

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	15/027
<b>Project Title</b>	Baseline tools for management in PN La Amistad (Costa Rica/Panama)
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Costa Rica/ Panama
<b>UK Organisation</b>	NHM
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	INBio, Universidad de Panama, ANAM, SINAC, Universidad de Costa Rica
<b>Report date</b>	November 21, 2008
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	3
<b>Project website</b>	NA

### 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).

#### *Ground-truthing and field data collection trip 6 (July 2008)*

The sixth ground-truthing trip was undertaken to the Rancho Santín and Falso Fabrega area in July-August. Rancho Santín is towards the SW border of Panamanian PILA and Falso Fabrega is more or less in the middle of the Panamanian sector. This required the chartering of a helicopter. 11 points were ground-truthed across an altitudinal range of 1000 to 2150 m. Dung beetle and amphibian transects were established at 2 and 7 of these respectively

#### *Life zone network workshop (Aug. 2008)*

This was held on August 15 in David, Panama and included the following participants:

Name	Institution
DARIO LUQUE	ANAM, Main Office
HILARIO SANCHEZ	ANAM. PILA Carribean
BENIGNO VILLAMONTE	ANAM. PILA Carribean
RICARDO MONTENEGRO	Nature Conservancy, PILA
JULIO RODRIGUEZ	Nature Conservancy, Chagres/Darien
OSCAR CHACON	INBIO, Geographical Information Systems
NELSON ZAMORA	INBIO
AURELIO HARTMANN	ANAM, PILA Pacific
LIONEL QUIROZ	ANAM, PILA Pacific
ALEX MONRO	THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
EARL JUNIER	ACIAC
CLOTILDE ARROCHA	UNACHI, UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE CHIRIQUI, PANAMA
RONEY SAMANIEGO	ANAM, Geographical Information Systems
EDGAR ARAUZ	ANAM-Protected Areas
HARMODIO SANTAMARIA	ANAM-Chiriquil
NICOMEDES JIMENEZ	ANAM- Chiriquil

This represents the majority of the Binational Commission membership and so also provided a good opportunity to feedback project developments. The main focus of the meeting, however, was to present and obtain feedback on the groundtruthing methodology that we have developed, and to discuss ideas for a post-project application.

#### *field course in ground-truthing and life-zone verification (2008)*

Following agreement with the Darwin Initiative this training course has been moved to the next financial year so as to coincide with the final version of the map.

*Identification of collections with partner institutions and Flora Mesoamericana network of specialists (Apr. 2008- Dec 2008)*

From the first four out of seven ground-truthing trips we have identified 100% of plants to family, 85% to genus and 80% to species. Some groups, such as orchids cannot be identified as material cannot be readily sent on loan for identification under CITES and global taxonomic capacity does not exist for some groups of ferns. We would, however to increase the figure for material identified to species to at least 90%. Robin Moran from New York Botanical Garden identified much of our fern collections in July 2008. Mike Grayum (Missouri Botanical Garden) identified the Arecaceae, Cyatheaceae and Araceae collections on a visit to INBio in April and May 2008.

100% of herpetological (Eduardo Boza, Federico Bolanos, Marcos Ponce) and coprofaunous scarab (Angel Solis) samples have been identified to date.

There has been a delay in the identification of our collections from the remaining fieldtrips to Panama as we are still waiting for an export permit for the duplicate collections. The reason for the delay in ANAM issuing the permit is unclear and we have been given no explanation. This is a matter that I taking very seriously (see below).

*Assess according to revised IUCN Red Data list guidelines and local knowledge of local specialists at INBio, PMA and NHM*

Alexander Rodriguez is using global distribution records and GAP analysis where possible to assess the distribution and IUCN Red Data list for 100 of the 200 species total. In a number of cases species are known from fewer than five collections, which exclude the possibility of undertaking GAP analyses. In such cases Alexander is looking at the mean distance between localities to estimate distributions.

**Additional**

The BBC is producing a documentary about the Natural History Museum in 2009. I managed to convince them to participate and film the last of the project fieldtrips to Panama in October-November 2008. This should be screened in 2010, the international year of biodiversity. This was approved by the Darwin Initiative Press Officer through the Museum's Press Office.

I have been in discussions with Nick Brown from the Department of Plant Sciences of the University of Oxford and he has agreed to assist with the analysis and interpretation of the biodiversity data using an additional technique that the project team is not familiar with, on metric multidimensional scaling. This technique should provide greater resolution to the groundtruthing.

**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.**

**Export permits from Panama:** There have been significant delays (2 months to date) in getting export permits for the duplicate specimens that form the basis of our identifications. This in turn will result in a delay in the identification and subsequently analysis of the biodiversity data. I had built in some slack with this eventuality in mind but that 'slack' has already been consumed. As long as we receive the material by the end of the year the overall project

timetable should not be disrupted I have I. I have made repeated attempts to speed up the issuing of these permits and lobbied our other Panamanian collaborators but the bureaucracy seems quite significant. On November 20 I have heard that there are only two outstanding points of information for the issuing of the documents and that this *should* be completed before the end of November.

**Weakness of Sterling:** The pound has dropped from \$2 in July to \$1.48 in November. This represents a 25% drop in the purchasing power of the project. I do not however envisage this impacting on the delivery of the project outputs.

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

**Field costs-**no. There is not much that DI can do about either.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:**

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:** no

**3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

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](mailto: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.**