

# Darwin Initiative

## Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise**

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/11/010
<b>Project Title</b>	Plant Endemism of the Central Andean Valleys of Bolivia
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Bolivia
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Herbario Nacional de Bolivia, La Paz (principal partner) Herbario Nacional Forestal "Martin Cardenas", Cochabamba Herbario del Oriente, Museo "Noel Kempf Mercado", Santa Cruz Herbario de Chuquisaca, Sucre
<b>Report date</b>	21 September 2005
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR4
<b>Project website</b>	N/A

**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).**

- Teacher training materials have been prepared and translated into Spanish ready for use (Copy sent separately). Meeting with Ministry of Education scheduled by Embassy to initiate training.
- Images for field guide have been selected. Project has a wide range of suitable material. Designer already earmarked and ready to collaborate in Bolivia.
- Text for use in field guide partly prepared and should be ready in
- UK training for two Bolivian botanists and one illustrator on schedule and due to finish on 23 September. Both botanists are well-advanced in the preparation of papers based on research into specific plant groups and their draft papers in *Scutellaria* and *Sphenostigma* due to be submitted for publication later this year will be sent separately. Line drawings are prepared by the illustrator for these and the *Eryngium* paper.
- Work on draft report for D. G. B. advancing well but not especially urgent because of problem outlined below.
- Wood due to fly to Bolivia on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. This will be a penultimate visit because of changes noted below.
- Steady progress on production of taxonomic papers by project workers; in addition to the papers mentioned above copies of the following will be sent: *Eryngium* (submitted to Candollea), *Aspidosperma* (accepted by Kew Bulletin), *Salvia* (submitted to Kew Bulletin), *Leucochhloron* (submitted to Kew Bulletin),

*Acacia* (nearly ready) and samples of drawings for other papers under preparation in *Lepechinia*, *Mimosa* etc.

- Agreement for collaboration with Rio Tinto, Kew Gardens, Green Cross (NGO), Comarapa town Council and Natural History Museum (Santa Cruz) to fund one project follow-up activity to set up and support a cactus garden for ex-situ conservation of succulents in project area (papers to be sent). Annual report 8(C). Worth c. £20,000. Good example of collaboration with NGO.
- Agreement with key community (Chaunaca) after meetings set up with Plan International (NGO) to establish a protected area west of Sucre. See Annual Report 8(B). Further negotiation will be needed here with smaller communities and with the prefectura in Sucre.

**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.**

Bolivia underwent another period of political turmoil in May-June. The government collapsed and after a period of acute political crisis, it was replaced by an interim government. National elections are scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>. A new government will not be in place until January 2006. No significant political decisions can be made until then and it seems pointless to round up the project and present our recommendations for areas of conservation until the new government is in place.

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

The Darwin secretariat have been informed of this problem and a “no-cost” project extension till 28 February has been agreed so as to allow the presentation of the project report to the Bolivian authorities with a round up conference in February 2006

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:** yes, in Aug-Sept 2005

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:** yes, final report by 28 Feb 2006

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

The importance of follow-up activities to build on project achievements.

**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](mailto: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.**