

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	28 th October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
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. Environmental education DVD "El Tesoro del Maule" launched in August 2008 at the University of Talca. Approximately 70 people present who were linked to school education, associated public organisations, together with high-level representatives from CONAMA, CONAF and CODEFF. Importantly, the forestry companies CELCO, Mininco and Masisa, and private forest owners were represented.
2. Two papers presented at the XX Botanical Society Annual Meeting held in Chile Olmué, Region of Valparaiso based directly on the project results.
Peñailillo, P., C. Sepúlveda, P. Garrido, and J. San Martín. Contribución de la flora de los bosques costeros de la región del Maule a la diversidad florística de Chile.
Peñailillo, P., C. Sepúlveda, P. Garrido, and J. San Martín. Distribución de la Fitodiversidad en relación con la Geomorfología de la Cordillera Costera de la Región del Maule.
3. All 5371 specimens collected during the Rapid Biodiversity Survey have been identified, databased and incorporated into the herbarium at the University of Talca. 106 families, 300 genera and 458 species are represented. This has made a major contribution to the overall quality of the herbarium in the University of Talca.
4. 3000 photographs of native plants from the Talca region have been keyworded and are available for incorporation into the digital herbarium. These will shortly be made available on the website.
5. Environmental education talk on the importance of forests and forest conservation, incorporating some of the project results, has been held at three rural schools in the province of Cauquenes.
6. Meetings have been held by the Chilean team and representatives from CONAMA, CONAF and CODEFF to discuss the RBS and bioquality assessment progress in relation to the Conservation Manual for Maulino Forests and the Technical Guide for Conservation Monitoring.
7. A seminar on 'Biodiversity and Sustainability: Visions of Science and the Public-Private sector' has been organized, to be held on 5th November 2008 at the Catholic University of Valparaiso. The institutions involved will be: University of Talca, Catholic University of Maule, University of Chile, Southern University, CODEFF, CONAMA and CONAF, together with forestry industry representatives from Mininco, Arauco Forestry and MASISA and private forest companies. This will focus on conservation practices in the context of business and science.
8. Advantage has been taken of the opportunity to promote the Maulean native flora for garden and floral design and landscaping at 'Exposición de Flores y Jardines 2008' in Santiago; a poster of the project results will be presented.

