

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162/12/020
Project Title	Building Nicaraguan and Costa Rican capacity in biodiversity conservation
Country(ies)	Nicaragua and Costa Rica
UK Organisation	University of Wales, Bangor
Collaborator(s)	Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad, Costa Rica; CATIE, Costa Rica
Report date	31.10.2004
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	http://darwin.bangor.ac.uk

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).

The rapid biodiversity assessment carried out during the capacity building course in Year 1 of the project (RBA1) has been completed. The second phase (RBA2) will be completed in the second half of Year 2.

During the first half of Year 2 of the project the main focus of work has been on continuing the biodiversity inventory of the project area in order to provide data on plant and insect diversity between intact and disturbed forest types. Six field trips have been carried out by project staff from INBio in collaboration with CATIE and CODEFORSA. A total of 400 plant specimens have been collected which has added 108 species to the flora of the project area. Seven rare species have been collected that were previously unknown in the area. In addition two plant species new to science have been collected. A total of 1845 insect specimens have been collected and identification of these is ongoing.

In the second six months of Year 2 the project will hold two capacity building courses, one focussing on the setting up of permanent sample plots for the study of plant diversity and the second teaching methods of biodiversity identification, evaluation and monitoring. Much of the planning and organisation for these courses has been undertaken during this reporting period.

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.

No notable problems or unexpected developments.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

N/A

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>No.</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.**