

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	13/022
Project Title	Falkland Islands Invertebrates Conservation Project
Country(ies)	Falkland Islands
UK Organisation	Falklands Conservation
Collaborator(s)	Natural History Museum University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge Falkland Islands Government
Report date	30 October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR3
Project website	www.falklandsconservation.com

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 final and third project fieldwork season was undertaken in September-October 06. This was brought forward from January 2007 for logistic reasons and in order to capture critical life cycle stages in specific invertebrate species. Survey work was carried out in East and West Falkland and on Carcass Island. The samples collected have been returned to the UK for taxonomic analysis. A number of new records have been made including the largest insect species (a cerambycid beetle) in the Falkland Islands, which is only active as an adult at this time of year.

Concurrent with the third season of fieldwork, the final invertebrates conservation and taxonomy course was run in Stanley, Falkland Islands. This course comprised a one-week lecture series followed by practical fieldwork. 29 individuals have now been trained in invertebrates conservation skills providing a valuable resource of expertise in the Islands and raising the profile of the Project and Darwin Initiative. All course graduates have been sent a questionnaire, which will allow us to assess the impact of the training and potential to utilise this experience beyond the end of the Project.

As part of the educational outputs of this Project, a laminated field key to the invertebrate groups of the Falkland Islands is currently in development in consultation with the Field Studies Council.

The Project log frame indicates the completion of a 'Conservation Manual' during the current reporting period. As described in the annual report for 05-06, the scope of this Manual has now been enlarged to include additional material and is due for completion at the end of the project.

Two project newsletters (*Invertebrata Falklandica*) have been produced (April and July). These, along with previous newsletters, are available to view online. Work is continuing to develop materials for the major invertebrates section on the new Falklands Conservation website. Additional Project publicity this reporting period has included: participation in National Insect Week, two Falkland press articles, a local radio interview, and open lectures at the University Museum of Zoology, Cambridge.

A strategy document developing a 20 year continuation of the Project's invertebrate

conservation and long term monitoring work is currently in preparation and due for discussion by Falklands Conservation Trustees in January 2007.

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 major problems. However, we wish to draw to your attention that the third season of fieldwork was brought forward from January 2007 to September 2006. This will not impact on the Project outputs. An additional visit to the Falklands is planned before the end of the Project term in order to curate the Islands' invertebrates collection and facilitate the long term monitoring programme.

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

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

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

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

No

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.