

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Building Nicaraguan and Costa Rican capacity in biodiversity conservation
Country	Nicaragua and Costa Rica
Organisation	University of Wales, Bangor
Project Ref. No.	162/12/020
Report date	31.10.03

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).

The project has made good progress since its launch. UWB, INBio and CATIE staff have had various meetings in Costa Rica and Nicaragua to finalise the biodiversity courses being held as part of the project. They have also had a series of meetings with stakeholders, NGOs in both Nicaragua and Costa Rica and the relevant government departments. The project was presented to the Costa Rican Ministry of the Environment and collaboration initiated with their protected areas sections in the geographical area of the project. Initial field scoping has been carried out by staff from UWB, INBio, CATIE and CODEFORSA (Costa Rican NGO) and INBio staff will begin biodiversity inventories in the area within the next month. The first biodiversity training course in INBio and field training will be carried out in the second half of Year 1. Delays were experienced in organising NGO participants from Nicaragua, it was also thought appropriate to give participants more time to plan their absence from their normal duties.

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 first training courses have been delayed slightly, as mentioned previously, in order to give participants more time to plan their absence from their normal duties and to select participants from Nicaraguan NGOs. The INBio based 2 week course and the field based training will take place in the second 6 months of the project.

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

No.