

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	15/025
Project Title	Capacity building for biodiversity studies of freshwater insects, Argentina
Country(ies)	Argentina
UK Organisation	Natural History Museum, London
Collaborator(s)	La Plata Museum, Argentina
Report date	9 November 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	Not yet active but will be hosted at La Plata with links to NHM

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).

Project start up: 1 September 2006

Three full-time staff recruited. Training of staff in sampling and sorting techniques completed

Items of furniture and laboratory equipment purchased and installation begun into Puerto Blest field station.

Vehicle for fieldwork purchased. Fieldwork equipment purchased. Laboratory and field consumables purchased.

NHM team visited Argentina 16-30 October 2006. Meetings with Argentinean team members and senior staff at La Plata Museum. Space allocated at La Plata Museum to house collection generated by the project. All team members travelled to Nahuel Huapi National park and agreed sampling protocols and fieldwork strategy for coming season. Team visited Puerto Blest field station, met collaborators from Bariloche University and National Parks Authority. National Parks authority agreed programme for fieldwork logistical support. Team visited representative sampling sites to refine sampling strategies, sampling methods and fine tune staff training.

Links to the project posted on CONICET, La Plata and Univ. Bariloche websites. Has generated media interest resulting in articles in national and local press, radio and TV interviews.

1 November three staff members began sampling programme (to run November to March).

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 problems that will seriously impact the budget or timetable at this stage.

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

<p>3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p> <p>None</p>

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.**