



Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation through Capacity Building in Central America

Project Report

Version 1.0 – 02 April 2002

Notes:

This paper has been prepared by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre and is not an official paper of the CBD Secretariat.



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Project Report

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Title; Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation through Capacity Building in Central America

Countries; Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

Contractor; UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

Project Reference Number; 162/10/023

Grant Value; £70,000

Starting/Finishing Dates; April 2001 – April 2002

2. Project Background/Rationale

Introduction

This is a report on a project to strengthen the capacity of Central American countries to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in order to enhance biodiversity conservation in the region.

Countries Selected

Initially the project was targeted at the seven countries of Central America; Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. In addition to these countries Mexico participated in the planning workshop and the rest the project as an observer. Mexico was also included as part of the regional report on implementation of the CBD.

Problem Addressed

The countries involved in the project became parties to the CBD at different times between 1992 and 1994. Within each country a National Focal Point (NFP) is responsible for co-ordinating implementation of the CBD, and for reporting on implementation to the Secretariat of the CBD and to the Conference of Parties. It is important for the NFP to have access to information on biodiversity conservation activities and the action that is being taken to implement the CBD, especially the extent to which national Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans address the full range of obligations contained in the CBD. Without this information the NFP is not able to evaluate the level of implementation of the CBD or to compile an accurate national report. However, because the CBD covers a broad range of activities involving many stakeholders, it is often difficult for the NFP to maintain an overview of what is being achieved and how this corresponds to their obligations under the CBD and therefore to report on the progress of implementation.

Working in collaboration with the Department for the Environment Transport and the Regions (DETR) of the UK Government, UNEP-WCMC developed a methodology for the assessment of national implementation of the Biodiversity Convention. This methodology was successfully applied in the UK and further tested in a pilot project to assist six countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States with their implementation of the CBD. At the heart of the methodology is a list of all the obligations that specifically relate to actions by Contracting Parties, derived from the articles of the CBD and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP). This list is used as a

basis for compiling information on implementation at the national level. The methodology therefore provides the NFP with an across the board, article by article, decision by decision, overview of implementation of the CBD in their country which directly addresses their information needs. Furthermore, the same list of obligations has been used to develop new guidelines for national reporting, adopted at the fifth COP, and so the information compiled as part of this approach would feed directly into development of the national report for each contracting party.

Project Identification

In 1989, the CCAD was created and since then it has taken over the role of co-ordinating and overseeing the implementation performance of the countries. Nevertheless it had not yet been possible to elaborate a comprehensive regional picture of the degree of implementation nor of the relative strengths and weaknesses of each country. The seven countries that make up the region had been implementing and submitting their national reports on the CBD with relative independence from each other.

The CCAD General Director of the Environment, Mr Mauricio Castro, recognised the need for external support to harmonise the level of implementation of the CBD throughout the region during a visit to Cambridge in July 2000. This project was the direct response to these initial conversations. It brought the expertise and resources needed to establish a regionally harmonised, participatory process to assess and report on the level of implementation of the CBD and to develop measures considered as necessary to optimise it. The planned strategy and actions also provide information on the extent to which the respective National Strategies, Action Plans and Programmes cover, either directly or indirectly, the full range of obligations, requests and recommendations contained in the CBD and the decisions of the COP.

3. Project Summary

Purpose and Objectives

The main purpose of the project was to strengthen the capacity of Central American countries to implement the CBD by providing the NFPs of each country with the information management tools they need to evaluate the level at which they are implementing each article of the CBD, and to identify and develop the strategies considered as necessary for further improving such level.

The specific objectives within this were;

- 1) To provide and adapt a set of information management tools for conducting a thorough, harmonised review of CBD implementation across Central America. These tools are designed to provide each country with an article by article assessment, identifying the principal strengths and weaknesses and, ultimately, the information needs for improving the level of implementation of the Convention throughout the entire region.
- 2) To develop a strategy for sharing expertise and fulfilling the needs identified as per Objective 1. Such a strategy would cover the institutional, administrative and financial factors that influence, either positively or negatively, the level of implementation of the Convention across the region. This would help the NFP in each country co-ordinate CBD implementation activities in order to ensure synergy, reduce duplication and, ultimately, optimise the use of available financial and other resources.
- 3) To agree a harmonised procedure for future reporting on CBD implementation and on the extent to which national Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans are addressing the full range of obligations. This will encourage closer co-operation among NFPs and will help in reducing the intrinsic costs of reporting.

These objectives were not modified during the project. The only changes made to the project were purely related to the project end date which was pushed back from December to April due to in country delays, partly caused by the impact of hurricane Iris which struck Belize in October 2001. These alterations were made with the approval of the Darwin Secretariat.

Relevance to the Convention on Biological Diversity

The project addresses all the Articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity as well as those Decisions of the Conference of the Parties which place additional obligations on Contracting Parties. The seven Central American countries are bound to implement the obligations contained in the articles of the CBD and in the Decisions of the COP and to report on implementing activities. This project provides each country with a detailed article by article assessment of what they are doing to implement the CBD and how this corresponds to their obligations under the Convention. More specifically this assists the host countries in the following ways

- The NFPs for the Biodiversity Convention in each country who are charged with co-ordinating and reporting on implementation of the Convention have been provided with the information they need on the existing level of implementation of the Biodiversity Convention in order to carry out their role and enable their country to meet its obligations under the Biodiversity Convention.
- The project has assisted host countries in identifying gaps in their biodiversity conservation programmes and targeting resources so as to fulfil their obligations under the Convention. The assessment documents are laid out in such a way that biodiversity conservation activities underway and proposed in a host country can be compared with the obligations of the Biodiversity Convention to which these activities relate.
- The project has provided a valuable overview of biodiversity conservation in the whole region. This helps target both national and international assistance and support for regional projects such as the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and enables the countries to share experience concerning the implementation of the Biodiversity Convention.
- The project is assisting host countries in securing funds from donor organisations for capacity building to help address limiting factors or gaps in implementation identified during the assessment.
- The project has provided the basis for and assistance with the preparation of the new-format national report as approved by the Fifth Conference of the Parties (Nairobi, May 2000). This new format is itself based on the same list of obligations, requests and recommendations as used for the assessment of implementation. National Reporting is an obligation under Article 26 of the CBD.

Achieving Objectives

The project was successful in meeting its objectives;

- The NFPs of the seven countries each carried out an assessment of their country's implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and produced a National Report using the information gathered during the assessments.
- The assessments and National Reports have been used to produce a report on implementation of the CBD in the region. This regional report will help to identify and develop the strategies considered as necessary for further improving implementation of the CBD.
- The project brought the seven countries of Central America together for the purposes of producing their National Reports. The end result was a set of reports that were homogenous in terms of format and information content and therefore more suited to comparison for the purposes of producing a regional report on CBD implementation.
- The project was very successful in raising awareness of the CBD at the National level among all those actors involved in CBD implementation. In many cases these actors were previously unaware of the CBD and of its relevance to their activities.
- The project also helped to raise awareness at the regional level of problems shared by the countries of the region as well as problems specific to individual countries.

- The project provided further feedback on the implementation assessment methodology developed by UNEP-WCMC.
- The project complements other biodiversity conservation initiatives underway in the region, in particular the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC) project. The national and regional assessment of implementation of the CBD will provide a useful baseline against which to measure the progress of the MBC and will inform elements of this project, including the production of a regional biodiversity strategy.

In some respects the objectives of the project were only partly achieved;

- Several countries did not complete their assessments “by the book” but rather followed the assessment process while using the information gathered primarily for completing their National Reports. One country has yet to complete an assessment document.
- The regional report is primarily based on the information contained in the National Reports rather than on the information contained in those assessments which have been completed to date.

A significant additional achievement was the participation of Mexico in the project. During the project planning stages it was anticipated that other organisations and countries would be interested in the project, however Mexico played a much more active role than at first expected and made a significant contribution to the success of the project.

4. Scientific, Training, and Technical Assessment

The project was not intended as a one-way flow of information and expertise from UNEP-WCMC and IUCN to the participating countries. It also represented an opportunity to further test the methodology for assessing implementation of the CBD and gather feedback on how it could be improved.

Methodology

The process for carrying out the assessments was co-ordinated by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), with the co-operation of the IUCN Regional Office for Mesoamerica (IUCN-ORMA) and the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD).

The methodology for carrying out the assessments is based on a list of commitments implied by the Articles of the Convention and the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties. This list is available on the project web site; ***Summary of National Commitments Implied by the Articles of the Convention and the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties.***

This list of obligations was developed into a framework for national assessment of implementation of the Convention. This framework is also available on the project web site; ***Framework for national assessment of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.***

The methodology used was derived from that developed by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (now the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre) for an assessment carried out in the United Kingdom in Summer 1999.

The same methodology was subsequently used when UNEP-WCMC worked with the UNEP Regional Office for Europe and six European countries on a project for the assessment of CBD implementation in selected Central and Eastern European Newly Independent States (CEE/NIS). This work was funded by the European Commission.

The methodology has been adapted and modified in the light of lessons learned from these projects. In preparation for the project in Central America the assessment documents were translated, including the document ***How to carry out an assessment.*** This document is intended to guide those carrying out national assessments of implementation, helping them to understand what they need to do and why in carrying out the assessment and analysing the results.

The methodology will be further refined by UNEP-WCMC in light of the results of the assessments in Central America and feedback from the NFPs on the use of the methodology.

Training and Capacity Building

All the above mentioned documents were translated into Spanish and presented to the National Focal Points of the eight countries at a workshop in El Salvador in April 2001. The aim of this workshop was to introduce the methodology thoroughly to all the National Focal Points and train them in its use. This would enable them to use the methodology to compile information on what was being done to meet the identified obligations, what was planned, and other related comments.

At the workshop the purpose and objectives of the project were explained in detail to the NFPs by IUCN-ORMA and CCAD. UNEP-WCMC and IUCN-ORMA presented the assessment documents and the assessment methodology and how the assessment related to the compilation of the Second National Report. Previous experience with the proposed methodology from assessments in the United Kingdom and in the Newly Independent States of Central and Eastern Europe was presented along with guidelines on the identification of information sources. It was suggested to the NFP's that they prioritise the obligations derived from the Convention according to the particular characteristics of each country. This prioritisation would be based on the CBD, on National conservation and sustainable use strategies and on international agendas.

5. Project Impacts

The project has enabled the NFPs of the seven countries of Central America to assess their country's implementation of the CBD and has assisted them with the production of their Second National Reports. These National Reports have all been produced at the same time and using the same format.

The project has also generated a regional report on implementation of the CBD which includes a number of conclusions and recommendations regarding future biodiversity conservation activities in the region. This will not only inform those regional organisations which are involved in the project but also other initiatives underway in the region. These were the intended impacts and purpose of the project. The project represents the first time all the countries in a region have cooperated to produce both their National Reports to the CBD and a Regional report on CBD implementation at the same time.

In addition to this some of the countries involved in the project have decided to use the assessment methodology for further projects relating to implementation of the CBD. In Panama the methodology is being used to assess the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan in more detail.

One of the obligations contained within the text of Article 6 of the CBD is to, "Develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity". The national and regional assessments from this project will feed directly into an ongoing process in Central America to create a biodiversity strategy for the Central American region. This strategy will be developed by UNEP-WCMC, CCAD, IUCN-ORMA and the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP ROLAC). Partial funding has been secured from the GEF and the project partners are actively seeking funding from other sources.

The assessments were intended not only to provide an overview of CBD implementation in each country for third parties but also to be of use to the countries themselves in targeting resources, identifying gaps in CBD implementation and compiling national reports. Feedback has suggested a largely positive response to the documents and the process.

The assessments have also produced outputs of a less concrete nature. Circulation of the framework document and the interviews themselves have helped raise awareness of the CBD and the obligations the country has entered into among the organisations involved in its implementation.

The institutional links generated as a result of the assessments should also be taken into consideration, both those within the countries involved in the assessments and between these countries and the international community. The assessments have helped create these links.

6. Project Outputs

Outputs

The three assessment documents revised and translated during the project have already been listed in the preceding text. These are:

- *How to carry out an assessment*
- *Summary of National Commitments Implied by the Articles of the Convention and the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties.*
- *Framework for national assessment of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity.*

The Spanish versions of these documents are as follows:

- *Cómo realizar una evaluación*
- *Resumen de los Compromisos Nacionales implicados en los Artículos del Convenio las Decisiones de la Conferencia de las Partes*
- *Marco para la evaluación nacional de la ejecución del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica*

Each country carried out the process for producing a national assessment of implementation of the Convention. However so far only five assessment documents have been completed, based on the research and interviews, and as assessment of the resulting information:

- *National Assessment of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity: Belize*
- *National Assessment of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity: Costa Rica*
- *National Assessment of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity: Guatemala*
- *National Assessment of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity: Honduras*
- *National Assessment of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity: Nicaragua*

All the Countries involved in the project have produced their Second National Reports to the CBD. These reports have been combined to produce a regional report;

- *Informe regional sobre cumplimiento del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica en Mesoamérica*

As has been the case throughout the project, all project documents can be found on the Internet in both PDF and Word formats on two different versions of the project web page;

- English version: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/cbd/assessment/central_america/indexeng.html
- Spanish version: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/cbd/assessment/central_america/indexesp.htm

These web pages will be updated in the light any further developments arising as a result of this project (e.g. further uses of the implementation assessment methodology in Central America, further funding secured as a result of this project)

7. Project Expenditure

8. Project Operation and Partnerships

Project implementation

Implementation of the project was coordinated by Alistair Taylor of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, supervised by Jeremy Harrison and supported by Lise Jackson on contractual and financial matters. Jeremy Harrison and Alistair Taylor had previously worked on the UK and CEE/NIS assessments, and Jeremy Harrison had also worked extensively with the CBD Secretariat and a number of contracting parties on national reporting obligations.

The assessments themselves were carried out by the NFPs or consultants appointed by the NFPs. Each country carried out the assessment independently with help and advice available from IUCN-ORMA and UNEP-WCMC.

CCAD supervised the overall implementation of the project and provided co-ordination at the local and regional levels as well financial and organisational resources for the workshops and for producing the final regional report.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation, Lesson learning

The project timetable and periodic reports to the Darwin Initiative Secretariat (quarterly and six-monthly) were used to monitor progress with the project. This helped identify potential problems and deal with them without disrupting the overall progress of the project.

During the project period, activities, outputs and expenditure on the project were internally reviewed by appropriate senior staff at UNEP-WCMC and IUCN-ORMA. There are no plans to conduct an external evaluation of the work.

Summary of experience gained

In order to provide feedback on the process itself, the NFPs of the eight countries were asked to provide comment on the methodology and the results, based on their experience in implementing the project. The various reports were reviewed and the common elements summarised in the following report.

- *Evaluación del Uso de la "Herramienta" para Elaborar II Informe del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica*
- *Evaluation of the use of the Implementation Assessment Methodology for Elaborating 2nd National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity*

This report sets out the way each country conducted the assessment process and how the methodology was used. The report has proved extremely valuable to UNEP-WCMC for the purposes of further developing the methodology for future uses. Other countries have expressed an interest in using the methodology for compiling their own second national reports or for producing an assessment of CBD implementation to act as a baseline against which to measure progress in implementing the CBD.

10. Darwin Identity

The support provided by the Darwin Initiative was acknowledged throughout the project and the Darwin logo was used on the project web site, hosted by UNEP-WCMC, and on project documents.

The Darwin Initiative was introduced at both the initial planning workshop and at the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD where the final regional report on implementation of the CBD in Mesoamerica was presented at a side event. This presentation was attended by a representative of the Darwin Initiative.

The project also helped raise awareness of the Darwin Initiative throughout Central America, both within each country and at the regional level. Several organisations have expressed an interest in developing further Darwin projects in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC or other UK specialist biodiversity conservation organisations in order to build on the results of this project or other regional initiatives underway in Central America.

The feedback provided on the implementation assessment methodology has been uniquely valuable to its further development with a view to its future application. In this way this project has not only assisted the seven countries of Central America with their implementation of the CBD but will assist further countries through the improvement of the assessment methodology and national reporting processes.

11. Leverage

The project attracted resources from CCAD in support of the project workshops. This amounted to £10,000 for each of the two scheduled project workshops; Regional Training Workshop and Project Review Workshop. CCAD also provided personnel and organisational support for these workshops.

The project partners have all benefited from the experience of running this regional project in Central America. The project has helped develop the close co-operation between the various countries that will be necessary for future regional biodiversity conservation initiatives.

It is anticipated that further funding will be sought by the project partners to complement CCAD resources and GEF support for the development a regional biodiversity strategy for Central America. Such a strategy is envisaged as an integral part of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC) project and would be an important contribution to biodiversity conservation in the region and globally. The Darwin Initiative's contribution through the support of this project is significant to this process. UNEP-WCMC has provided assistance in drafting a preliminary proposal for such a project and it is anticipated that the project will be launched in late 2002.

12. Sustainability and Legacy

Darwin support has helped the project partners enhance biodiversity conservation in several different and long-lasting ways.

For each of the countries the following project achievements have significant long-term impacts;

- National Focal Points trained in carrying out the assessment of implementation of the CBD. This is a process that can be repeated in the future for the purposes of monitoring progress in implementing the CBD as well as gathering the information needed for producing national reports.
- Close regional co-operation. The project brought all the countries of Central America together for the production of national reports to the CBD for the first time. This co-operation will be the basis for further regional biodiversity conservation initiatives.
- Greater awareness of the CBD. The project greatly enhanced understanding of the CBD and its implications for the countries of Central America at all levels, from National Focal Point down to the individual protected area managers interviewed during the assessment process. This is extremely important in making those involved in biodiversity conservation activities aware of how their individual contribution relates to international processes and of why their contribution is important.

For the other project partners (CCAD, IUCN-ORMA, UNEP-WCMC) the following achievements have significant long-term impacts;

- Better awareness of problems encountered by each of the countries involved in the project with implementation of the CBD. This is of particular value to those regional organisations that are seeking to build capacity and address limiting factors at the regional level in order to enhance implementation of the CBD.
- Improved implementation assessment methodology and feedback to the CBD secretariat on the reporting process. The project has provided valuable feedback on the assessment methodology that UNEP-WCMC will modify in the light of the lessons learned during this project.
- Closer links between the partner organisations. The personal contacts made between IUCN-ORMA, UNEP-WCMC and CCAD during this project will be sustained into the future with a view to developing further collaborative projects. This is likely to include the development of a regional biodiversity strategy for Central America as part of the MBC project.

13. Value for Money

The project was successful in reaching its primary target, the enhancement of biodiversity conservation in Central America. The project provided an opportunity for the exchange of information and experience between capacity building institutions (UNEP-WCMC, CCAD, IUCN-ORMA) and the NFPs of the Countries of Central America. This has enabled the NFPs to learn more about their Countries responsibilities under the CBD and has helped the capacity-building institutions to refine the assistance they offer. The immediate impact of this project in terms of awareness raising, closer co-operation between the project partners and the generation of the regional report on implementation of the CBD in Central America, as well as its contribution to longer term biodiversity conservation activities and initiatives justify the claim that this project has been good value for money.

Appendix I: Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Please complete the table below to show the extent of project contribution to the different measures for biodiversity conservation defined in the CBD Articles. This will enable us to tie Darwin projects more directly into CBD areas and to see if the underlying objective of the Darwin Initiative has been met. We have focused on CBD Articles that are most relevant to biodiversity conservation initiatives by small projects in developing countries. However, certain Articles have been omitted where they apply across the board. Where there is overlap between measures described by two different Articles, allocate the % to the most appropriate one.

Project Contribution to Articles under the Convention on Biological Diversity		
Article No./Title	Project %	Article Description
6. General Measures for Conservation & Sustainable Use	15	Develop national strategies which integrate conservation and sustainable use.
7. Identification and Monitoring	5	Identify and monitor components of biological diversity, particularly those requiring urgent conservation; identify processes and activities which have adverse effects; maintain and organise relevant data.
8. In-situ Conservation	5	Establish systems of protected areas with guidelines for selection and management; regulate biological resources, promote protection of habitats; manage areas adjacent to protected areas; restore degraded ecosystems and recovery of threatened species; control risks associated with organisms modified by biotechnology; control spread of alien species; ensure compatibility between sustainable use of resources and their conservation; protect traditional lifestyles and knowledge on biological resources.
9. Ex-situ Conservation	5	Adopt ex-situ measures to conserve and research components of biological diversity, preferably in country of origin; facilitate recovery of threatened species; regulate and manage collection of biological resources.
10. Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity	5	Integrate conservation and sustainable use in national decisions; protect sustainable customary uses; support local populations to implement remedial actions; encourage co-operation between governments and the private sector.
11. Incentive Measures	5	Establish economically and socially sound incentives to conserve and promote sustainable use of biological diversity.
12. Research and Training	5	Establish programmes for scientific and technical education in identification, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity components; promote research contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, particularly in developing countries (in accordance with SBSTTA recommendations).
13. Public Education and Awareness	10	Promote understanding of the importance of measures to conserve biological diversity and propagate these measures through the media; cooperate with other states and organisations in developing awareness programmes.
14. Impact Assessment and Minimizing Adverse Impacts	5	Introduce EIAs of appropriate projects and allow public participation; take into account environmental consequences of policies; exchange information on impacts beyond State boundaries and work to reduce hazards; promote emergency responses to hazards; examine mechanisms for re-dress of international damage.
15. Access to Genetic Resources	5	Whilst governments control access to their genetic resources they should also facilitate access of environmentally sound uses on mutually agreed terms; scientific research based on a country's genetic resources should ensure sharing

		in a fair and equitable way of results and benefits.
16. Access to and Transfer of Technology	5	Countries shall ensure access to technologies relevant to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity under fair and most favourable terms to the source countries (subject to patents and intellectual property rights) and ensure the private sector facilitates such assess and joint development of technologies.
17. Exchange of Information	5	Countries shall facilitate information exchange and repatriation including technical scientific and socio-economic research, information on training and surveying programmes and local knowledge
19. Bio-safety Protocol	5	Countries shall take legislative, administrative or policy measures to provide for the effective participation in biotechnological research activities and to ensure all practicable measures to promote and advance priority access on a fair and equitable basis, especially where they provide the genetic resources for such research.
Total %	80%	Check % = total 100

26. National Reporting	20	Each contracting party shall present reports on measures that it has taken for the implementation of the Convention, and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Convention.
Total %	100%	Check % = total 100

Appendix II Outputs

Please quantify and briefly describe all project outputs using the coding and format of the Darwin Initiative Standard Output Measures.

Code	<i>Total to date (reduce box)</i>	Detail (←expand box)
Training Outputs		
6a	Number of people receiving other forms of short-term education/training (i.e not categories 1-5 above)	<p>Regional Training Workshop</p> <p>A regional workshop was attended by the seven National Focal Points and took place in El Salvador. At the workshop the methodology used in the UK and the six CEE/NIS countries was presented to the NFPS who were briefed on the conduct of the review process in their particular countries and given guidance on addressing national priorities and national institutional characteristics as part of the review.</p>
6b	Number of training weeks not leading to formal qualification	
7	Number of types of training materials produced for use by host country(s)	<p>Information Management Tools Preparation</p> <p>The information management tools that were used in previous assessments (e.g. Empty assessment framework document, How to carry out an assessment, Summary of UK review) were translated into Spanish by IUCN/ORMA with close supervision from UNEP-WCMC. The Spanish version of the documents was circulated among the NFPs for the CBD of the seven countries for review and published on the project website.</p>
Research Outputs		
8	Number of weeks spent by UK project staff on project work in host country(s)	<p>Regional Training Workshop</p> <p>The regional workshop which took place in El Salvador was facilitated by UNEP-WCMC with assistance from IUCN/ORMA and support from CCAD. A UNEP-WCMC staff member attended the workshop in order to present the methodology as used in the UK and the six CEE/NIS countries and to exchange information on experience gained and lessons learned with the NFPs. The workshop also provided the NFPs with an opportunity to ask questions about the methodology, and to give feedback on national conditions in their own countries that might represent potential pitfalls for the review process. This enabled UNEP-WCMC to adapt the methodology to the conditions in the region.</p>
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities or other implementing agencies in the host country (s)	<p>Each country carried out a review of their biodiversity conservation activities and the status of their implementation of the Biodiversity Convention. The NFPs from all seven countries co-operated in order to use the information gathered to produce their Second National Reports to the CBD using the same</p>

Code	Total to date (<i>reduce box</i>)	Detail (<i>←expand box</i>)
		format for their reports. A regional report on biodiversity in the Central American region was prepared with the assistance of UNEP-WCMC and IUCN/ORMA. Most of the assessments and the regional report are written in Spanish. The reports have been made available online through UNEP-WCMC's web site.
Dissemination Outputs		
14a	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops organised to present/disseminate findings from Darwin project work	<p>Project Review Workshop</p> <p>A workshop to present key results from the project and to demonstrate the potential for application in other countries. The NFPs from the seven countries involved and staff from UNEP-WCMC, IUCN ORMA and CCAD met in Nicaragua to review the project in terms of outputs, experience gained and follow up. Observers from other regional organisations attended the meeting. The NFPs presented their national reports as well as information on lessons learnt and their experiences in carrying out the assessments. The regional report was presented by IUCN/ORMA and next steps for each of the countries involved were discussed specifically with regard to the sixth meeting of the Conference of parties to the CBD (COPVI)</p> <p>Experiences gained through this project will form the basis for developing further proposals which meet emerging needs and priorities within the region as well as helping to further develop the methodology and thus support initiatives in other countries or regions. The final report will outline the process of the project, highlighting lessons learned in the application of the methodology in Central America and suggesting refinements in the light of these</p>
14b	Numbers of conferences/seminars/workshops attended at which finding from Darwin project work have been presented/disseminated	The Regional Report generated as a result of this project was presented at a side event of COPVI in The Hague in the Netherlands. This presentation was attended by a representative of the Darwin Initiative.
17a	Number of dissemination networks established	<p>As a result of the final project workshop at which the key results from the project were presented the NFPs of the countries involved have established a close co-operation for the purpose of co-ordinating their biodiversity conservation activities.</p> <p>Among the next steps for each of the countries involved which were discussed at this workshop were activities to be carried out for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to take place in Johannesburg in 2003.</p>

Appendix III Publications

List of project documents

1. *How to carry out an assessment* (Version 1.0 - 15 March 2000)
2. *Cómo realizar una evaluación* (Versión 1.2 - 5 Junio 2002)
3. *Summary of National Commitments Implied by the Articles of the Convention and the Decisions of the Conference of the Parties* (Version 2.0 - 16 August 2000)
4. *Resumen de los Compromisos Nacionales implicados en los Artículos del Convenio y las Decisiones de la Conferencia de las Partes*
(Versión 1.0 - 9 July 2001)
5. *Framework for national assessment of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity* (Version 2.0 - 16 August 2000)
6. *Marco para la evaluación nacional de la ejecución del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica* (Versión 1.2 - 5 Junio 2002)
7. *Evaluation of the use of the Implementation Assessment Methodology for Elaborating 2nd National Reports to the Convention on Biological Diversity.* (Version 1.1 - January 2002)
8. *National Assessment of Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity: Belize* (Version 2.1 - 10 December 2001)
9. *Evaluación nacional de la ejecución del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica: Costa Rica*
(Versión 2.1 - 10 de Diciembre del 2001)
10. *Evaluación nacional de la ejecución del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica: Guatemala* (Versión 2.1 - 10 de Diciembre del 2001)
11. *Evaluación nacional de la ejecución del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica: Honduras* (Versión 2.1 - 10 de Diciembre del 2001)
12. *Evaluación nacional de la ejecución del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica: Nicaragua* (Versión 2.1 - 10 de Diciembre del 2001)
13. *Informe Regional sobre el Cumplimiento del Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (Copy included with this report)*

All project documents are available in PDF and Word format on the UNEP-WCMC website at the following URLs:

In English at: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/cbd/assessment/central_america/indexeng.html

and in Spanish at: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/cbd/assessment/central_america/indexesp.htm

Appendix IV: Darwin Contacts

To assist us with future evaluation work and feedback on your report , please provide contact details below.

<i>Project Title</i>	1019 - Enhanced biodiversity conservation through capacity building in Central America
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