



## Darwin Initiative Annual Report



### Important note:

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders – it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

**Submission deadline 30 April 2010**

### Darwin Project Information

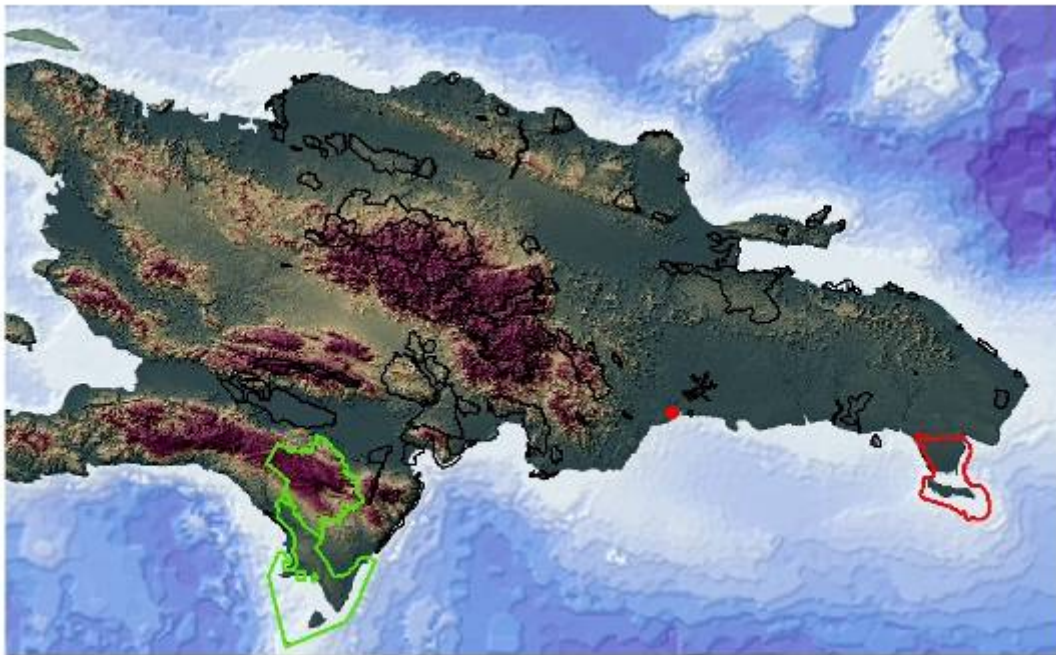
Project Ref Number	17-025
Project Title	Building evidence and capacity to conserve Hispaniola's endemic land mammals
Country(ies)	Dominican Republic
UK Contract Holder Institution	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Host country Partner Institution(s)	Sociedad Ornitologica de la Hispaniola (SOH)
Other Partner Institution(s)	Zoological Society of London (ZSL) Parque Zoológico Nacional (ZOODOM) Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
Darwin Grant Value	£223,341
Start/End dates of Project	1 <sup>st</sup> October 2009 to 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2012
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3...)	1 <sup>st</sup> Oct 09 to 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar 10 Annual report #1
Project Leader Name	Richard Young
Project website	<a href="http://www.thelast survivors.org">www.thelast survivors.org</a>
Author(s) and main contributors, date	Richard Young, Jorge Brocca, Pedro Martinez, Jose-Nunez Mino and Sam Turvey 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2010

### 1. Project Background

The Caribbean region once supported a very diverse land mammal fauna containing around 120 endemic species, but today only 15 are thought to survive and nearly all of them are threatened with extinction. Two of these species, the Hispaniolan solenodon *Solenodon paradoxus* and Hispaniolan hutia *Plagiodontia aedium*, are classified by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as Endangered. However, very little is known about the status and natural history of both of these species. It is highly probable they are both in decline as forest environments continue to be degraded and destroyed in the Dominican Republic and particularly Haiti through human activities. However, with such little information on even their most basic ecology, and with very low levels of public awareness, it is extremely difficult to design and deliver comprehensive conservation actions and to evaluate the success of any management efforts.

Following scoping trips by Durrell and ZSL partners to the Dominican Republic in 2008, a collaboration of UK and Dominican partners was formed to initiate a project to gather evidence and build capacity for the conservation of these mammals. Starting in 2009, the project's purpose is to enable the long-term conservation of the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia through participatory species action planning, a strengthened evidence-base, an island-wide monitoring programme, and improved awareness. In the Dominican Republic, the project is now known as "Los Ultimos Sobrevivientes – salvando el Solenodonte y la Jutia de la Hispaniola" which translates as "The Last Survivors – saving the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia". The title is designed to emphasize the project's context and the importance of these species - before humans arrived in Hispaniola about 25 species of endemic land mammals lived on the island, many of them surviving until Europeans arrived a few hundred years ago, but only the solenodon and hutia survive today.

In the first 6-9 months of the project, we are concentrating field surveys in and around the Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco and Parque Nacional Jaragua (outlined in green on the map below), before focussing on Parque Nacional del Este (outlined in red). In the second year of the project – late 2010 – we will start to expand our survey across the Dominican Republic targeting specific areas that have been identified as important through predictive species distribution modelling. Our main base is the SOH offices, hosted by ZooDom, in Santo Domingo (red dot on map).



## 2. Project Partnerships

All institutions collaborating on the project have had clearly defined roles from the beginning of the project in October 2009. These roles are based on the strengths of each of the institutions and individuals making up the overall team. Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust (DWCT) provides overall leadership of the project via Dr Richard Young while on the ground day to day management is handled by Dr Jose Nunez-Mino (Field Project Manager). Dr Samuel Turvey of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) assists the project from the UK in addition to being very proactive in gathering paleobiological and historical data in order to provide a base line reference for scientific findings found through the project. Sam also oversees the analysis of genetic material gathered in the field. Sociedad Ornitologica de la Hispaniola (SOH), which is represented by their Executive Director Jorge Brocca, is the in-country project leader and oversees the work of the Field Project Manager as well playing a crucial key liaison role

between the project and government, local community leaders and other stakeholder organisations within the Dominican Republic. We have now recruited 3 additional members of staff onto the project: Pedro Martinez, a counterpart Field Project Manager; and Nicolas Peralta and Dionis Corona who are field biologists. They are employed by SOH but work on the project full-time, and all three are managed by Jose and Jorge.

The Director of the Dominican Republic National Zoo (ZooDom), Dra. Patricia Toribio has been actively engaged in planning an educational programme that will be further developed as the project continues to grow and gather more information on the two last endemic mammal species of Hispaniola. To know more about the full project team go to <http://www.thelastsurvivors.org/people/>.

When not in the field, Jose is based in the offices of SOH within ZooDom, and has regular contact with both regional partners via their directors which are based in the same offices. Jose has scheduled fortnightly telephone calls with Richard in order to keep him fully informed of developments and progress. Jose has also ensured that all partner institutions are informed of progress and plans by regular email contact.

We have formed good links with several other organizations – other international NGOs (The Nature Conservancy) and also relevant organizations from the private sector (e.g. Punta Cana Ecological Foundation). Support and collaboration has also been received from unexpected Dominican Republic government departments such as the National Geological Service. Further partnerships are also being developed with other leading in-country conservation organizations and we aim to continue nurturing these as fully as possible. Currently we are attempting to develop a closer working relationship with Grupo Jaragua and with a sustainable development project (run by Columbia University) in the northern coast (Miches) of the Dominican Republic. Further work also needs to be done in order to form closer links with educational institutions in the DR so that they can be engaged in disseminating the project's findings to a wider target audience.

The CBD focal point in the Dominican Republic is the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, with whom we have close collaboration via SOH. We have also recently been acknowledged as one of the few in-country partners in the "International Year of Biodiversity" by the CBD.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities**

*Output 1. Scientifically robust data on conservation status and requirements of the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia and their key threats are collected, analysed and disseminated*

##### *1.1. Data collection at target field sites*

We have made excellent progress on data collection at our target field sites during the first phase of the survey – mainly in the Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco and Parque Nacional Jaragua – and we are on schedule. We are combining strategic sampling of forest fragments in the buffer zones of these protected areas with randomised sampling, stratified by vegetation type, within the protected areas. Survey protocols were tested and have been finalised, and combine surveying for mammal sign as well as camera-trapping (see <http://www.thelastsurvivors.org/the-project/photos/> for an example of camera trap video and photos of fieldwork) and capture by hand. We have nearly completed the genetic sampling of hutia and solenodon populations across Hispaniola (from both museum specimens and from live captured individuals) and genetic analyses for both species are ongoing at Royal Holloway, University of London to understand spatial patterns in genetic diversity – and to advise on conservation priorities.

## *1.2 Data analysis, construction of GIS and mapping*

We have built an Access database to manage field data, and have set up a GIS to support survey design, data analysis and map production. These are currently managed by the project manager but responsibility for this will be transferred to the counterpart and the host country partner once the skills are in place. We have set up online data storage to house the majority of project documents, data and other files which is accessible by all the main project partners. This 'dropbox' ([www.dropbox.com](http://www.dropbox.com)) has really helped with increasing the efficiency of project management and made the management of field data and other project information both efficient and fully transparent.

## *1.3. Preparation of scientific and other technical documents*

We have completed a draft (in English) of a document to record the survey design and data collection protocols. Ultimately this document will become a dual language monitoring manual for both endemic mammals.

A first draft of a paper on the phylogeography of the Hispaniolan hutia, with recommendations for conservation management, has now been completed and is currently being reviewed by the authors. This paper will shortly be submitted for publication. A copy can be provided on request.

## *Output 2. Skills in conservation biology and planning are strengthened in local partner organisations and more widely in Dominican Republic*

### *2.1. International training courses for Hispaniolan project participants*

ZSL's EDGE of Existence programme has kindly donated the project £5000 to support salaries and on-the-job training of Nicolas and Dionis (see Annex 3.3. for grant acceptance form). This will enable us to employ them full-time rather than part-time and carry out some intensive on-the-job training with a view to both members of staff becoming EDGE Fellows after a year. The training is focussing on mammal, habitat and questionnaire survey skills as well as team working, expedition leadership and data management.

### *2.2. Ongoing skills transfer for counterpart project manager and other key project staff*

Not planned for this period, although this activity has already started in earnest. Jose has been training Pedro in a range of field survey and expedition skills, data management, risk assessment, team leadership, and report and proposal writing. Pedro has contributed to English language blogs, and played a significant role in drafting a proposal to the US Fish and Wildlife Service for a grant to start training local community members as field biologists in Parque Nacional del Este (see Annex 3.2 for the front page of the project proposal. The grant was submitted on 12 April 2010 but most work was done in the last project year).

### *2.3. Performance appraisals of host-country project staff*

Not planned for this period.

## *Output 3. Awareness of status and conservation needs of Hispaniolan endemic land mammals substantially improved at local, national and international level*

### *3.1. Programme of local and national awareness raising*

At the beginning of the project we issued a press release for a competition to design a logo for the project (see Annex 3.1 for picture of winning logo, which will soon be incorporated onto the website and other publicity materials). This was an effective way of raising awareness about the start of the project. Jose has delivered two talks on the project, one to the National Geological Service and the other to the main university in Santo Domingo. The two field biologists working on the project, Nicolas and Dionis, are local to the Sierra de Bahoruco and regularly hold community meetings in the region to gather data on the presence of the two endemic mammals but also to promote the project and raise awareness of the species.

### 3.2. Programme of international awareness raising

We have developed a project website ([www.thelastsurvivors.org](http://www.thelastsurvivors.org)) – designed collaboratively between Durrell, SOH and ZSL – to communicate information about the conservation problems facing Hispaniolan mammals and about our project. Jose has written 3 separate stories for the blogs on the websites of the project, Durrell and ZSL's EDGE of Existence programme. And we are using social networking sites (in both English and Spanish) to promote the project and species. The project has had good international media coverage through articles in Der Spiegel and Mongabay.com.

### 3.3. Surveys of attitudes towards focal species and habitat conducted in local communities

We have now completed questionnaire surveys of four communities in the buffer zone of the Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco and this work will continue in the following months. Initial findings point to low levels of awareness of both endemic mammals across the whole community, but most farmers and hunters are aware of their existence. The results also suggest worrying levels of human-wildlife conflict, where hunter's and farmer's dogs have been reported to kill relatively large number of solenodons.

### *Output 4. Strengthened capacity for conserving and monitoring the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia*

#### *4.1. Species Action Planning workshops, consultation with local communities and adoption of SAPs into Dominican Republic's NBSAP*

Not planned for this period.

#### *4.2. Design of monitoring programme and supporting materials, and launch of steering committee*

Not planned for this period.

## **3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs**

### *Output 1. Scientifically robust data on conservation status and requirements of the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia and their key threats are collected, analysed and disseminated*

The field surveys of the status of the hutia and solenodon have progressed very well, building on some impressive local knowledge of the species' natural history. Our survey of the Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco and Parque Nacional Jaragua is progressing to target, and we will soon be in a position to conduct the species distribution modelling with which to predict the island-wide distributions and guide more extensive surveys. Thanks to Nicolas and Dionis' ability to hand-capture both species, in combination with collection tissue samples from museum specimens, we now have an extensive collection of DNA samples for genetic analysis. We have a MSc student from Imperial College working in the region for 3 months this summer, to help us with our surveys of local human communities to evaluate awareness and perceptions of the focal species, as well as relevant aspects of natural resource use. The project will achieve this output, and the partners are very committed to ensure that knowledge is transferred to a wide range of stakeholders. The indicators and assumptions for this output still hold true at this stage of the project.

### *Output 2. Skills in conservation biology and planning are strengthened in local partner organisations and more widely in Dominican Republic*

After 6 months, we now have an understanding of the conservation science and planning skills required in the Dominican Republic, and it is clear that there is a real desire among individuals and organisations to develop skills capacity. Over the next year we will be designing a week-long training course to run in Project year 3, as well as experiential learning through the UK and Dominican partners working alongside each other. In the next project year we will start with a series of performance appraisals so we can measure the development of skills in individuals. The output indicators and assumptions still hold true at this stage of the project.

*Output 3. Awareness of status and conservation needs of Hispaniolan endemic land mammals substantially improved at local, national and international level*

We have an ambitious awareness-raising strategy, utilising a range of traditional and online media and a number of lines of communication, and firmly believe that awareness at the three levels will be significantly improved by project end. This is helped by both species, but by the solenodon in particular, which is very attractive to the national and international media. Most crucial is to ensure that the increased awareness changes the behaviour of two key groups in the Dominican Republic - local community members who use the forest and who directly or indirectly come into conflict with the species, and regional- and national-level decision-makers when allocating resources to species conservation and forest management. As our knowledge of the species and their threats increases, the project will be targeting these two key groups to disseminate information and attempt to affect behavioural change. The indicators and assumptions for this output still hold true at this stage of the project.

*Output 4. Strengthened capacity for conserving and monitoring the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia*

Not planned for this period but the early indications from the project is that we have an excellent chance of achieving this output. There is a real appetite in the Dominican Republic, both in Government and civil society, to better understand the state of and pressures on its biodiversity. Even in its early stages the project has received impressive levels of public interest and support from a range of stakeholders. We consider it highly likely that national government and civil society stakeholders will fully engage with and support the species action planning and the development of a monitoring scheme for the solenodon and hutia. The output indicators and assumptions still hold true at this stage of the project.

### 3.3 Standard Measures

**Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures**

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Number planned for this reporting period	Total planned from applic
3	Number of people to attain other qualifications (ie. Not outputs 1 or 2 above)	0					0	1
5	Number of people to receive at least one year of training (which does not fall into categories 1-4 above)	0					0	3
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above)	0					0	20
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country	0					0	2
10	Number of individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording	0					0	1
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	0					0	3
11B	Number of papers to be submitted	0					0	3

Cod e No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Number planned for this reporting period	Total planned from applic
	to peer reviewed journals							
12A	Number of computer based databases to be <b>established</b> and handed over to host country	0					0	1
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be <b>organised</b> to present/disseminate findings	0					0	2
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops <b>attended</b> at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	0					0	1
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	1					1	5
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	0					0	2
17B	Number of dissemination networks to be <b>enhanced/ extended</b>	0					0	1
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	0					0	3
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host county(ies)	1					0	3
19B	Number of national radio interviews/features in UK	0					0	1
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	0					0	1
21	Number of permanent educational/training/research facilities or organisations to be established and then continued after Darwin funding has ceased	0					0	1
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	30					Wasn't specified	Yet to be determined

**Table 2 Publications**

Type (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
Project website	n/a	n/a	www.thelast survivors.org	£0
Blog	Various	EDGE of Existence	<a href="http://www.edgeofexistence.org/edgeblog/">http://www.edgeofexistence.org/edgeblog/</a>	£0
Blog	Various	Durrell	<a href="http://blog.durrell.org/">http://blog.durrell.org/</a>	£0
Magazine and web article	Die Geister des Urwaldes. Philip Bethge, 14 Dec 2009	Der Spiegel	<a href="http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/0,1518,667029,00.html">http://www.spiegel.de/spiegel/0,1518,667029,00.html</a>	£0
Newsletter article	Hispaniola's endemic	Darwin	<a href="http://darwin.defra.go">http://darwin.defra.go</a>	£0

Type (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
	land mammals: the last survivors. Richard Young <i>et al.</i> 17 Jan 2010	Initiative	<a href="http://v.uk/newsletter/DARWIN_NEWS_17.pdf">v.uk/newsletter/DARWIN_NEWS_17.pdf</a>	
Web article	The Caribbean's wonderfully weird (and threatened) mammals, an interview with Jose Nunez-Mino. Jeremy Hance, 18 Jan 2010	Mongabay.com	<a href="http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0118_hance_nunezmino.html">http://news.mongabay.com/2010/0118_hance_nunezmino.html</a>	£0

### 3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

We are only 6 months into the project and therefore it is difficult to evaluate progress towards the overall project purpose. However, we have a very good foundation for a successful project and therefore for meeting the overall purpose. The partnership is very strong and consists of compatible and complementary skill-sets, and we have an effective project team in place with excellent and open working relationships already being built. Good lines of communication have been established between the UK and Dominican Republic. We have had some early successes – particularly with the endemic mammal surveys and with awareness-raising - which provides the team with confidence that the project will achieve its goals. The purpose level assumptions hold true and the project partners believe that the indicators are fit to measure project outcomes.

### 3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

The overall goal of this project is to enable long-term conservation of Hispaniolan endemic mammals through a strengthened evidence-base and capacity – and therefore it will be some years beyond the life of the project when the impact, in terms of improving the status of these species and their habitats, will be realised. However, early findings from the project in fact suggest that an increase in knowledge of the distribution of these species is likely to catalyse habitat protection measures in some regions. For example, we have found both endemic mammals (outside of their known geographic range) in a small tract of coastal forest within the boundaries of a privately owned tourist resort in the east of the country. Dialogue with the land manager suggests a desire to strengthen protection measures for this forest and the two mammals, as part of their corporate social and environmental sustainability strategies. It is likely that this will be repeated in other privately owned tracts of forest in this region.

## 4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

The project partners share an online workplan (structured around the project log-frame) and budget, which is regularly updated, in order to plan activities and track delivery, expenditure and progress towards outputs. We have held one project review meeting in the Dominican Republic which was attended by the main representatives of the project partners. It was not possible to invite external stakeholders to this meeting, but this will be arranged for the next project review meeting in the coming weeks. Richard and Jose have scheduled phone calls every two weeks for planning and to evaluate progress, and this line of communication has been essential to ensure timely delivery of project activities. Richard and Sam also meet approximately once a month, and correspond by phone or email on a very regular basis, to discuss project delivery. Scientific outputs have not yet been evaluated as we are only in the



early stages of data collection. Performance appraisals are due to commence in the first quarter of the second project year.

A lesson gained to date is the time required to liaise with government, and the protocols involved, which is now factored into project planning.

## **5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

Not applicable.

## **6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

## **7. Sustainability**

The profile of the project is high within the Dominican Republic thanks to media interest in the species, and the partners dedicating time to communicate with a range of stakeholders at local and national level, including the general public. We believe that the species have already been pushed up the national conservation agenda, and a number of officials within government departments are already far more aware of the value of these species.

Our exit strategy is based on a range of host country stakeholders who have a long-term commitment to conservation of the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia in the Dominican Republic, and that are equipped with knowledge and improved capacity. These include project partners such as ZooDom and SOH, both of which work in close association with the Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources. Good collaborations have also been created with organisations such as The Nature Conservancy who have resources available to support and maintain long-term management and monitoring efforts. TNC have already provided the project with some resources to survey an offshore island for the presence of the two endemic mammals – and we hope this relationship will strengthen further. We are confident that other effective partnerships will be formed throughout the duration of the project.

Ultimately, sustaining the project's outputs, outcome and impact is reliant on the development of participatory species action plans that have broad support across the public and private sectors, and by having a team of highly skilled professionals based in the host-country partner organisation, equipped with the knowledge and tools to drive the conservation of the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia and their habitats. We aim to ensure that through donor funding the roles the project has created will be financed at least in the medium-term beyond the life of the project

## **8. Dissemination**

As we are so early in the project, we have not focussed on dissemination of results to date. Jose, Pedro and the field team have been sure to informally feedback the results of surveys to local people in areas of forest near to their villages. In terms of wider dissemination of project results, we are currently trialling the incorporation of our survey data into online Google maps, which will soon be fully operational on our project website at <http://www.thelastsurvivors.org/the-project/species-distribution-maps/>. This will be an important tool for communicating research results, as we build up the picture of the species' distributions and in relation to areas of land managed for biodiversity conservation. After the life of the project, the modest website costs will be underwritten by UK partners.

## 9. Project Expenditure

**Table 3 Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 1 October 2009 to 31 March 2010)**

Item	<b>Budget</b> (we amended the budget as we delayed the start date by 3 months and also submitted a project change request to Darwin Initiative on 29/01/10)	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Overhead costs*			
Operating costs*			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment (specify)			
Others (specify)			
Salaries (specify by individual)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

\*Richard Young spoke with Eilidh to confirm the use of budget item headings as they were declared in the project proposal budget.

Explanatory notes for expenditure > +/-10%:

**Overhead costs:** In order for the Project Manager to drive in the Dominican Republic he was obliged to apply for residency. In the Dominican Republic this is a complex and expensive process, which resulted in us having to pay over £700 for the services of a lawyer and the administration involved – this cost was unexpected as the project leader was told in the project planning phase that residency wasn't necessary in order to obtain a driver's permit. Obviously, we had little choice but to obtain residency.

**Travel and subsistence:** The field teams often camped or stayed in very cheap or free accommodation that was provided by project partners or supporting organisations (e.g. National Park ranger stations) resulting in this underspend.

**Capital items/equipment:** We managed to get a very good deal on a 4WD vehicle and a video camera, hence the underspend on these two items. However we significantly under-estimated the amount needed for consumable items, hence this over-spend. One of the main reasons for this is that we were opportunistically able to make use of a project partner's remote camera technology to help us with surveying, but this required more money for batteries and other consumable items than we expected during project planning.

**Salaries:** In order to recruit Pedro Martinez, our first choice candidate for the counterpart project manager position, we had to wait until he worked his notice in his last job. This led to a delay in his start date of one month past target date, hence the 33% underspend.

**10. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

Despite both species being very poorly known before the project began, we have made great advances in developing field research protocols and experimental designs which will enable us to survey both animals across the Dominican Republic as well as collect tissue samples for genetic analysis. During the first phase of the survey we have found both the solenodon and hutia in areas outside their known range (as described by the IUCN's Global Mammal Assessment 2008) and on private lands, which are not officially protected, with clear consequences for our understanding of their status and their conservation needs. Early findings also suggest a widespread and severe impact of dog predation on the solenodon, in particular in the buffer zones around protected areas which are home to vital populations of this species.

We have been particularly successful at increasing awareness of both endangered species at the national as well as international level by using a variety of media. These have included new media such as social networking sites (English and Spanish Facebook project sites with 320 members combined) and blogging on Durrell and EDGE of Existence websites, as well as more traditional media channels. A solenodon feature on the BBC website in January 2009 prompted mongabay.com to list this as one of the top 30 conservation stories of 2009 ([http://news.mongabay.com/2009/1227-2009\\_conservation\\_review.html](http://news.mongabay.com/2009/1227-2009_conservation_review.html)). The project also appeared in one of the most popular German magazines (Der Spiegel) in December 2009 after a journalist accompanied us in the field for a week. The project launched its own website [www.thelastsurvivors.org](http://www.thelastsurvivors.org) in January 2010 as a tool to raise awareness of the conservation problem, promote the project and its findings, and to focus conservation attention on these species.

I agree for LTS and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section

## Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2009/10

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements Oct 2009 - March 2010	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal:</b> <i>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <p><i>The conservation of biological diversity,</i></p> <p><i>The sustainable use of its components, and</i></p> <p><i>The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></p>			<p><i>(do not fill not applicable)</i></p>
<p><b>Purpose</b> Enabling the long-term conservation of the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia through participatory species action planning, a strengthened evidence-base, an island-wide monitoring programme, and improved awareness</p>	<p>Data on conservation status and requirements of solenodon and hutia analysed and reported ▪ Key conservation zone maps produced and agreed across stakeholders ▪ Long-term monitoring protocols and survey design developed and guidelines drafted; monitoring steering committee established ▪ SAP workshops held and documents published ▪ SAPs adopted into the Dominican Republic NBSAP ▪ Evidence disseminated to stakeholders through awareness-raising programme ▪ ‘Infomercial’ film on Hispaniolan mammal conservation produced and broadcast on Dominican Republic television</p>	<p>The focus of the first six months has been on setting up the project, including recruiting the project team, establishing links with stakeholders, conducting the first phase of field research and initiating the awareness raising programme. The priority was also to create an ‘identity’ for the project within the DR. All of this has been very successful to date and provides an excellent foundation for the project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field surveys of the target field sites will be completed, and the survey extended across the DR.</li> <li>• Genetic analysis to be completed.</li> <li>• First phase of species distribution modelling to be completed.</li> <li>• Programme of awareness-raising continues. Infomercial films produced, website further developed.</li> <li>• Continue engagement with national government and NGO stakeholders – and strengthen partnerships.</li> </ul>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements Oct 2009 - March 2010	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Output 1.</b> Scientifically robust data on conservation status and requirements of the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia and their key threats are collected, analysed and disseminated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.a. Ecological and socio-economic research at field sites, baseline species occupancy survey and genetic analyses completed</li> <li>1.b. GIS built and biological, environmental and national scale socio-economic data synthesised to allow mapping of key conservation zones</li> <li>1.c. Minimum of 3 scientific papers submitted to international peer-reviewed journals describing distribution, density, habitat associations, phylogenetics and conservation requirements of endemic mammals</li> <li>1.d. Triannual project progress meetings with OPNRD and partner NGOs</li> <li>1.e. Easy-to-read pamphlet produced to summarise relevant science and distributed to stakeholders in advance of SAP workshops</li> <li>1.f. Minimum of 2 articles published in IUCN Specialist Groups literature</li> </ul>	<p>Progress on collection ecological and socio-economic data is excellent, with data management tools already developed. Obtained GIS data from national institutions. One paper on hutia phylogeography drafted and will be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal soon. One project progress review meeting held, with two more planned in the next 6 months. Indicators are still considered relevant to measure success.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1 Data collection at target field sites</p>		<p>Endemic mammal, habitat and awareness/perception surveys have progressed according to schedule and will continue for the duration of the next reporting period.</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements Oct 2009 - March 2010	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 1.2 Data analysis, construction of GIS and mapping		Database and GIS built. Agreement made with government on access to national GIS resources. Online mapping being trialled to disseminate endemic mammal survey results. In next reporting period, the database and GIS will be further developed and the first phase of the predictive species distribution modelling completed. It is our intention that we will be reporting the genetic analysis for both species in the next project year, with one manuscript submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.	
Activity 1.3 Preparation of scientific and other technical documents		We have a draft document to record our survey designs and data collection protocols. This needs to be completed in the next reporting period and written in both English and Spanish. We aim to submit a paper on hutia phylogeography within the next three months. A paper is in preparation to synthesise all available information on the 15 species of Caribbean endemic land mammal with recommendations on conservation requirements.	
<b>Output 2.</b> Skills in conservation biology and planning are strengthened in local partner organisations and more widely in Dominican Republic	2.a. Counterpart project manager attains DESMAN post-grad certificate; 2 in-country conservationists attend EDGE Fellows training workshop at ZSL  2.b. Minimum of 20 Hispaniolan conservationists attend Durrell-led ISLA course run in Dominican Republic.  2.c. Counterpart project manager leads drafting of 1 article for peer-reviewed journal  2.d. Counterpart project manager plays key role in leading SAP	In the next reporting period, we will start performance appraisals to record and measure the progress of skills transfer and responsibility. Indicators are still considered fit for purpose.	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements Oct 2009 - March 2010	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>process</p> <p>2.e. Regular management reviews of capacity of in-country project staff by UK field scientists shows successful transfer of skills and responsibility through project</p>		
<p>Activity 2.1. International training courses for Hispaniolan project participants</p>		<p>The project's two field biologists have begun a period of intensive training by the Field Project Manager which will run into the next reporting period. The Durrell-run "Island Led Species Action" course is not due until the third reporting period.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.2. Ongoing skills transfer for counterpart project manager and other key project staff</p>		<p>The Field Project Manager has been working intensively with his counterpart and the two field biologists to understand their skills-gaps and to design training and work experience schedules. On the job training has already started and will run until the end of the project.</p>	
<p>Activity 2.3 Performance appraisals of host-country project staff</p>		<p>Programme of performance appraisals to start in next reporting period until project end.</p>	
<p><b>Output 3.</b> Awareness of status and conservation needs of Hispaniolan endemic land mammals substantially improved at local, national and international level</p>	<p>3.a. Minimum of 500 endemic mammal calendars and posters produced and distributed at meetings with communities local to project field sites</p> <p>3.b. 'Infomercial' film on Hispaniolan mammal conservation broadcast on Dominican Republic television and at local community meetings</p> <p>3.c. Surveys of attitudes to endemic</p>	<p>Surveys of awareness and attitudes in project field sites half complete. Posters, caps, and posters still in production but will be distributed around local communities in next few months.</p> <p>In next reporting period, the infomercial films will be produced with the aim of TV broadcast and online streaming as well as being shown at community meetings. Website hit counts will be collated to measure traffic and any increases in visits. National and international media engagement to continue.</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements Oct 2009 - March 2010	Actions required/planned for next period
	<p>mammals shows improved awareness of solenodon and hutia in communities local to project field sites and significant decrease in erroneous perception of native mammals as pests</p> <p>3.d. Solenodon and Hutia children's day held at ZOODOM, Santo Domingo</p> <p>3.e. Minimum of 3 national radio and TV interviews, 3 national and 1 international newspaper articles. Minimum of 3 scientific papers submitted</p> <p>3.f. Increasing number of hits on EDGE and other project partner websites</p>		
Activity 3.1. Programme of local and national awareness raising		Press release re logo competition to gain national profile for project, series of talks and community meetings held. In next period, continue engagement with national media and develop a Spanish-language version of project website.	
Activity 3.2. Programme of international awareness raising		Project website ( <a href="http://www.thelastsurvivors.org">www.thelastsurvivors.org</a> ) developed, and good coverage in international media. In next period, continue to develop website (look and functions), blogging and engage with international media (a BBC journalist and cameraman will be accompanying us in May 2010 on an expedition to Sierra de Bahoruco to cover the project).	
Activity 3.3. Surveys of attitudes towards focal species and habitat conducted in local communities		Four communities were surveyed, with six more planned for the next three months.	



Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements Oct 2009 - March 2010	Actions required/planned for next period
Output 4. Strengthened capacity for conserving and monitoring the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia	<p>4.a. Two participatory Species Action Planning workshops and consultation with local communities held, and documents published before project end</p> <p>4.b. SAPs adopted into Dominican Republic NBSAP</p> <p>4.c. Priority SAP activities incorporated into OPNRD and NGO annual workplans within two years of project completion</p> <p>4.d. Monitoring data collection protocols and experimental design developed and fully tested and manuals produced</p> <p>4.e. Steering committee established and prepared to oversee implementation of endemic land mammals monitoring programme</p>	No activities were planned for this period, or for the next project year.	
Activity 4.1. Species Action Planning workshops, consultation with local communities and adoption of SAPs into Dominican Republic's NBSAP		No activities were planned for this period, or for the next project year.	
Activity 4.2. Design of monitoring programme and supporting materials, and launch of steering committee		No activities were planned for this period, or for the next project year.	

## Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Goal:</b> Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</p>			
<p>Sub-Goal: The probability of long-term survival of Hispaniola's endemic land mammals and their habitats is significantly improved</p>	<p>Species Action Plans (SAPs) adopted into Dominican Republic National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan and priority activities from the SAPs are initiated within 2 years of project end</p>	<p>Dominican Republic National Biodiversity Strategy documents ▪ OPNRD and local NGO partner workplans</p>	
<p>Purpose: Enabling the long-term conservation of the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia through participatory species action planning, a strengthened evidence-base, an island-wide monitoring programme, and improved awareness</p>	<p>Data on conservation status and requirements of solenodon and hutia analysed and reported ▪ Key conservation zone maps produced and agreed across stakeholders ▪ Long-term monitoring protocols and survey design developed and guidelines drafted; monitoring steering committee established ▪ SAP workshops held and documents published ▪ SAPs adopted into the Dominican Republic NBSAP ▪ Evidence disseminated to stakeholders through awareness-raising programme ▪ 'Infomercial' film on Hispaniolan mammal conservation produced and broadcast on Dominican Republic television</p>	<p>Project annual reports, newsletters and partner websites ▪ Scientific literature ▪ SAPs published in conjunction with IUCN and on project partner websites ▪ Government biodiversity strategy documents ▪ Radio and TV transcripts, newspaper articles ▪ Project partner websites hit-count</p>	<p>Close collaboration and communication between project partners ▪ Dominican Republic government support continues throughout project</p>
<p>Outputs 1. Scientifically robust data on conservation status and requirements of the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia and their key threats are</p>	<p>1.a. Ecological and socio-economic research at field sites, baseline species occupancy survey and genetic analyses completed 1.b. GIS built and biological, environmental and national scale socio-economic data synthesised to allow mapping of key conservation zones</p>	<p>Peer-reviewed scientific literature ▪ Project annual reports ▪ Project progress meeting minutes ▪ Project partner websites ▪ OPNRD annual reports ▪ IUCN</p>	<p>Dominican Republic government continues to provide permits for field research</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
collected, analysed and disseminated	<p>1.c. Minimum of 3 scientific papers submitted to international peer-reviewed journals describing distribution, density, habitat associations, phylogenetics and conservation requirements of endemic mammals</p> <p>1.d. Triannual project progress meetings with OPNRD and partner NGOs</p> <p>1.e. Easy-to-read pamphlet produced to summarise relevant science and distributed to stakeholders in advance of SAP workshops</p> <p>1.f. Minimum of 2 articles published in IUCN Specialist Groups literature</p>	Specialist Group website and associated literature	
2. Skills in conservation biology and planning are strengthened in local partner organisations and more widely in Dominican Republic	<p>2.a. Counterpart project manager attains DESMAN post-grad certificate; 2 in-country conservationists attend EDGE Fellows training workshop at ZSL</p> <p>2.b. Minimum of 20 Hispaniolan conservationists attend Durrell-led ISLA course run in Dominican Republic.</p> <p>2.c. Counterpart project manager leads drafting of 1 article for peer-reviewed journal</p> <p>2.d. Counterpart project manager plays key role in leading SAP process</p> <p>2.e. Regular management reviews of capacity of in-country project staff by UK field scientists shows successful transfer of skills and responsibility through project</p>	Post-graduate certificate awarded by University of Kent ▪ Peer-reviewed literature ▪ Course attendance records and feedback forms ▪ Project annual reports ▪ SAP document authorship	Core project staff remain in post throughout project ▪ Project offers appropriate training for local partner staff
3. Awareness of status and conservation needs of Hispaniolan endemic land mammals substantially improved at local, national and international level	<p>3.a. Minimum of 500 endemic mammal calendars and posters produced and distributed at meetings with communities local to project field sites</p> <p>3.b. 'Infomercial' film on Hispaniolan mammal conservation broadcast on Dominican Republic television and at local community meetings</p> <p>3.c. Surveys of attitudes to endemic mammals shows improved awareness of solenodon and hutia in communities local to project</p>	Project annual reports ▪ Radio and TV transcripts, newspaper articles, scientific papers ▪ Project partner websites and hit-count	Media willing to publicise plight of Hispaniolan endemic mammals

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
	<p>field sites and significant decrease in erroneous perception of native mammals as pests</p> <p>3.d. Solenodon and Hutia children's day held at ZOODOM, Santo Domingo</p> <p>3.e. Minimum of 3 national radio and TV interviews, 3 national and 1 international newspaper articles. Minimum of 3 scientific papers submitted</p> <p>3.f. Increasing number of hits on EDGE and other project partner websites</p>		
<p>4. Strengthened capacity for conserving and monitoring the Hispaniolan solenodon and hutia</p>	<p>4.a. Two participatory Species Action Planning workshops and consultation with local communities held, and documents published before project end</p> <p>4.b. SAPs adopted into Dominican Republic NBSAP</p> <p>4.c. Priority SAP activities incorporated into OPNRD and NGO annual workplans within two years of project completion</p> <p>4.d. Monitoring data collection protocols and experimental design developed and fully tested and manuals produced</p> <p>4.e. Steering committee established and prepared to oversee implementation of endemic land mammals monitoring programme</p>	<p>SAPs published on project partner websites ▪</p> <p>Government biodiversity strategy documents ▪</p> <p>OPNRD and NGO annual workplans ▪</p> <p>Monitoring field manuals available on project partner website ▪</p> <p>Project annual reports ▪</p> <p>Steering committee meeting minutes</p>	<p>Effective facilitation at SAP workshops ▪</p> <p>Majority of invited stakeholders attend workshops ▪</p> <p>Continuing support from Dominican Republic government and NGOs for monitoring endemic mammals</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Activities</b> (details in workplan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Data collection at target field sites</li> <li>1.2. Data analysis, construction of GIS and mapping</li> <li>1.3. Preparation of scientific and other technical documents</li> <li>2.1. International training courses for Hispaniolan project participants</li> <li>2.2. Ongoing skills transfer for counterpart project manager and other key project staff</li> <li>2.3. Performance appraisals of host-country project staff</li> <li>3.1. Programme of local and national awareness raising</li> <li>3.2. Programme of international awareness raising</li> <li>3.3. Surveys of attitudes towards focal species and habitat conducted in local communities</li> <li>4.1. Species Action Planning workshops, consultation with local communities and adoption of SAPs into Dominican Republic's NBSAP</li> <li>4.2. Design of monitoring programme and supporting materials, and launch of steering committee</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Monitoring activities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicator 1: Scientific delivery evaluated biannually by Durrell's and ZSL's Head of Conservation Programmes</li> <li>Indicator 2: Monitoring of increased skills/capacity of in-country conservationists/host-country project staff</li> <li>Indicator 3: Surveys of attitudes towards native mammals among local communities</li> <li>Indicator 4: Triannual project progress meetings with SOH, OPNRD and ZOODOM</li> </ul>			

## **Annex 3 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)**

3.1. The winning logo which has now been adopted by the project.



3.2. Cover page of application to US Fish and Wildlife Service

OMB No. 1018-0123  
Expiration Date: 08/31/2010

Application Cover Page

Page 2 contains instructions for completing this form. Follow all instructions!

**Program:** Wildlife Without Borders - Latin America & the Caribbean

**Project Title:** Los últimos sobrevivientes – salvando el solenodonte y la jutía de la Hispaniola  
The last survivors – saving the solenodon and hutia of Hispaniola

<b>Amount Requested from USFWS:</b>	\$24,848.00	<b>USD</b>
<b>Applicant's Contribution:</b>	\$20,950.00	<b>USD</b>
<b>Other Partner Contributions:</b>	\$19,633.00	<b>USD</b>
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	\$65,431.00	<b>USD</b>

**Applicant Organization:** Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola (SOH)

**DUNS Number:** 871481417

**Tax ID Number:**

**Funds should be made payable to:** Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola

<b>Project Manager</b> (provide complete contact information):	<b>Grant Administrator</b> (provide complete contact information):
Dr. Jose Nunez-Mino Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust Parque Zoológico Nacional (Zoodom) Avda. de la Vega Real, Arroyo Hondo Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana Email: jose.nunez-mino@durrell.org Phone: (001) 829 810 6889	Jorge Brocca Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola Parque Zoológico Nacional (Zoodom) Avda. de la Vega Real, Arroyo Hondo Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana Email: jbrocca@soh.org.do Phone: (001) 809 753 1388

<b>Alternate Contact Person:</b>	
Name: Dr. Richard Young Organization: Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	E-mail: richard.young@durrell.org Telephone: (00 44) 796 215 2145

**Partner organizations contributing cash or in-kind support to this project:**

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Contribution Amount (USD)</u>
Sociedad Ornitológica de La Hispaniola	\$20,950.00
Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	\$17,683.00
Zoological Society of London	\$1,950.00

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is interested in engaging partners for international wildlife conservation. To achieve this goal we may share your proposal with qualified organizations or individuals that have the potential to enhance the proposed conservation effort. If you prefer that your proposal not be shared, please check this box .

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

12 April 2010  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: Jose Nunez-Mino  
TITLE: Field Project Manager

FWS FORM 3-2338  
08/07

### 3.3. ZSL's EDGE of Existence grant acceptance form

Dear Dr. Richard Young & Jose Nuñez-Miño (c/o Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Les Augres Manor, La Profonde Rue, Trinity, Jersey, JE3 5BP, Channel Islands, United Kingdom):

We are pleased to confirm that ZSL has awarded you a grant of GBP 5,000 for your project entitled "*The Last Survivors – Hispaniolan Endemic Land Mammals*", as a contribution to the salaries and training of two field assistants for one year. Please read the terms and conditions of the grant below, sign and return to us via email. A hard copy of the signed agreement should also be posted.

1. The grant will be awarded upon receipt of a signed copy of the Grant Acceptance Form.
2. A full report with an executive summary (one side A4) and details of expenditure must be submitted within 3 months of completion of the one-year funding-period.
3. Short blogs, outlining project activities and progress, should be submitted to ZSL once per month (or equivalent when this is not possible). Blogs will be posted on the ZSL and EDGE of Existence website to help raise awareness of the project, and should include images and video clips whenever possible.
4. A summary of the work may be written for distribution to all supporters of EDGE with a view to fundraising and EDGE will seek the co-operation of the Project Manager, EDGE Fellows and other project participants in its preparation. Similarly, on completion of the work, a short report or blog may be prepared for EDGE supporters.
5. All publication and dissemination of the outcomes and data of this programme must acknowledge ZSL and EDGE, and neither ZSL nor project members shall publish without the knowledge of the other.
6. The ZSL and EDGE logos must be on any press releases sent out relating to the project, and a draft sent to ZSL for comment/to add a quote, before release.
7. ZSL is not responsible for the insurance of personnel involved in this project. The Project Manager shall ensure that any essential insurance cover is in place for all activity carried out during the project, including any medical cover that may be necessary to complement national insurance or host institution schemes. A risk assessment should be prepared prior to commencement of the project.
8. If for any reason the project is delayed or if there is any change to the planned use of funds, confirmation of the revised schedule should be sought from ZSL.
9. If, for any reason, the project is cancelled, all monies must be returned to ZSL.

#### Declaration

I accept the above agreement, and agree to work according to its criteria.



Signed (Project Manager) \_\_\_\_\_

Date\_26 February 2010



## ***Checklist for submission***

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 5MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	Y
<b>Is your report more than 5MB?</b> If so, please advise <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> that the report will be send by post on CD, putting the project number in the Subject line.	N
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Y
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	N
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Y
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Y
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	