#### **Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report**

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	15/023	
Project Title	Conservation of endangered coastal biodiversity hotspots of Central Chile	
Country(ies)	Chile	
UK Organisation	University of Oxford	
Collaborator(s)	University of Talca; CODEFF;CONAMA;CONAF	
Project Leader	r Dr Stephen Harris	
Report date	28 <sup>th</sup> October 2007	
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3	
Project website	http://www.darwinmaule.cl/	

# 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).

1. Environmental education DVD "EI Tesoro del Maule" launched in August 2008 at the University of Talca. Approximately 70 people present who were linked to school education, associated public organisations, together with high-level representatives from CONAMA, CONAF and CODEFF. Importantly, the forestry companies CELCO, Mininco and Masisa, and private forest owners were represented.

2. Two papers presented at the XX Botanical Society Annual Meeting held in Chile Olmué, Region of Valparaiso based directly on the project results.

- Peñailillo, P., C. Sepúlveda, P. Garrido, and J. San Martín. Contribución de la flora de los bosques costeros de la región del Maule a la diversidad florística de Chile.
- Peñailillo, P., C. Sepúlveda, P. Garrido, and J. San Martín. Distribución de la Fitodiversidad en relación con la Geomorfología de la Cordillera Costera de la Región del Maule.

3. All 5371 specimens collected during the Rapid Biodiversity Survey have been identified, databased and incorporated into the herbarium at the University of Talca. 106 families, 300 genera and 458 species are represented. This has made a major contribution to the overall quality of the herbarium in the University of Talca.

4. 3000 photographs of native plants from the Talca region have been keyworded and are available for incorporation into the digital herbarium. These will shortly be made available on the website.

5. Environmental education talk on the importance of forests and forest conservation, incorporating some of the project results, has been held at three rural schools in the province of Cauquenes.

6. Meetings have been held by the Chilean team and representatives from CONAMA, CONAF and CODEFF to discuss the RBS and bioquality assessment progress in relation to the Conservation Manual for Maulino Forests and the Technical Guide for Conservation Monitoring. 7. A seminar on 'Biodiversity and Sustainability: Visions of Science and the Public-Private sector' has been organized, to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at the Catholic University of Valparaiso. The institutions involved will be: University of Talca, Catholic University of Maule, University of Chile, Southern University, CODEFF, CONAMA and CONAF, together with forestry industry representatives from Mininco, Arauco Forestry and MASISA and private forest companies. This will focus on conservation practices in the context of business and science.

8. Advantage has been taken of the opportunity to promote the Maulean native flora for garden and floral design and landscaping at 'Exposición de Flores y Jardines 2008' in Santiago; a poster of the project results will be presented. 9. The following manuscripts are in preparation and will soon be submitted to peer-reviewed journals. Manuscripts a-c provide vital ecological and reproductive biology information for conservation planning for the priority endangered species, *Gomortega keule* (Gomortegaceae). The models described in manuscript d will contribute to our efforts to develop a regional landscape management plan that accommodates both the conservation needs of endangered species and economic land uses.

- a. Lander, T.A., D.H. Boshier, and S.A. Harris. Insect pollinators of the endangered, endemic Chilean tree *Gomortega keule* (Gomortegaceae), in forest and agricultural sites.
- b. Lander, T.A., S.A. Harris, and D.H. Boshier. Implications of high rates of selfing and asexual reproduction for population persistence of the endangered Chilean tree, *Gomortega keule*.
- c. Lander, T.A., D.H. Boshier, and S.A. Harris. Pollen flow in relation to individual and patch characteristics for the endemic Chilean tree, *Gomortega keule*.
- d. Lander, T.A., D. Bebber, D.H. Boshier, and S.A. Harris. A predictive model for the influence of landuse type on insect mediated pollen flow in ecologically complex landscapes.

## 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.

A potential issue that has emerged over the last few months is the potential effects of the economic downturn in Chile and the attitudes of private forestry companies to the types of conservation that form a significant part of the outputs of this project. Currently, we are uncertain as to the views of the forestry companies, and the private forest owners, with which we are dealing. This concern is not likely to have any budgetary impacts but it may delay take-up of our results.

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

No, we are awaiting the outcome of the meeting described under (7) in Section 1.

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?

The current project is on-track but, as a team, we have been discussing the possibility of asking the Darwin Secretariat for a short, no-cost extension. If we think this will improve the overall impact and uptake of the results we will approach the Darwin Secretariat with a case separately.

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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at <u>Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please state your</u> project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half <u>Year Report</u>