

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

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

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	15/006
<b>Project Title</b>	Capacity Building for Temperate Rainforest Biodiversity Conservation in Chile
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Chile
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Macaulay Land Use Research Institute
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Fauna Australis, Parques para Chile, WildCRU, Rainforest Concern
<b>Report date</b>	31 October 2006
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	<i>HYR 1</i>
<b>Project website</b>	<i>www.temperaterainforests.net (to be launched soon..)</i>

### **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 project started on July 1 2006, and has followed the agreed baseline timetable as follows:

1.1. Start-up meeting, Pucón. The meeting was held in week 3 of the project, and was attended by the project leader, Alison Hester, project manager, Jerry Laker, and spatial ecologist, Alessandro Gimona all from Macaulay Institute, together with staff from Fauna Australis, Cristian Bonacic (Chile project coordinator), and Nicolas Galvez (Chile project administrator), and from Parques para Chile, Pia Bustos, Rodrigo Calcagni, Karl Yunis and Mercedes Ibañez.

1.2. Two Chilean MSc research projects set up

Also in July, we held a field course in Pucon for the Natural Resources masters programme at Fauna Australis. The students were given the task of developing a methodology for monitoring the presence of large mammals using camera traps, and undertaking forest type characterisation field studies. One of these students went on to apply for Chilean funding to undertake a study of carnivore-livestock ecology in the study area to support the Darwin project. The proposal passed the stage 1 evaluation. A final verdict is expected in December 2006. In Chile, master projects begin in January.

1.3. Establish wildlife monitoring transects, camera traps, and mist netting sites in study areas

15 camera traps (Trailmaster) were imported from USA for this survey. These have been set up in the Namoncahue Biological Corridor area, and have already yielded 4 images of puma (*Puma concolor*), as well as the smaller wild cat, the Guiña (*Felis guigna*), fox (*Pseudalopex culpeus*) and wild boar (*Sus scrofa*). The data are undergoing analysis. A vegetation map of the whole study area in Namoncahue, derived from aerial orthophoto interpretation at 1:10,000 scale is now complete. It forms the basis of a new grid system to coordinate the habitat sampling effort, and allow future spatial modelling. The strategy for bird sampling, that includes mist netting is complete and is due to start now in spring time.

1.4. Weekend course for environmental educators

Having made contact with several schools, we have decided that we can achieve greater

impact by organising a staged programme of environmentally orientated events at the school, rather than by residential course. We have therefore, with Parques para Chile, initiated a programme of environmental education aimed at local schoolchildren and their teachers. The course is based around puppets and storytelling, lectures, and practical environmental action – composting, recycling, litter awareness, depending on the age of the children. The events to date have been successful and well-attended, and we are currently developing material to support future activities.

#### 1.5a,b. Wildlife monitoring by UK volunteers and Chilean research workers

As mentioned in 1.2, the camera trapping programme was begun during a field course for 12 MSc students. In addition, we have had a group of 5 Cambridge University volunteers during a period of 5 weeks. Given the constraints of working in mid-winter in temperate rainforest, the students undertook a range of tasks. In addition to setting up and servicing the camera trap system, they started a herbarium, worked on imagery for a photographic compendium of species, and helped in the organic vegetable gardens.

#### 1.6. Complete business plan and designs for research centre.

The designs for the research centre are in the hands of a local architect. Issues to do with land title (ensuring that the site is in the hands of a non-profit organisation, rather than a private individual), are being addressed at the moment. Building work to establish temporary office facilities at the study site are complete, and this office will serve as “The Centre for Biodiversity” pending construction of a dedicated facility. Negotiations with potential funding sources are still ongoing.

#### 1.7a,b. Local awareness meetings held with community

A meeting was held on 12 October with the purpose of establishing institutional support for the Namonahue Biological Corridor project, as a pilot study for the IX Region in public-private partnerships for conservation, and sustainable tourism. The meeting was attended by 27 people representing the regional heads of 7 government departments – environment, tourism, national parks, enterprise, public works, communications and the Municipality of Pucon, as well as community members. The meeting involved a 7 km walk up to the araucarias in Namonahue. All those involved pledged their full support for the corridor project.

#### 1.8. Complete field guide to rainforest fauna

This is in preparation. The publication format has been developed and agreed, and sample sheets produced. These include both flora and fauna, and have proved really popular. We are looking to develop a marketable product from this work. We will be collecting species throughout this season.

#### 1.9. Weekend courses for environmental educators

See 1.4.

#### 1.10a,b. Deliver periodic financial report

The first periodic financial report was delivered to schedule in October

#### 1.11. Deliver half-year report. Refers to this document.

#### 1.12 Ecology and statistics course by WildCRU

This has not yet been set up. A visit by WildCRU head, David MacDonald, is planned for the end of November, during which it is anticipated that the activities to be undertaken in this

collaboration will be defined.

**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.**

In any project of this nature there is a tendency that events do not follow precisely the patterns anticipated one year ago. However, to date, this project has been noteworthy in the degree to which the plan is working out as foreseen. The need to have more staff working locally on both the GIS and ecological fieldwork has pushed up the staff costs beyond that foreseen. However, it is felt that by creating this critical mass of professional staff, we improve the likelihood that the Centre for Biodiversity will establish itself within the timeframe of the project.

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

This change is temporal, and not considered major, and has not been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat.

<b>Discussed with the DI Secretariat:</b>	<b>no/yes, in..... (month/yr)</b>
<b>Changes to the project schedule/workplan:</b>	<b>no/yes, in.....(month/yr)</b>

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

In addition to the activities predicted in the proposal, the presence of 5 Darwin projects in Round 15 in Chile has raised the importance to undertake some horizontal coordination between the different teams involved and the various authorities involved. The British Embassy in Santiago is supporting us in setting up a seminar on the Darwin Initiative in Chile, to take place on 21 November in Santiago, in the presence of the national heads of the most relevant government departments – e.g. environment and national parks. The speakers will include Prof David Macdonald, Peter Conolly, the Deputy Head of Mission, and the 5 local Darwin teams. The event has minimal cost implications for the Darwin projects, and should lead to improved level of coordination both operationally between the teams, and also politically in terms of alignment with and influence in, government biodiversity policy.

**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.**