

# Darwin Initiative

## Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14-040
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION NETWORK FOR PRIMATES IN ECUADOR (PRIMENET)</b>
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Ecuador
<b>UK Organisation</b>	The University of Sussex
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Ecuador Terra Incognita, QNCE (National Herbarium of Ecuador : administrators - Corporación Botánica Ecuadendron), Los Cedros Biological Reserve
<b>Report date</b>	30th September 2006
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	Half Year Report 1
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.primenet.org.uk">www.primenet.org.uk</a>

### **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 following activities have been completed since project start-up on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2005 in accordance with the project timeline:

- Appointment of personnel to botanical and primate survey / community education teams (June 2005). Establishment of the steering committee.
- Workshop at the Los Cedros Biological Reserve to initiate the project (14th – 28th June 2005) plus setup of fieldwork (equipment/methodology).
- Press Release in Ecuador
- Email discussion group and internet presence established.

A press release in the UK through the University of Sussex Press office has been intentionally delayed until the internet presence for the Los Cedros Biological Reserve is established in November 2005.

The following additional activities have already been completed in the first four months of the project:

#### **Botanical Team (Herbarium administrators - Corporación Botánica Ecuadendron)**

**Fieldwork:** A botanical inventory of the Los Cedros Biological Reserve has been carried out (60 field days). In addition, rapid habitat assessments and 70% of a permanent (1 hectare) plot for long-term monitoring of phenology and forest plant community structure have been completed. Over 2000 specimens have been collected for identification and photographed to develop a field guide to the plants of the reserve.

**Wilderness First Aid Course** – (August 2005) 3-day field wilderness first aid course held at the Los Cedros Biological Reserve for all project workers.

**Primate Survey and Community Education Team (Ecuador Terra Incognita)**

**Fieldwork:** Six weeks of fieldwork at the Los Cedros Biological Reserve have been undertaken to date to develop field methodology and carry out field site reconnaissance. Since August, surveys of the three primates species that are the focus of the study: the Brown-headed spider monkey (*Ateles fusciceps*), the Capuchin monkey (*Cebus capucinus*) and the Mantled howler monkey (*Alouatta palliata*) have been carried out and new trail systems designed and cut for long-term monitoring of primate populations.

**Partnership development:** links have been made with organisations involved in environmental education programmes within communities in the study zone. Collaboration with a number of network partners (Conservation International, Fundación Altrópico, Fundación EcoCiencia) is now underway to link to communities and recruit parabiologists.

**University of Sussex (GIS database):** Aerial photographs of the Los Cedros Biological Reserve and Remote Land sat Images (provided by partner EcoCienca) have been georeferenced within a GIS system.

**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.**

Initial plans to fund the Ecuadorian network partners through a single governmental organisation, the Ecuadorian Museum of Natural Sciences, were altered due to inter-institutional conflicts. It was decided to provide greater autonomy to network partners and directly fund two NGO network partners. This has unfortunately resulted in the withdrawal of the Ecuadorian Museum of Natural Sciences as a network member, however it should be noted that the project is under management of the same host country team leaders that developed the project in collaboration with the University of Sussex. There has been no impact to budget or timelines – the decision has resulted in reduced bureaucracy and increased dynamism.

Unrelated to this decision, following the project planning workshop (June 2005) there have been slight modifications to the timetabling and budget, with the MSc in Botany starting a year earlier and the MA in Participation and social change commencing in year 3 (as opposed to year 2)

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

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:** Yes, in July 2005 (month/yr)

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:** Yes, in July 2005 (month/yr) - slight adjustments to timing and budget.

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

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](mailto: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.**