

Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2017)

Project Ref No	22-001
Project Title	Rescuing and restoring the native flora of Robinson Crusoe Island
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Chile
Lead Organisation	CABI
Partner(s)	CONAF, INIA, MMA, Oikonos
Project Leader	Steve Edgington
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	27 October 2017 HYR3
Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	https://www.cabi.org/projects/project/46827
Funder (DFID/Defra)	Defra

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

Specifics against the project timetable:

1.1 Adaptations to botanical garden to establish seed bank facility

The new RCI seed bank facility is fully operational. There will be an official opening ceremony on 26 Nov 2017 attended by senior CONAF representatives, the Mayor of Robinson Crusoe Island (RCI) and CABI's Regional Director for Latin America, amongst others.

1.2 Seeds and spores obtained from native forest and conserved in seed bank

Staff collected seeds from a further 22 RCI plant species and stored them in the bank (accession records/leaflets available on request). The project has now collected and stored 50% of RCI's native species (30% at the archipelago level). To support the seed and spore collecting a training course was run on the use of global positioning system (GPS) for gathering data on collection sites. Fifteen people attended the course which included all the CONAF park officers; participant list and course content available on request.

2. Improved nursery facility to ensure sufficient plant material available for 1 ha habitat restoration

Work continued on the nursery including renovation of the roof. There was an official opening ceremony and open-day for the fern propagation unit which was attended by residents of RCI including children from RCI's school.



2.3 Key native species prioritised and propagated

Seventeen fern species (including one critically endangered) were grown in the fern unit during this reporting period, with several hundred specimens of each being produced.

1.4 Release of seeds and spores for nursery production and/or direct seeding into cleared areas

The seed bank released the following project priority species to the nursery: 35 *Dendroseris litoralis*, 56 *Rhaphithamnus venustus* and 105 *Gunnera bracteata*

4.1 One hectare of land manually cleared of invasive species, in total by Year 3

The project had already cleared its target of 1 ha however clearance activities continued in this period and the team have now cleared invasive plants from approximately 3 ha.

4.2 Seedlings of five native plant species replanted in 1 ha of cleared land

Approximately 2900 sq m of cleared land was replanted with RCI native species in this period. This takes the grand total of replanted forest to 5094 sq m, just over 50% of the project's target. The team is confident that with the replanting system and strengthened capacity now in place, including an ample supply of planting material from the nursery, they will reach their target by project end. In total over 600 native trees, almost 200 native shrubs and 220 native ferns have been replanted. To note (and in response to concerns in AR2R) replanting activities at this project level are small-scale as this is a pilot to test and refine the process for the larger replanting at the programme level.

5.2 Production of selected microbes and 5.3 Trialling of propagation techniques and interactions with microbial complexes in nursery

The project used tomato as an initial test plant to screen various RCI microbes and to develop appropriate test protocols. The team have since started tests on three RCI native plants (*Dendroseris litoralis*, *Rhaphithamnus venustus* and *Sophora fernandeziana*).

Monitoring and evaluation, recording and dissemination

The following paper was accepted for publication in June 2017: Sáez *et al.* Rescate y restauración de la flora nativa de la isla de Robinson Crusoe en el Parque Nacional Archipiélago Juan Fernández: Avances y proyecciones. Biodiversidata (in-press). This paper will be presented at the 3rd Ecological Restoration Seminar in Chile on 11th October 2017.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: Yes

Formal change request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.

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

None

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 can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**