



## ***Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species***

### ***Annual Report***

#### **1. Darwin Project Information**

Project title	<i>Project BioMap</i>
Country(ies)	<i>Colombia</i>
Contractor	<i>The Natural History Museum</i>
Project Reference No.	<i>165/10/015</i>
Grant Value	<i>£149,854</i>
Start/Finishing dates	<i>01/11/2001 – 31/10/2004 (three years)</i>
Reporting period	<i>01/11/2001-30/04/2002 (six months)</i>

#### **2. Project Background**

PROJECT BIOMAP aims to increase the biodiversity knowledge base, establish research priorities, and promote efficient conservation and sustainable management of biological diversity in Colombia utilizing both international bird collections and field observations.

#### **3. Project Objectives**

PROJECT BIOMAP is a multinational partnership with extensive host-country participation aimed at increasing the biodiversity knowledge base, establishing research priorities, and promoting efficient conservation and sustainable management of biological diversity in Colombia. BIOMAP will: increase biodiversity knowledge base; identify and prioritise Important Bird Areas; formulate a National Bird Conservation and Research Action Plan; strengthen Colombian institutional capacity; provide training; increase public awareness; and establish a model of international cooperation for biodiversity data repatriation and dissemination (see logical framework in Annex 1 for further details). The objectives and proposed operational plan has not been modified since approval by the Darwin Secretariat.

#### 4. Progress

The project commenced in November 2001 (after a six-month delay owing to changing the key Colombian partner - as agreed by DEFRA) and made excellent progress in the major targets assigned:

The project website [www.biomap.net](http://www.biomap.net) was immediately established (e.g. 707 server requests from 1-17 April). All project staff were selected in December (2), followed by a successful workshop at Instituto de Ciencias Naturales (ICN) on database management, identification and preparing training manuals (4C). In February we commenced the first databasing in Colombia and were preparing to start at the American Museum of Natural History and NHM in late April.

The project "BioByte" newsletter (16A/B/C) was released in February and very well received, being posted to over 500 individuals and institutions (17A) as well as available online and downloadable as a PDF file on the website. The WorldMap programme capacity was enhanced for point-locality analysis to 5x5 km grids (12B) in Colombia. The Beta version of the Data Entry Tool (Bird recording programme) was ready in English by January (12B) and version 1.1 released in April (Spanish & English); a version in Visual Basics format is webpage compatible and soon to be online.

The project has been presented at two conferences (14A; Colombian Ornithological meeting and International Student Conservation Conference) and a workshop (Conservation International annual planning workshop). Also, we are seeking support from the InterAmerican Biodiversity Information Network.

In a new initiative, Project BioMap is forming the "BioMap Alliance Partnership" of participating institutions, principally for collections that contribute information to the Darwin Database. We aim to establish over 50 BioMap Alliance partners worldwide during the course of the project.

Problems have included a 2-week delay in the Darwin Fellows starting in the USA owing to delays in securing an entrance visa (changed procedure since 11 Sept 2001), but we have been fortunate in bypassing the general year-long delay for visas for Colombians.

Table 1. Target outputs for the next reporting period May 2002-April 2003.

Code No.	Date of completion	Description
15A/B	May	National/local press release in host country takes place
18A/C	May	National/local TV item in host country takes place
19A/C	May	National/local radio item in host country takes place
16A/B/C	May/Aug/Nov/Feb	Quarterly newsletter with >500 circulation by list server network posted on website (x4)
6A/B 4A/B/C/D	Aug	A weekend course for 75 undergraduates and 10 graduates in managing bird recording programme for data processing
4A/B/C/D	Oct	A 2-day (weekend) national workshop held at ICN for Colombian ornithological collections strategy planning.
14A	Oct	Presentation of project at National Ornithological meeting

## **5. Partnerships**

Since the onset of the project, the host-country partner –ICN- has been extremely co-operative and helpful, including greatly assisting the first workshop with expertise and facilities at no cost – thus saving the project some considerable expense.

The initial stages of planning the project (after receiving the award, but before starting) with the Instituto Alexander von Humboldt (IAvH) became very difficult and hence, with DEFRA permission, we switched to ICN as the leading host-country partner. Whilst IAvH could yet prove cause difficulties for the project within Colombia, we have had the positive signs that they will co-operate – for example, members of the institution participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> BioMap workshop. We continue to make much effort to co-operate with and involve Humboldt.

As stated above, we have designed an agreement to form the “BioMap Alliance Partnership”. This partnership would be composed of participating institutions, principally for collections that contribute information to the Darwin Database. We aim to establish over 50 BioMap Alliance partners worldwide during the course of the project. The agreement is going through the final stages of ratification by the core BioMap partners before distribution to institutions and organisations.

## **6. Impact and Sustainability**

Whilst we have been operating for less than 6 months, the BioByte newsletter (attached document – Annex 2) has been widely distributed among Colombian professionals and institutions. The BioMap website at NHM has received considerable interest and is now one of the top hitting Dept of Zoology sites at the NHM, whilst the stand-alone website ([www.biomap.net](http://www.biomap.net)) is also proving popular. The project has participated in one national congress in Colombia (National Biodiversity Congress) and two international conservation meetings.

Considerable interest has been aroused among conservation organisations in the expected results of the project, notably their use in priority-setting for conservation. In particular, eagerness has been expressed by both museums and conservation organisations to expand the Project BioMap horizon to surrounding Andean nations and other flora and fauna groups. Presently we are in discussions with our partners and others regarding the potential expansion of Project BioMap to work throughout the Tropical Andes Hotspot nations of Venezuela to Bolivia.

## 7. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

**Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)**

Code No.	Quantity	Completed	Description
17A	1	<b>YES - on time</b>	<i>Scientific and technical network website for participants in Project BioMap established</i>
2	2	<b>YES - on time</b>	<i>Colombia MSc Darwin Fellows selected (Kings College London)</i>
12B	1	<b>YES - on time</b>	<i>WorldMap programme capacity enhanced for point-locality analysis</i>
12B	1	<b>YES-but delayed<sup>1</sup></b>	<i>Bird recording programme in Spanish enhanced</i>
4C	2 weeks	<b>YES-but 6 days<sup>2</sup></b>	<i>2 weeks of training at ICN for researchers on database management, identification and preparing workshop training manuals</i>
7	1	<b>YES - on time</b>	<i>Workshop training material produced</i>
15A/B	1	<b>Pending May<sup>3</sup></b>	<i>National/local press release in host country takes place (April)</i>
18A/C	1	<b>Pending May<sup>3</sup></b>	<i>National/local TV item in host country takes place (April)</i>
19A/C	1	<b>Pending May<sup>3</sup></b>	<i>National/local radio item in host country takes place (April)</i>
14A	1	<b>YES - on time</b>	<i>Presentation of project at National Ornithological meeting</i>
4A/B/C/D	2 day	<b>Delayed<sup>4</sup></b>	<i>National workshop held at ICN for Colombian ornithological collections strategy planning.</i>
16A/B/C	1x 500	<b>YES - on time</b>	<i>Biannual newsletter with &gt;500 circulation by list server network posted on website</i>

<sup>1</sup> A delay in the final version of the Data Entry Tool development occurred as the person responsible in CI resigned over other issues and we had to seek a new programmer (now corrected).

<sup>2</sup> The planned 10 training days at ICN was condensed to an intensive six-day period to reduce costs.

<sup>3</sup> Publicity (15A/B; 18A/C; 19A/C) has been delayed by one month as we established the project.

<sup>4</sup> A weekend national workshop to be held at ICN for Colombian ornithological collections strategy planning has been delayed 6 months as we attempt to establish the databasing procedure in ICN (show other collections our potential) and also individually approach each collection beforehand.

**Table 2: Publications**

<b>Type *</b> (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	<b>Detail</b> (title, author, year)	<b>Publishers</b> (name, city)	<b>Available from</b> (e.g. contact address, website)	<b>Cost £</b>
Newsletter*	<i>BioByte - Feb 2002</i>	BioMap; worldwide	<a href="http://www.biomap.net">www.biomap.net</a>	Free
Presentation	<i>Project BioMap: data repatriation and conservation priority setting – Oct 2002</i>	<i>National Ornithological Congress – Leticia, Colombia</i>	<i>fstiles@ ciencias.unal.edu.co</i>	Free
Poster	<i>Project BioMap: data repatriation and conservation priority setting – March 2002</i>	<i>Student Conference on Conservation Science 2002,</i>	<i>sccs@zoo.cam.ac.uk</i>	Free
Poster	<i>“Project BioMap” April 2002</i>	Conservation International Annual planning workshop	<i>c.locklin@ conservation.org</i>	Free

\* included with this report

The project “BioByte” newsletter was released in February and very well received, being posted to over 500 individuals and institutions as well as available online and downloadable as a PDF file on the website ([www.biomap.net](http://www.biomap.net)).

The project has been presented at two conferences (Colombian Ornithological meeting and International Student Conservation Conference) and a workshop (Conservation International annual planning workshop). We are seeking support from the InterAmerican Biodiversity Information Network as well as promoting the initiative as widely as possible.

## 8. Project Expenditure

**Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period**

Item	Budget	Expenditure

The £784 budget over-spend on the £1000 allocated for Travel and Subsistence in the first 6 months (our first financial year) was essential for two trips to Colombia and one to the USA by the Project Manager to set-up the project (e.g. staff selection interviews, discussing project implementation, and conducting the workshop).

The under-spend in equipment is because a third computer is presently being purchased within Colombia.

## **9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons**

A directive committee monitors project progress and ensures that it remains on track to achieve its specific objectives. Project accomplishments are compared to our strict timeframe of target outputs to provide a key measure of relative success and permit close monitoring of the project.

We have learnt valuable lessons in dealing with host-country partners, whereby there is a clear need to have detailed agreement regarding the project objectives and activities signed and in place before submitting proposals.

## **10. Author(s) / Date**

Robert Prys-Jones and Paul Salaman – 8 May 2002

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## Annex A

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>To assist an effective environmental protection and a sustainable natural resource management strategy for the conservation of biological diversity and poverty alleviation in Colombia.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Proposed protected area network covering 50% of target areas by 2007.</li> <li>2) Increased sustainable natural resource management plans in target areas.</li> <li>3) Reduce biodiversity losses; 90% of bird species within a proposed protected area by 2007.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Governmental and NGO protected area registry.</li> <li>2) Monitor annual regional natural resource corporations' and NGOs' development reports.</li> <li>3) Monitor threatened and indicator species status by ornithological associations.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Relative economic stability for protected area expansion.</li> <li>2) No major erosion of environmental policy</li> <li>3) Government control of protected areas against encroachment.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>To increase biodiversity knowledge and data input into the National Bird Conservation Strategy (NBCS), in order to better formulate priorities to effectively and cost-efficiently focus research and conservation action for birds in the first instance.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4) Framework for monitoring bird populations and targeted fieldwork by 2004.</li> <li>5) Focus attention of government entities and NGOs to all of target areas by 2004.</li> <li>6) Provide new user-friendly management tools (database/GIS) by 2004.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4) Reviewing the national research permit database to determine to what extent research is focussing on target areas.</li> <li>5) Monitor reports and action plans by institutions &amp; NGOs.</li> <li>6) Outputs; reports, citations, Darwin Database, &amp; information requests.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Cost effective measures incorporated into strategy.</li> <li>2) Governmental and institutional willingness to participate.</li> <li>3) Participants trained to use &amp; interpret database results.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Improve scientific knowledge base of bird distribution through making data publicly available to academic and conservation-oriented entities.</li> <li>2) Information to identify and prioritise of Important Bird Areas (IBA).</li> <li>3) Formulate an integrated bird conservation action plan, thereby helping implement the existing National Bird Conservation Strategy.</li> <li>4) Strengthen Colombian institutional capacity to provide inputs into conservation decision making.</li> <li>5) Provide UK-based training in GIS &amp; environmental assessment and management techniques.</li> <li>6) Increased public awareness of conservation priorities.</li> <li>7) Establish a model example of international cooperation for biodiversity data repatriation.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7) Darwin Database released to public domain, via web by <b>July</b> 2004.</li> <li>8) IBA report with Output 1 published in October 2004.</li> <li>9) Publish a National Action Plan for Conservation and Research integrating results of BIOMAP with the NBCS in October 2004 with Output 2.</li> <li>10) Technical workshops, 150 people trained from relevant institutions by Sept 2004.</li> <li>11) Two MSc graduates from King's College, London by May 2004.</li> <li>12) Publicity campaign, internet, and poster campaign in 2004</li> <li>13) Successful execution of the project activities by 2004.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Directive committee:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Circulation of website address by late 2003</li> <li>2) Published by partners.</li> <li>3) Published by partners. Feedback from national and regional decision-makers.</li> <li>4) Project reports from sessions, evaluations from trainers. Project newsletter.</li> <li>5) Successful University graduation and qualification.</li> <li>6) Press cuttings, interviews, poster &amp; website visitor data.</li> <li>7) Completing measurable indicators under Activities</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Permission granted from source data collaborators for full or partial data release.</li> <li>2) Biodiversity mapping and analysis yielding results.</li> <li>3) Wide Colombian institutional consultation and involvement forthcoming in this process.</li> <li>4) Institutional budgets and strategy continue on track among project partners</li> <li>5) Recruiting suitable students in Colombia for the course.</li> <li>6) Public are open to awareness campaign.</li> <li>7) International institutions participating and permitting appropriate release of information.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Compile specimen-based locality data for birds from museum specimens and all literature sources.</li> <li>2) Where possible, collect unpublished data from individual ornithologists in a self-recording database.</li> <li>3) For key areas found to lack existing data, undertake rapid fieldwork surveys where logistically feasible.</li> <li>4) Synthesis of data from above activities into an integrated Darwin Database to analysis with GIS components and WorldMap to feed Outputs.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Budget:</b></p> <p>Research staff = £209,550  Travel = £16,800  Overheads = £19,800  Admin./printing = £1,350  Capital equipment = £4,800  Miscellaneous = £35,714  Total = £288,074</p> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>Matching funds: £138,220  Darwin Initiative: £149,854</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Receipts and NHM accounting procedures.</li> <li>ii) Audits.</li> <li>iii) Interim reports.</li> <li>iv) Project internet newsletter every six months.</li> <li>v) Field reports</li> <li>vi) Website.</li> <li>vii) Database published in CD.</li> <li>viii) Institutional publications.</li> <li>viii) Scientific publications.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Cooperation of museum curators in Europe and North America are sustained.</li> <li>2) Cooperation of ornithologist's and birders making personal data available.</li> <li>3) Providing safe access is available to target field study sites across Colombia.</li> <li>4) Suitable Darwin Database constructed for modelling.</li> </ol>