

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	<i>Building Capacity and Determining Disease Threats to Endemic Galapagos Fauna</i>
Country	Ecuador
Organisation	Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society of London
Project Ref. No.	162/12/017
Report date	31 st October 2003

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).

This project was started on the 1st October at the request of the Darwin Initiative to spread costs over an additional financial year. A planning visit to Galapagos was made in July 2003 by SG and AC before the start of the main project. On this visit we met all project participants and collaborators to discuss the set up and initiation of the main project work. These meetings were very successful in cementing political support for the laboratory and project on the islands. On the mainland we met with Eliecer Cruz, director of WWF-Ecuador and Robin Shackell, of the British Embassy in Quito to discuss additional funding/support for the project. We also met Dr. Luis Romo, Secretary of Science and Technology (SENACYT) and President of Fundacyt (the Ecuadorian equivalent of the UK research councils combined with the Royal Society). Finally we met with the Vice-President of Ecuador, Dr. Alfredo Palacios Gonzalez, and it is hoped Dr. Gonzalez will open the laboratory when it is completed. Work in the first month is proceeding according to the baseline timetable.

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?

The awarding of Darwin funding to this project has levered two major developments involving the University of Guayaquil since April 2003. Firstly the University has agreed to provide an additional \$80,000 to completely refurbish a building for the project, providing 100m² of lab space, 100m² of class room space and 100m² for a library and offices. Secondly, following the success of this project the University has opened a new Masters course in Molecular Biology run by Dr. Cedeño, that will dovetail with the training and teaching provided by the Darwin Initiative project. In the first year 20 Ecuadorian students will participate, rising to 30 students from across Latin America in the following years. The addition of this course will vastly enhance the legacy of the project by providing a means for technology transfer from the Darwin project to many areas of work in Ecuador. These developments do not yet affect the original project agreement, but can be added as additional matched funding.

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

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, Email: stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk