

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report

Project Ref. No.	162/10/016
Project Title	Biodiversity basics strengthening sustainability of the Yasuní Amazonian rainforest, Ecuador
Country(ies)	Ecuador
UK Organisation	The Natural History Museum
Collaborator(s)	Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE), Departamento de Ciencias Biológicas
Report date	15 December 2004
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 3</i>
Project website	None

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).

Since the submission of our Annual Report for 2003/04, we have completed the following scheduled activities [output number]:

- a) Darwin Fellow Gorky received 2 months of training, completing a total of 32.5 months for the project [5].
- b) The Spanish text of the book on Yasuni trees has been completed and passed to SIMBIOE along with the photographs (toward completion of tree book in 2005 [10]).
- c) All collection databases, specimens and photographs have been passed on to our Ecuadorian counterparts and institutions [12B 13B]

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.

The PI failed to notice that the stated end date of the project had not been officially changed from 30 June 2004 in spite of several updated schedules being submitted to Darwin in Annual and Half-year reports indicating that the final outputs would not be completed until 2005. (Although the PI accepts full responsibility for this oversight, it should be noted that the discrepancy wasn't noticed by either the Darwin staff or ECTF reviewers.) To complete the project outputs, the PI requested in July 2004 that the end date be extended until 31 March 2005 so that the remaining £ 14,000 might be used to complete the project within the same fiscal year. In spite of multiple enquiries over the past five months, we have not yet been informed whether this request has been approved or not. No further progress is possible until we know we can use the allocated funds.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?	
Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	no /yes, in July, August, October 2004
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	No response yet

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.

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 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**