

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2009)

Project Ref. No.	16-004
Project Title:	Conservation of the Cerrados of Eastern Bolivia
Country(ies):	Bolivia
UK Organisation	Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford
Collaborator(s)	Museo de Historia Natural, Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Project Leader	Dr Robert Scotland & Dr Colin Hughes
Report date	30 September 2009
Report No.	HYR 3
Project website	www, darwincerradosdebolivia. org

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 over the past six months has advanced according to plans.

The main emphasis has been on training with three key project staff undertaking guided research leading to the preparation of peer-reviewed papers: Daniel Soto completed the second stage of his research in Rubiaceae with Argentinian botanists in June; Paola Pozo studied at Kew from May to August and Daniel Villarroel began studies in Brasilia from August. All indicate the health of our international contacts and are leading to the production of papers by all three botanists, who should have delivered papers for publication before December.

Fieldwork in April-May and sporadically during the winter months was completed according to plan with only one frustration caused by flooding which prevented access to the Serrania to Huanchaca and Manamo.

Preparation for the very busy final eight months of the project is completed and we should finish on time. Artwork for the Red Data book is advancing as also for planned publications. Reports to national and regional authorities have been completed.

No major problem or significant delay has been encountered

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.

Our main project coordinator in Bolivia, named as a project principal has left the Museum and no longer holds any office in the Museum. The Museum director has requested that he is replaced with Alejandro Araujo.

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

Yes. Agreement was received from Eilidh Young on 2 October 2009.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	yes, in Sept/Oct 2009
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?

There are no new special issues but it should be noted that we continue to be adversely affected by the low value of the UK pound against the US dollar and the Boliviano.

Two details requested in the feedback to our annual report are attached with updates although these were sent in July.

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**