

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

Project Ref. No.	162/12/019
Project Title	Sustainable management of the Rupununi: linking biodiversity, environment and people
Country(ies)	Guyana
UK Organisation	Royal Holloway University of London and The Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust
Collaborator(s)	Open University, Iwokrama International Centre for Rain Forest Conservation and Development, North Rupununi District Development Board, Environmental Protection Agency of Guyana, University of Guyana,
Report date	31 st October 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
Project website	http://www.gg.rbul.ac.uk/Rupununi

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).

Since the last report, in April 2005, the regular monitoring of the 33 reference sites within the Rupununi region has continued. This has involved monthly site visits to undertake habitat, species and land use surveys. In addition, visits to the communities has led to more regular stakeholder analysis and engagement. The delayed stakeholder forum was held in May 2005, in Georgetown, to engage more fully with all stakeholders. The latest versions of the North Rupununi Methods Manual, technical and non-technical, have been produced in Guyana and are now out for further review. The 'State of the Rupununi' report first draft has been produced and is also being reviewed. Communication between UK partners and the project team has continued on a monthly reporting basis via e-mails. The linked e-social science project, ECOSENSUS, began on the 1st September with some preliminary meetings. The communication infrastructure has been established for the project, see <http://www.ecosensus.info>

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.

There has been a change of personnel within the project team in Guyana as two members have left to start a Masters Degree and to take up a new position as a research assistant. Although it is sad to have lost two of the team it is seen as positive that they have moved on to exciting opportunities further developing the capacity for biodiversity conservation within Guyana. Undoubtedly they have benefited from the training and experience of working on the Darwin Initiative project. They have both now been replaced giving further opportunity to train two Guyanese researchers more fully. They will receive training in monitoring protocols from the in-country staff and will join the formal training programme in January 2006. All project activities are still continuing as planned and it is felt that the loss of staff will not have a long-

term impact on the project or the budget.	
Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?	
No	
Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	no/yes, in..... (month/yr)
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

<p>3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p> <p>There are no issues to raise at this stage as all tasks are proceeding in accordance with the project timetable and to budget.</p>

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 . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**