

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	14-040
Project Title	DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION NETWORK FOR PRIMATES IN ECUADOR (PRIMENET)
Country(ies)	Ecuador
UK Organisation	The University of Sussex
Collaborator(s)	Murcielargo Blanco, QNCE (National Herbarium of Ecuador : administrators - Corporación Botánica Ecuadendron), Los Cedros Biological Reserve
Project Leader	Dr Mika Peck
Report date	30th September 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	Half Year 5
Project website	www.primenet.org.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).

Progress summary: All outputs on schedule and summarised below

Primate Survey (Murcielargo Blanco MB, University of Sussex US)

Primate field surveys initiated in the lowland buffer zone of the Cotocachi-Cayapas Ecological Reserve (CCER). Innovative 'playback' method has been trialled and found successful for *A. fusciceps* (MSc in Primate Conservation at Oxford Brookes University, cofunded by Primate Conservation International (PCI), Association of British Wild Animal Keepers (ABWAK) & the International Primatological Society (IPS)). This is a vital development as *A. fusciceps* has just been declared in the top 25 most endangered primates worldwide. All data georeferenced and updated to the PRIMENET database.

Parabiologist training (MB, Corporacion Botanical Ecuadendron CBE)

Communities were visited in the SE buffer zone of the CCER and members invited to attend the second PRIMENET parabiologist workshop' (June 11th – 15th, Cristóbal Colón, Esmeraldas Province). 25 parabiologists attended the workshop from 9 communities and completed the course as certified parabiologists. Post workshop activities: parabiologists engaged with field survey teams to assess primate and habitat status in forests of the SE buffer zone of the CCER (ongoing). Additional work (MB) funded by the Network for Social Change (NSC) included organisation of a community exchange programme between Cristóbal Colón and El Chontal. The aim was to facilitate dissemination of sustainable livelihood alternatives.

Production and dissemination of education material (MB)

3000 copies of the PRIMENET magazine were published and freely disseminated to schools and communities in the educational and community outreach programme.

Habitat Assessment (Botanical Team, Corporación Botánica Ecuadendron CBE)

Review of plant identification to species from the Los Cedros Reserve completed (total 298 species from 2654 individuals). Species-level identification underway of samples from Esmeraldas Province collected Jan – Feb 07. **Botanical field support and collaborative projects:** Botanical expertise provided for 1) Ecuadorian student studying primate feeding behaviour at the Los Cedros Reserve. 2) UK Master's student from MSc Primate Conservation, Oxford Brookes (June – July). **Development of rapid habitat assessment techniques:** the

