

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	13-017
Project Title	The Atelopus Initiative
Country(ies)	Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia
UK Organisation	Conservation International-UK
Collaborator(s)	The Natural History Museum, IUCN, NatureServe
Report date	31 October 2004
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	www.andescbc.org/atelopus (in development)

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 Atelopus Initiative initiated on July 1st, 2004. Between that period and now the following activities have been undertaken:

- 1) Website development for the Initiative. Completed. The website is available in both Spanish and English, hosted at www.andescbc.org/atelopus. In addition to existing information (aim and objectives of the Initiative, projected outputs, participating institutions, sponsors and contacts) it will be used to post news, e.g. upcoming training courses in Colombia and Peru, scholarship information, etc.
- 2) Establishment of Tropical Andes Amphibian Network. In progress. The first Atelopus Initiative workshop was held from 21 to 25 August, 2004, at Villa de Leyva, Colombia. It was attended by 35 participants from ten different countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Germany, Panama, Peru, UK, USA and Venezuela). 15 participants were unable to attend. Partners in this workshop include the Darwin Initiative, Conservation International and Universidad de Tunja, Colombia. In this first workshop the following were accomplished:
 - Creation of a regional directory as well as establishment of a network (red_atelopus@yahoo.com) of amphibian specialists
 - Set-up of regional committee, assignment of national coordinators for each of the five Tropical Andean countries
 - Development of a standardized field monitoring protocol for the region
 - Establishment of a three-year research and conservation strategy for the tropical Andean region providing a clear long-term action plan
 - Preliminary database of key amphibian areas for the region
- 3) Publish Global Amphibian Assessment results and regional strategy for amphibian research and conservation. In progress. The GAA results were widely publicized on 14th October and available online www.globalamphibians.org. A regional strategy for amphibian research and conservation was discussed and developed at the workshop and will act as a first guideline for the Initiative and related matters

- over the next three years. It has not yet been widely disseminated.
- 4) Produce a regional survey and monitoring protocol booklet. Guidelines agreed at the workshop will be finalized and adopted to establish a standardized field monitoring protocol for the Tropical Andean region. This field protocol will be made readily available to all students participating in our upcoming training courses in February-March 2005 and all researchers who plan to undertake research with Darwin Initiative funds.
 - 5) Bi-annual newsletter. Being produced for December 2004.
 - 6) Training 90 herpetology students in survey and monitoring techniques. In progress. Preparations are under way for two training courses on standardized field techniques across the region.- Course No. 1 to be undertaken in Pangan Reserve, Nariño, Colombia, 12-19 February, 2005; Course No. 2 to take place in Tarapoto, San Martín, Perú, 25 February- 4 March 2005) for ca 90 participants in 2005.

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.

- The project started 3 months later than the original April start-date envisaged in the proposal as the Darwin Initiative award was announced later than planned. Relative to the new start up of July 1st 2004, all activities are on schedule and we expect to complete all Year 1 activities by 30 June 2005. No amendments to the project plans are envisaged.

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

No changes

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

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

None

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.**