.2007.01872.x.

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.

1. It has been a slow process getting the relevant signatures for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the Chilean Public Service Institutions. All the Chilean signatures have now been obtained and the MOU is currently with the University of Oxford for their signature.

2. Adverse weather conditions (leading to site inaccessibility) forced the concentration of botanical survey activities into the spring season. The likely impact of this change is to delay slightly part two of the RBG training programme.

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?

Training the University of Talca herbarium staff in BRAHMS and databasing the herbarium in the University has directly led to the herbarium's involvement in a pan-South American herbarium databasing project application (CNPq Edital PROSUL) to CNPq, coordinated by the University of Brasília, Brazil, and involving partners in Bolivia, Argentina, Peru and Brazil.

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**