

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.	162/13/005
Project Title	Community Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Awacachi Corridor, NW Ecuador
Country(ies)	Ecuador
UK Organisation	Fauna & Flora International, Americas Programme
Collaborator(s)	Sirua Foundation (formerly Awacachi Foundation)
Report date	October 31, 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	5
Project website	www.sirua.org

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).

- Butterfly farm management plan and additional document requested by the Regional Biodiversity Unit of the Ministry of the Environment submitted and approval for functioning of the facility granted.
- Zoo-sanitary permit for the functioning of the butterfly farm granted by the Agriculture Ministry.
- New nursery for the production of host plants for the butterfly farm established
- Sirua Foundation web page produced and contents being added. A new issue of the Newsletter has been produced (available at www.sirua.org)
- Sirua Foundation staff as received training as follows: Field Coordinator has attended to an international workshop in the cultivation, management and industrial uses of bamboo; Activities Coordinator attended an actualization course in constitutional law, human rights, administrative legal actions, environmental law, taxation and law and gender. Rangers and butterfly farm staff were trained by a botanist in identification in the field of the host plants used by *Morpho cypris*. These identification skills will be useful to collect young plants to be grown in the nursery and in the surroundings of the breeding facility.
- Periodic revision sessions have been delivered to the Rangers in order to refresh the biological concepts and methodologies. Biological monitoring system is under revision. A new matrix focusing in 20 sp has been produced to improve the data collection by the rangers.
- First draft of the ranger field guide produced.
- Old cacao plantations recovered and the first new ones planted produced their first yield (1,700 pounds of fresh seeds). This production was around 30% of the normal capacity, and it was used for self consumption.
- A market study for Cacao derivatives has been contracted and cooperation agreement signed with APROCANE has been extended to give support in the Cacao organic certification.
- The handing over of the chusquines (bamboo seedlings) started past month. To date 800 chusquines have been given to 4 families (200 each one) to start their bamboo plantations. Each family will plant 0.5 ha

