

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	15/027
Project Title	Baseline tools for management in PN La Amistad (Costa Rica/Panama)
Country(ies)	Costa Rica/ Panama
UK Organisation	NHM
Collaborator(s)	INBio, Universidad de Panama, ANAM, SINAC, Universidad de Costa Rica
Report date	November 5, 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	2
Project website	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 2 (June 2007)

The second ground-truthing trip was undertaken to the Laguna Dagabri area in July-August 2007. This is an area of small lakes at the edge of an indigenous territory within the NE sector of PILA. The project received support from the Ministerio de Seguridad de Costa Rica in the form of a paramedic and security personnel (the area is known to be used in cannabis production). 17 points were ground-truthed across an altitudinal range of 1100 to 2000 m. Dung beetle and amphibian transects were established at 2 and 5 of these respectively. A total of 737 plant, 65 herpetology and 778 scarabidae collections were made.

Identification of collections (July 2007)

The majority of plant (with the exception of ferns and orchids) scarabidae, amphibian have been identified. Ferns will be identified by a visiting specialist in 2008.

Processing of satellite data complete, preliminary draft of life zone map produced (August 2007)

A revised GIS input into the production of the vegetation map, from front-loaded to ongoing was agreed with DI in the first project year. The modified approach comprises continual GIS input and re-evaluation of the satellite data following each ground-truthing field trip and therefore a revised completion data for the processing of the satellite data of December 2008 / January 2009 (dependant on the field schedule). To date, two complete drafts have already been produced and a third will be completed once the ground-truthing data from the latest fieldtrip has been incorporated.

Second life zone map network workshop (August 2007)

Due to the revised schedule of GIS input into the map outlined above we have decided to postpone the mapping network meeting until later this financial year. This will enable the meeting to be undertaken at a time when most of the ground-truthing has been undertaken and evaluated.

Begin assigning conservation status to species in database (August 2007)

A two-tiered approach has been adopted. Target species will be Global distribution data is being added to the database of vascular plant species that will enable the separation of a target group of species whose status will be assessed in greater detail. Alexander Rodriguez has

produced a methodology for the incorporation of IUCN criteria into the collection and distribution data available in Costa Rica and Panama. We need to discuss this with IUCN to ensure that this meets with their approval but as a test we have successfully applied this to 15 species from PILA.

Ground-truthing and field data collection trip 3 (September, 2007)

The third ground-truthing trip was undertaken to the Fila Matama area in October 2007. This is a ridge that runs from the Morrain of Chirripo to the Caribbean within the northern sector of PILA. The project received support from the Ministerio de Seguridad de Costa Rica in the form of a paramedic. 20 points were ground-truthed across an altitudinal range of 1000 to 1600 m. Dung beetle and amphibian transects were established at 3 and 6 of these respectively. A total of 937 plant, 96 herpetology and ca 700 scarabidae collections were made.

Ground-truthing training course 1 undertaken (September, 2007)

The course, to be lead by Oscar Chacón and Heiner Acevedo is to be held the week of November 12. Eight participants from ANAM, SINAC, the University of Chiriquí (Panama), the University Of Costa Rica, the University of Panama and the Ministry for Public Security will be attending, these include the two park managers for the Costa Rican sectors of the park (Pacifíco and Caribé), the manager for the Panamanian sector of the park (Pacifíco and Caribé) and the SINAC coordinator for the park. The course will outline the project objectives, how the map is being generated, from satellite to ground-truthing data and how it can be used for planning purposes. The course was delayed because of the difficulty in obtaining dates suitable for the key participants and project staff.

Newsletter distributed every 6mths, August 2007

The first project newsletter was delivered in September 2007 (attached to this report). This represents a considerable delay but was for reasons of editorial consistency within INBio and the prioritization of other outputs (identifications and processing of specimens). We have decided to focus on one aspect of the diversity of the park in each issue, in this case species endemic to the park.

Additional

Television and press coverage

magazine article (UK), national television coverage (Costa Rica), national newspaper coverage (Costa Rica)

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.

Field costs: although fortuitously offset by the weakness of the \$US against the £ these have consistently been higher than anticipated. In part this is because of the difficult of access to the field sites and the very difficult terrain. Ground-truthing trip #2 was granted helicopter support by the Ministerio de Seguridad but this was unfortunately withdrawn at the last minute and the project had to buy several hours helicopter time to ensure the success of the trip, this added £5,000 to the cost of the trip. These higher costs will not affect the global budget for the project but I have obtained permission from DI to offset these with savings from the salary budget resulting from the weakening \$US.

PI health: I had major surgery to my spine in June 2007 and was off work for two months. The repercussions to my field participation are unclear but could impact on the 2008/2009 field plan. In the case that they do I will endeavour to find a replacement at the NHM.

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

Field costs-the transfer of funds from the salary to the travel and subsistence component of the budget was approved by DI.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: yes, in October 2007

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 . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**