

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	An integrated conservation programme for threatened endemic forest species in Chile
Country	Chile
Organisation	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Project Ref. No.	162/11/012
Report date	11/10/2002

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

Discussions with UK horticultural industry representatives and CONAFF officials have been initiated and will continue.

The first Chilean Postgraduate Darwin Scholar arrived in July and is due to return to Chile in early November as per schedule. His placement has included a short placement period at Highgrove with His Royal Highness, Prince Charles.

The first visit by UK specialists was carried out during September. The database was successfully installed and a two day training workshop for 11 postgraduate staff of the university of Valdivia was carried out. This was followed by an intensive 4 day training for the database co-ordinator.

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 effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Notification of the provisional award of the project was received in March 2002. Confirmation was not received until mid July due to the reorganisation of financial systems at DEFRA. During this time it was extremely difficult for the project co-ordinators to plan the years activities.

The first visit by UK specialists was brought forward from November due to the commitments of the UK staff to other projects including another Darwin project. Earlier installation of the database should allow the earlier completion of other project goals.

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

Not at present.