

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	EIDPO 17
Project Title	Conservation management zoning implementation and facilitation in Perlas Archipelago, Panama
Country(ies)	Panama
UK Organisation	Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh
Collaborator(s)	Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, Panama
Project Leader	Dr James Mair
Report date	31 October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	http://striweb.si.edu/darwin_initiative/

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

The Project continues to run as planned. In April, the Year 1 Annual report was submitted. In May 2007, the project leader travelled to Panama with 3 of his MSc students and also 2 guest MSc students from University College London to carry out a major field survey (10-day research cruise on STRI vessel). A Heriot-Watt PhD student (Julio Agujetas) was already in Panama undertaking monthly phytoplankton and water sample monitoring. Project Leader and MSc students returned to UK in June to analyse and write up results of work. In June a PhD student (Lina Barrios) defended her PhD thesis which she started in 2003 on the taxonomy and ecology of invertebrate groups in Las Perlas (graduated July 2007 and is now preparing 3 journal manuscripts for submission). In September 2007 the MSc students presented research dissertations on Panama work for MSc degree – the 5 students who carried out fieldwork in Panama plus 2 students in Edinburgh working on taxonomy of Las Perlas samples. Journal manuscripts from some of these research project results are now in preparation. STRI Darwin staff continue stakeholder discussion developments for Special Management Zone in Las Perlas. Discussions with Network partners continue. In September 2007, Dr Guzman (STRI) started a 6 week visit to Heriot-Watt University to further discuss and propose research developments and to write up papers from the Darwin project research.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

No problems/no unexpected developments

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

Changes to sub-budget allocations (to enable a Heriot-Watt University Research Associate to assist in work on the Darwin Project) have been discussed with, and approved by, the Darwin Secretariat.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in...Sept-Oct/Year 2..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in...October /Yr 2.....(month/yr)

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

No

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. N/A

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**