

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 – Submission deadline 30 April 2007

Darwin Project Information

<i>Project Ref Number</i>	13/006
<i>Project Title</i>	<i>DarwinNet and the Tumbesian Important Bird Areas.</i>
<i>Country(ies)</i>	<i>Peru & Ecuador</i>
<i>UK Contract Holder Institution</i>	<i>BirdLife International</i>
<i>UK Partner Institution(s)</i>	<i>BirdLife International</i>
<i>Host country Partner Institution(s)</i>	<i>Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional – Ecuador Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional – Peru Fundación Probosque - Ecuador</i>
<i>Darwin Grant Value</i>	<i>£ 79,488</i>
<i>Start/End dates of Project</i>	<i>July 2006 to December 2007</i>
<i>Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)</i>	<i>1 July 2006 to 31 March 2006, Report No. 1 (first annual report).</i>
<i>Project Leader Name</i>	<i>Dr David Thomas</i>
<i>Project website</i>	www.darwinnet.org
<i>Author(s), date</i>	<i>Alexander More, Amiro Perez, David Thomas 25 April, 2007.</i>

1. Project Background

The project is centred on the Equatorial Dry Forests of NW Peru and SW Ecuador, which are recognised as one of the most threatened biota on earth and a global conservation priority. The region, known also as the Tumbesian Endemic Bird Area, has exceptional levels of endemic species, but widespread habitat destruction has resulted in many globally threatened species. Recognizing the importance of this region BirdLife is implementing various projects through its Important Bird Areas Programme, which allows the targeting of key biodiversity areas for conservation action, to improve the conservation and sustainable development of the remaining forests. Other BirdLife projects in the region are based on direct activities at site / community level, and the initial DarwinNet evolved as a concept to improve our overall knowledge of the region, by providing free access and interchange of information to all stakeholders (decision-makers, NGOs, universities, etc.). This second phase is a combination of existing provision of information to all stakeholders while at the same time ensuring an effective communication exchange through the promotion of local stakeholder and manager 'practioner' networks at ten important sites in the Tumbesian Region.

2. Project Partnerships

BirdLife International and Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional (NCI) are implementing another bi-national (Ecuador – Peru) project at the La Ceiba Important Bird Area (IBA), besides this Darwin Initiative Project, and through the British BirdWatching Fair – BirdLife funded project NCI is carrying out site conservation work with local communities in another 4 IBAs in Northern Peru. Fundacion ProBosque is also carrying out conservation work in another IBA. All these IBAs have been targeted by this project. At the local level, NCI has lobbied the Regional Government of Piura in Peru to adopt these key biodiversity areas to be at the core of the Regional System of Protected Areas. If this model is successful, it could then be replicated elsewhere in the country.

During the previous DarwinNet project, the first thematic eco-regional node was established and linked to the Peruvian CHM lead by the National Environmental Council (CONAM). This has facilitated further support from BirdLife and NCI–Peru on the preparation of the National Bird Conservation Strategy, part of Peruvian efforts to comply with their commitments to the CBD. INRENA will supervise its monitoring.

During the first DarwinNet phase (13/006) NCI – Peru provided support to the National Council for the Environment (CONAM) in 2006 to carry out an evaluation on the advancement of the Peruvian North-west with regards to the Climate Change, Desertification and Biodiversity Conventions.

This Project has also establish a good communication and information exchange channel with Mr Oliver Whaley who is currently managing the Habitat Restoration and Sustainable use of Southern Peruvian Dry Forest Darwin funded project. CBD is setting up a new focal point for NGOs and DarwinNet was contacted by Valérie Vendette (NGO Focal Point, CBD) for advice / recommendations on the development / direction of such a focal point. This is on-going and the project hopes to continue to support this initiative.

Finally, as the Clearing House Mechanism for the Tumbesian Dry Forest and according to the project objectives, the project team has established regular communications with other relevant stakeholders in the project sites.

3. Project progress

The project initially started in July 2006 as a post-project funding to the original project: 'DarwinNet: The Peru – Ecuador Dry Forest Clearing-house Mechanism' so we are reporting on the first 9 month of the project. In general, all project activities were carried out according to the established timetable, although some of the originally planned activities have been modified according to the availability of the local stakeholders.

It is worth mentioning that the project team underwent changes with regards to personnel and some restructuring during October 2006 (Annex 3). These were duly reported to and accepted by Darwin Initiative. As a result, the British Expert and former Project Coordinator became a project consultant providing advise and support to the project. Mr Alex Moreover, the former Webmaster and person responsible for the Sullana node during phase 1, become the Project Coordinator and Network Liaison Leader. A facilitator-communicator and a webmaster were hired to complete the project team.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

3.1.1 Development of local stakeholder network.

During the first few months, the project team concentrated its efforts on planning sessions and the selection of sites. Ten sites were selected: (Cordillera El Balsamo EC015, Reserva Ecológica Comunal Loma Alta EC018, Bosque Protector Cerro Blanco EC026, Cañon del Río Catamayo EC076, Reserva Natural Tumbesia La Ceiba Zapotillo EC081, Coto de Caza El Angolo PE002, Talara PE003, Bosque de Cuyas PE005, Olmos PE 011 and Refugio de Vida Silvestre Laquipampa PE015). Meetings with local stakeholder started in September. A presentation was made about the project and information was gathered from all sites on information needs, conservation experience and sustainable natural resources management.

The project team decided to continue improving the communication between regional stakeholders with regards to the illegal trafficking of both fauna and flora initiated during the first phase. For this purpose, the second binational meeting was organised in Tumbes – Peru in December 2006 (**II Reunión Binacional de Coordinación para el tráfico transfronterizo de especies de flora y fauna del Bosque Seco**). A total of 49 participants from 27 institutions from both Peru and Ecuador were present. As a result, the coordination with Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL), the Ecuadorian CITES authorities and the Ecuadorian Ministry for the Environment continued for the preparation of education and public awareness materials.

The project has also been providing support to the Coastal Crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) working group in Guayaquil that includes the following institutions: El Pantanal Zoo, Fundación Natura, Parque Histórico Guayaquil, Fundación Malecón 2000, Fundación ProBosque, Fundación Rescate Jambeli, Municipality of Guayaquil and the Ecuadorian Ministry for the Environment.

3.1.2 Networking activities for exchange, lesson-learning and capacity-building of IBA local-community stakeholders.

The first project newsletter of phase II was about the project itself in order to introduce it to the different stakeholders (DarwinNotas No. 12). For more details see section 3.1.5.

Together with the UK Lottery funded La Ceiba-Pilares project, training workshops were carried out in Zapotillo on goat milk cheese production in November 2006 and on beekeeping in Macara in December 2006 for the community based organisations of La Ceiba and Cañon del Río Catamayo respectively. A training on the Backyard School Ecology Programme for teachers was carried out in Bocaca in October 2006 as well as a visit of community representatives and project partners to explore joining the Forest Users Network in Vilcabamba in March 2007.

Lobbying efforts resulted in the donation from Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja of 5 personal computers, desks, chairs for schools of Cañon del Catamayo area between September and November 2006, as well as training for the these communities and those of La Ceiba.

NCI Peru together with INRENA provided training in control and patrolling of protected areas to volunteer community park guards from Coto de Caza El Angolo and representatives of the Limon Community of the Olmos IBA in Sullana in February 2007.

The promotion of community ecotourism has been heavily promoted in North-western Peru during the past few years. The project team organised a meeting in Santuario Histórico Bosque de Pomac during 1-2 March 2007 which included representatives from the communities of Parque Nacional Cerros de Amotape, Olmos, Pomac and Laquipampa to present the information available on community ecotourism, to share knowledge and experiences and to promote the establishment of a community ecotourism network for the Tumbesian Dry Forest for the region in order to secure a formal relationship with institutions such as regional tourism agencies, tour operators, PromPeru, etc.

Representatives of the communities of Cordillera El Bálsamo, Loma Alta, Cerro Blanco, La Ceiba and Cañón del Río Catamayo met during a meeting of the Coastal Ecuadorian Network to share their experiences on the sustainable management and use of the dry forest. This meeting took place in Guayaquil on February 28th and March 1st 2007. DarwinNet was proposed as the official channel to communicate and disseminate information on the progress achieved by the Coastal Ecuadorian Network and contacts were established for future exchanges.

3.1.3. Advocacy for increased collaborative activity between NGOs/agencies and local stakeholders.

At the end of the first DarwinNet phase, the results from the final report were presented to INRENA. They were also informed that the Darwin Initiative had approved the project extension and that this new phase was going to concentrate its efforts on strengthening the capacities of stakeholders in project areas. As a result from this effort, INRENA recognised the value of IBAs as a tool to prioritise conservation sites in Peru in their publication *Fragile Ecosystems and Priority Areas for Conservation in Peru* (Informe N° 323 DCB – IFFS: Ecosistemas Fragiles y Áreas Prioritarias para la Conservacion en el Perú ubicados fuera del SINANPE).

Under the current national decentralisation process, NCI Peru successfully lobbied the Environment and Natural Resources department of the Regional Government of Piura to adopt 12 IBAs as the basis of its Piura Regional System of Protected Areas. As a result, the Regional Government of Piura is replicating this initiative at the macro-regional level and in particular to the Regional government of Lambayeque to adopt IBAs as the basis for their Regional System of Protected Areas through the Northern Forest Programme of the North-West InterRegional Council which includes other regional governments such as Tumbes, Cajamarca and Amazonas.

The project facilitated a meeting between representatives of the Regional Government of Piura and the community of Limon of the Olmos IBA, so that the government would commit themselves to provide infrastructure prescribed according to the law, continue providing support to the project activities as well as passing a regional legislation declaring the Olmos IBA as an important conservation area.

Meetings have also been carried out with the Project Coordinator of the Dry Forest Section of the Natural Areas Protection Programme (PAN) funded by the German Government Agency KfW to lobby for the support of activities on the project selected sites as well as the future adoption of DarwinNet by the Regional Governments. Furthermore, the project has also lobbied the management unit of the North-western Biosphere Reserve (RBNO) for the inclusion of some IBAs under a programme financed by the Governments of Finland and Spain.

Together with regional stakeholders of Loma Alta and Cerro Blanco, DarwinNet has also provided support to the implementation of the World Bird Festival carried out in October 2006. This event takes place at a continental scale throughout the Americas.

3.1.4. Networking activities for exchange, lesson-learning and capacity-building of reserve managers.

DarwinNet prepared a factsheet (<http://www.darwinnet.org/docs/RBNOenglish.pdf>) for the First Meeting on Dry Biosphere Reserves Managers that took place in Curitiba in November 2006 at the request of the management unit of the North-western Biosphere Reserve (RBNO); which includes Cerros de Amotape, Tumbes and El Angolo Protected Areas. NCI Peru is part of the management committee of the El Angolo.

Not all the IBAs targeted by the project are protected under Peruvian law. The Peruvian State Protected Areas of both SH Bosque de Pomac and Laquipampa on the one hand, and the three protected areas that constitute the RBNO (El Angolo, Cerros de Amotape and Reserva de Tumbes) on the other hand, are managed by two protected areas managers which simplifies the coordination of various project activities. For Ecuadorian Private Reserves such as La Ceiba and Cerro Blanco they are managed by single managers. However, other IBAs such as Cordillera El Bálsamo, Loma Alta and Cañón del Río Catamayo may well have many institutional stakeholder making the exchange of information and experience between managers far more difficult.

3.1.5. Dissemination.

The DarwinNet website (www.darwinnet.org) continues to be the most important information exchange mechanism. This is also heavily supported by the mailing list which continues to grow in terms of information provided and number of recipients (Annex 1 Activity 5.1). The DarwinNet site is being restructured to provide improved services since December 2006 (www.darwinnet.org/darwinnetv2). This would enable better integration to the Peruvian CHM focal point and the other nodes.

As mentioned before, DarwinNotas newsletters (www.darwinnet.org/4_2.htm) were continued reaching now No. 19 and the 8th during these 9 months. It is noteworthy that all information gathered during the meetings and those sent by the stakeholders has facilitated the preparation of these leaflets. There is a PDF version downloadable from DarwinNet and approximately 200 hard copies are made available for distribution at each meeting on the selected sites.

Project activities have been regionally disseminated through 13 press articles so far in local and regional newspapers. An article on the Tumbesian Dry Forests was published in a tourism magazine in Ecuador. However, only one radio spot has been released so far due to its high cost. An alternative to this, is the preparation of scripts on the dry forests (what are dry forests and why are they important?; problems and threats affecting dry forests; and about DarwinNet) for a radio programme on environmental and agro-ecological issues.

Printed material such as leaflets, posters and booklets have been designed and printed for mass public awareness. These deal with subjects such as illegal trafficking of species, the World Bird Festival, solid waste disposal and an ecological calendar. Furthermore, as a result of phase I, the preparation of the PDF version of the following manuals has been completed: Dry forest tree nursery (www.darwinnet.org/docs/manual_viveros_bs.pdf), Organic Pest and Crop Disease Control and Natural Soil Fertilisation (www.darwinnet.org/docs/guia_contol_organico_plagas.pdf).

Finally, the digitalisation and PDF production of the revised version (by the authors) of the Best B. & M. Kessler. 1995. Biodiversity & Conservation in the Tumbesian Ecuador and Peru will be launched on the International Bird Day on 9 May 2007.

3.1.6. Project team training.

Three project team members attended an environmental conflict resolution training that took place in Loja on 17-21/07/2006 carried out by Fundación Fututo Latinoamericano (FFLA).

Within the framework of the CHM of Peru and the integration of all their nodes, two members of the project team attended a workshop on computer-based biodiversity information management, integration and dissemination technology organized by GBIF, IABIN, the Peruvian Amazonian Research Institute (IIAP) and the Peruvian CHM that took place in Lima on 10-12/07/2006. As a result, a plan was designed to restructure the use of the information available on the DarwinNet website.

Finally, a project team member got a scholarship from NatureServe and the Conservation Data Centre of Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina (CDC – La Molina) to participate in a workshop on species distribution modelling methods on 13-16/03/2007. As a result, an environmental model to predict the potential distribution of the critically threatened (CR) White-Winged-Guan based on the data provided by Asociación Cracidae was developed.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

Overall progress towards project outputs has been good. Assumptions at the output level are still valid. The time to formally establish the bi-national network of local stakeholders is taking longer than expected. Nevertheless it is expected that by the end of the project the formal network will be fully operational. Community and site exchanges between stakeholders from the selected sites prior to the beginning of the project were virtually non-existent or very limited, and therefore the project is catalyzing an increase in capacity through this activity. Linkages between NGOs, development agencies and local stakeholders (communities and managers at sites, including protected areas) have been initiated, and the project is showing good progress with regards indicators for these activities. Good progress has been achieved on the exchange

of information between reserve managers but no new conservation measures have yet been introduced in the reserves as a result of information exchanges.

3.2.1. Binational network of local stakeholders at priority dry forest sites (including IBAs) formed and linked to DarwinNet.

DarwinNet has identified the main stakeholders at IBAs through various meetings *in situ*. Information collected on local experiences and needs (e.g. training and communications) has formed the base to propose future meetings and workshops to deal with conservation issues in the region, for example the workshops on illegal trafficking of species and a conservation strategy for the American Crocodile. These meetings have united distinct stakeholders, working groups and other networks of stakeholders, so while the DarwinNet network of stakeholders has not yet been formalized there exists a high level of awareness of the project and the foundations for the formal network has been established. Although no formal announcement has been made, it is expected to be made soon. Based on this the project will continue to promote exchanges and meetings, the dissemination of priority topics and the advances made by stakeholders and local networks.

3.2.2. Capacity of community groups strengthened to participate in species and site conservation activities at priority sites (IBAs)

The project has strengthened capacities of communities linked to IBAs on topics related to improving the use of natural resources through training and exchanges. A total of 6 exchanges have taken place so far. In the past there has been very few or none at all, so that the intercommunity /sites connections are starting. A total of 26 communities from the 10 sites have met and exchanged information on specific subjects to improve natural resources management. Groups from sites not selected by the project (SHB Pomac and PN Cerros de Amotape) but with similar experiences have also been invited to participate in some meetings and information has been sent to them.

Also these topics have been disseminated to other communities with similar experiences. Reports from these experiences (manuals and guides), as well as the project's newsletters (DarwinNotas), reflect how the flow of information intends to promote the development of sustainable activities and their replication within other communities.

3.2.3 Linkages between NGOs/development agencies and local stakeholders (communities and managers at sites) strengthened, more effectively targeting resources and effort and improving prospects for sites.

As mentioned, DarwinNet and project partners are contributing greatly to the consolidation of the IBAs program in the region. The program serves as a tool to disseminate conservation priorities and through regular meetings with other institutions and local authorities project partners strengthen relationships and suggest joint actions for the conservation of these sites.

3.2.4. Tools and capacity for reserve managers to effectively share lessons and experience are enhanced.

The project has initiated and strengthened communications between institutions which manage or are linked to IBAs (INRENA, NCI, Fundacion ProBosque, local authorities), with the objective of promoting future meetings and visits to exchange experiences in natural resource management at these sites.

Available information from the INRENA office for the North-west Peru Biosphere Reserve has helped in the dissemination of relevant experiences in the use of natural resources.

It is worth noting that in some IBAs which are also protected areas there already exist documents on management (Master Plans, Tourism Plans, etc.) and multisectoral management committees, which orientate and define management and conservation activities at these sites. Although no new conservation actions are reported, the project has supported the implementation of some actions already established (e.g. promotion of community based

ecotourism).

3.2.5. Protected area planning in the region is based on reliable information and prioritisation provided through DarwinNet

DarwinNet continues with the dissemination and improvement of knowledge of the dry forests and on-going conservation initiatives, all this with a focus on the IBAs program and their local stakeholders.

As mentioned, the management of protected areas is supported by documentation and working groups, where the project actively assists in the systemization and dissemination of relevant information.

Also, it is considered that the indicators proposed for this output will be achieved in the medium to long term and probably not reported until the end of the project, more such as the process of decentralization is better defined. However, as mentioned, at a local and regional level the project is promoting collaborative mechanisms for the conservation of priority sites such as the IBAs.

3.3 *Standard Output Measures*

Table 1 *Project Standard Output Measures*

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	TOTAL
Established codes				
4A, 4B	4 undergraduate students to receive training for 2 week spells of work experience per person	3/4 (= three out of four planned for project)	-	3/4
4C, 4D	2 postgraduates to receive training for 8 week per person	1/2	-	1/2
7	4 posters, leaflet, manuals and other materials	9/4	-	9/4
9	5 additional species action plans	0/5	-	0/5
11B	2 papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	0/2	-	0/2
12A	2 computer databases	1/2	-	1/2
14A	(Not especified number) conferences/seminars/workshops to be organised	10 to 173 participants to date	-	10 to 173 participants to date
14B	2 conferences/seminars/workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	6/2 to 1025 participants	-	6/2 to 1025 participants
15A	2 national press releases in host country(ies)	1/2	-	1/2
15B	20 local press releases in	16/20	-	16/20

	host country(ies)			
16A, 16B, 16C	9 newsletters	8/9	-	8/9
17A	1 - IBAs Network	1/1	-	1/1
17B	1 DarwinNet	1/1	-	1/1
18A	2 national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	0/2	-	0/2
19C	8 local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	1/8	-	1/8
20	£1000	£1000	-	£1000
23	£30,050 estimated	£20,150	-	£20,150
8	72 weeks	36/72	-	36/72
Additional output	endorsed use of NFPs & CBD logos	1/1	-	1/1
New - Project specific measures		-	-	-

Table 2 Publications

Type * (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £ (if applicable)
CD	Coto de Caza El Angolo: Biodiversidad y Conservación. Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional - Perú, DarwinNet & INRENA 2006	DarwinNet	Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional – Perú. Av. Santa Rosa 601, Sullana, Piura, Perú.	free
CD	II Reunión Binacional de Coordinación para el tráfico transfronterizo de especies de flora y fauna del Bosque Seco. Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional - Perú, DarwinNet & INRENA 2006	DarwinNet	Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional – Perú. Av. Santa Rosa 601, Sullana, Piura, Perú.	free
PDF version	Manual para Implementación de Viveros Forestales	DarwinNet	www.darwinnet.org/docs/manual viveros bs.pdf	free

	del Bosque Seco DarwinNet 2007			
PDF version	Guía para el Control Orgánico de Plagas y Enfermedades de los Cultivos y la Fertilización Natural del Suelo. Fabian Rodas (NCI – DarwinNet) & Vanessa Ramón (Groen Hart) 2007	DarwinNet	www.darwinnet.org/docs/guia_control_orgánico_plagas.pdf	free
PDF version	Biodiversity & Conservation in the Tumbesian Ecuador and Peru. Best B. & M. Kessler. 1995.	DarwinNet	Not available yet. See 3.5.1	free

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

The project has promoted the strengthening of capacities and relations between different stakeholders in the region, focusing on collaborative activities and conservation initiatives at priority sites (IBAs) through an increase in communications and open exchange of information.

The collaborative work between stakeholders has focused on topics of shared interest, on specific problems, and/or common activities. The project is an important catalyst and initiator of these initiatives and it is recognized that the success and monitoring of these depends on the commitment of key institutions, such as regional governments and INRENA and better involvement of local stakeholders, above all communities.

A good recognition of the value of information exchange exists and much willingness to collaborate with DarwinNet and project partners. Progress towards project purpose and outcomes is considered to be positive.

Local communities and reserve managers from the 10 selected IBA sites are beginning to exchange experience and knowledge. As a result, a total of 54 individual stakeholders have already participated in meetings and exchange visits. Information has been gathered about them (activities, interests, etc.) and has been disseminated through leaflets, press releases, posters, etc. Conservation efforts by government (local and regional) and international agencies are beginning to take place in the region. At the selected sites, it could be strongly argued that this increased activity is largely a consequence of DarwinNet. Also, the start of dialogue between regional governments and local communities has been facilitated by DarwinNet.

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

DarwinNet is recognized as the only ecoregion based CHM by the CBD and as such is contributing to the implementation of the Convention through the NFPs of Peru and Ecuador. At a local level the project is important for the dissemination and exchange of information and is now contributing to the consolidation of priority actions at sites important for the conservation of the Tumbesian Region.

The project promotes an increase in access to information, transfer of capacities and links between stakeholders, and it is recognized that the impact of this CHM on the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity will only be in the medium to long term and not directly measurable during the period of the present project. Nevertheless, positive developments in terms of using biodiversity information to develop conservation strategies and identify networks of protected areas in the region are indicative of the potential of the project to achieve biodiversity conservation.

4. *Monitoring, evaluation and lessons*

Project development is monitored and discussed regularly between project partners based on project timetable and the budget. Also project partners maintain permanent contact with BirdLife, reporting on progress and any changes in project coordination.

In agreement with the timetable, the quantity of activities to be conducted is greater during the next 9 months of the project, but many important advances have been made (increase in links and capacities with stakeholders, dissemination of information, etc.) in relation to complying with the outputs of the project.

Activities to date have involved a larger number of stakeholders at some IBAs. However, it should be noted that the orientation of the meetings to date have not justified the involvement of stakeholders of the Talara and Cuyas IBAs. This will be attended to during the second phase of the project. Also, as mentioned in some cases the experiences for strengthening capacities were considered based on experiences in the dry forests, and not necessarily linked to the IBAs chosen by the project. This extension has been considered related to the joint management of some protected areas, such as the North-west Peru Biosphere Reserve (formed by Cerros de Amotape National, El Angolo Hunting Reserve, and Tumbes National Reserve), Laquipampa Wildlife Refuge, and Pomac Forest Historical Sanctuary, which will also increase the network of stakeholders linked to DarwinNet.

Evaluation of the impact of exchanges and increase in links between stakeholders is verified to date with reports on visits, follow-up meetings and the interest of the stakeholders to continue to strengthen certain topics (e.g. community tourism, illegal trafficking of species, priority sites, etc.). Changes in natural resource use, adoption of better practices and adequate decision making are slow and progressive processes, and often depend on political willingness and real commitment by institutions.

DarwinNet was established as a CHM to involve a wide variety of stakeholders in the Region. As a tool it promotes the strengthening of capacities and conservation activities at priority sites and in this second stage of the project it has needed to be flexible to the needs of stakeholders at IBAs. In this way, it has orientated follow-up meetings on some specific topics (e.g. illegal trafficking, conservation strategy for American Crocodile), which have also served to strengthen links between stakeholders and DarwinNet.

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

Not applicable.

6. *Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere*

In Peru there were local, regional and presidential elections, which meant changes in authorities as of January, 2007. This has not greatly affected the project, although in some cases has meant presenting the project again to new authorities.

7. *Sustainability*

The project has maintained good recognition with various stakeholders and institutions in Peru and Ecuador since its first phase. Also as part of the project it has continued linking a series of stakeholders, who, according to messages received and comments, recognize DarwinNet as

an important tool in the dissemination of information and increasing awareness about the conservation of the Region.

In Peru, the IBAs program of BirdLife has been recognized by key institutions such as INRENA and local governments as a basis for the development of initiatives for the conservation of natural areas. It is hoped that available legal instruments and the process of decentralization will consolidate these initiatives and the presence of BirdLife in Peru.

During this year the project has held meetings with the coordinator of the new project 'Protection Program for Natural Areas in Dry Forest' funded by KfW of the German government, with the view to securing the future of DarwinNet and the possible transfer of the mechanism to regional governments.

Project partners have committed conservation activities in the long term at some of the IBAs involved in this project. Partners also maintain capacities and logistics necessary to assure the strengthening of capacities and coordinated activities with stakeholders at these priority sites.

8. Dissemination

By its nature the project since its beginning has implemented strategies for the dissemination of information collected and sent by those participating with DarwinNet. In many meetings with local stakeholders the advances of the project have been presented. More details are given under section 3.1.5. 'Dissemination'. The project has also been presented at events organized for different stakeholders (e.g. journalists, students, local authorities) in the Region.

Materials and documents produced by the project are uploaded to the project website for permanent dissemination. Designs of posters, bulletins, etc. will be put on-line soon to promote others to freely use them. Also, project partners will continue to disseminate information on the activities at, and value of, IBAs - the focus is on collecting information for dissemination at the end of this project.

9. Project Expenditure

Table 3 *Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)*

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project schedule)	Expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs (eg postage, telephone, stationery)			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment			
Others			
Salaries (specify)			
TOTAL			

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

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

The project was invited by the CBD to present DarwinNet at a workshop on Article 8(j) and the strengthening of networks of information exchange in Latin America, in Quito 14-16 December, 2006. Participants included national government, local and indigenous groups and NGOs. DarwinNet proved an important example for its binational and ecoregion based focus.

List of Annexes

Annex 1. Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2006/07

Annex 2. Project's full current logframe

Annex 3. Changes to the DarwinNet Budget

Annex 4. IBAs targeted by the DarwinNet project

Annex 5. IBA stakeholders linked to DarwinNet

Annex 6. Matrix of experience available and needed at the selected IBAs

Annex 7. Summary Table of project presentations in other meetings

Annex 8. Press releases

Annex 9. Printed Material

Annex 10. Photos of meetings, exchanges, events carried out by DarwinNet