

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Biodiversity and functional value of Amazonian primary, secondary and plantation forests in Brazil
Country	UK/Brazil
Organisation	University of East Anglia
Project Ref. No.	162/12/014
Report date	<i>Oct 31 2003</i>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months 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). A 1 month trip to Brazil was made by Carlos Peres and Jos Barlow in May 2003, where we began the process of drawing up and signing the necessary legal agreements with our collaborating institution (Museu Goeldi), and the company who own the land where fieldwork will take place (Jari Celulose). Sampling locations were identified within the Jari region during the same trip, as scheduled. The applications for project approval and for collecting permits were made to the CNPq (Brazilian Science Council) in early August, following completion of legal agreements with Jari Celulose and the Museu Goeldi, and we are currently awaiting their decision. Although this has delayed the start of fieldwork from the predicted September start date, this has enabled us to allocate more time to conducting a detailed spatial examination of the region in GIS, and to conduct a context analysis on all forms of anthropogenic disturbance in Amazonian forests, which is now ready for submission to a leading journal, and will form the first project publication (which we anticipate will be published 1 year ahead of schedule).

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? Processing of collection permits and official project approval is currently underway in Brasilia, and although we do not expect any problems with this process, it has taken longer than predicted. This has resulted in a delay to the initiation of fieldwork, which we now expect to begin in January. However, significant overall delay to the project timetable is not anticipated as a result of this delay, as Jari Celulose is already organising transect preparation and the establishment of long term plots, while the preparation of butterfly traps and other fieldwork equipment is underway at the Museu Goeldi.

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

No.