

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	15-028
Project Title	Community Resource Management Planning in the Maichin River Valley, Chile
Country:	Chile
UK Organisation:	Lancaster University, CESAGen
Collaborator:	
Project Leader:	Paul Oldham
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Project website	

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. All equipment was purchased by the end of March 2006 allowing for the start of the project.

Output 1. Community workshops have been held but affected by heavy snow resulting in lower outreach to some communities than anticipated.

Output 1. Technical Training in GPS has been initiated but the number of community members trained so far has been lower than desired due to heavy snow in the winter period (see below). This is now being remedied.

Output 2. Surveys. Forthcoming for summer season.

Output 3. Community resource management plans. To be initiated

Output 4. Framework community management plan. In progress. New collaboration agreement under negotiation with National Forestry Council.

Output 5. Roundtables with Communities and CONAF are well on schedule.

Output 6. Early 2008.

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.

The project area was affected by heavy snow leading to isolation of some of the communities in the project area requiring relief operations. The main problem this has created is the difficulty in training sufficient numbers of community members in the use of GPS and organisation of community workshops involving all of the communities. This means that additional effort must be dedicated to GPS now that the snows have cleared and the summer period is starting.

In light of the need to make progress on the GPS training and resource mapping we aim to delay the regional workshop scheduled for the end of 2007 to allow for a focus on field research. We will consult

with the Darwin Secretariat regarding the possible implications of this for the 2007 financial year.

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

N/A at present.

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?

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

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. Eight community members and two Consejo de Todas las Tierras - Biodiversity team (CTT-BT) staff participate in training courses on: GPS mapping, remote sensing; sampling techniques, procedures and analysis.

There was initially a significant delay in the realisation of workshops due to heavy snow and bad weather that initially prevented the realisation of fieldwork training but also the movement of trainees to the project office in Curarrehue. While snow is normal and expected in this area, it was unexpectedly severe this year and may reflect the El Niño event.

In a general inter-community meeting the Biodiversity Team informed all communities of the selection criteria of candidates and one candidate was then selected for training in each community. Pedro Cona was hired to deliver an introductory workshop in the use of information and computer technology with which the communities have limited familiarity (May). Rodrigo Huaiquilao (a Mapuche specialist in GPS) has conducted a series of workshops since May in the use of GPS (Garmin etrex vista Cx). Trainees are now able to operate the equipment and are currently being trained in the process of uploading the information into the desk tops of Ruka Curarrehue.

It has been planned that Pablo Huaiquilao would offer a workshop for the use of clinometers in order for trainees to be able to collect accurate information with respect to forest state. However, training in the use of clinometers was delayed by the difficulty of obtaining these items (which were ordered in the UK) In the course of the discussions with the communities it was decided that the project would focus on GPS-GIS training and that remote sensing would be set to one side. The principal concern was that remote sensing would require further training, delay data collection and imply additional costs.

2 Capacity-building workshops: Traditional Knowledge and natural resource management interfaces; GPS; project management, etc.

2.1 Itrofillmogen – Biodiversity and Traditional Knowledge

A workshop was held in August under the orientation of the traditional authorities (Lonkos) of five communities: Juan de Dios Ancamil, Manuel Marillanca, Juan Huaiquifil, Quiñenahuin, Manuel Quintonahuel. The structure of the workshop allowed discussion of four themes:

- The traditional knowledge dimension of 'Interculturality'
- Traditional knowledge, health and food security
- The importance of 'Lof' (the concept of 'community') for Mapuche religious practices relating to biodiversity
- Territory as a Mapuche socio-cultural concept

An important outcome of this workshop was the re-establishment of intergenerational dialogue (between young leaders and the Lonkos) that allowed a dialogue on the key concepts of Mapuche cosmovision. Of particular importance for all participants was an agreement to highlight and make explicit in any form of formal agreement or contract that Mapuche territory has a dual character: a part that is tangible and visible to any normal human being and as such subject to codification or classification. The other part is intangible and invisible to a normal human being and as such impossible to measure and not a subject of meaningful processes of codification or classification. As agreed by all participants of the workshop such concepts must be acknowledged in any agreement signed in the future with NGOs, research centres, Universities, governmental institutions or other indigenous peoples' organisations. In particular, participants wanted to incorporate this acknowledgement into the 'collaboration agreement' with the national forestry service that is a key target of the project and is scheduled for renegotiation and extension during October-2007.

2.2 Relations with Colonists

A workshop was held in August at the request of three communities: Juan Huaiquifil, Arquenco Maite Alto, Quinenahuin. The aim of the workshop was to consider how the communities affected by the entry of colonists into the valley might be addressed.

The role of Biodiversity Team that of a moderator and intermediary as members of these communities had previously organised marches to protest about what are seen by the communities as invasions of their lands by colonists. These concerns and related demands for action are directed to the Intendencia Regional and CONAF. The issue is particularly sensitive issue for the communities as the lands under dispute that were part of the protected area were taken out of the reserve and land title (titulo de dominio) was awarded to a former CONAF employee. This raises questions about the integrity of that process. CONAF's response was to assure that a thorough investigation would take place into this case.

2.3 Preparatory meetings for participating in the **Seminario Internacional Acceso a Recursos Genéticos y Propiedad Intelectual** (International seminar in access to genetic resources and intellectual property rights) - August 2007.

The Biodiversity Team called on all interested peoples of all participant communities to discuss the issue of the All the Lands Council attending the seminar as representatives of the Mapuche people of the Araucania region and as members of IIFB (International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity). The outcome of the meeting was a declaration (annex 1: Declaracion Mapuche y del FIIB) that was a read during the ten minute participation slot the Chile government allocated to indigenous peoples within the seminar. Given that Mapuche participation in debates on access to genetic resources and benefit-sharing have been limited in Chile and an international regime is being negotiated in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity, this is a potentially significant development for future work.

3 Initiation of survey work by communities with support from the Biodiversity Team in the lower parts of the Maichin valley

The first phase of the survey (May-September) on the actual state of forest resources has been conducted in six communities: Maite Arquenco alto, Santiago Calfual, Julián Collinao, Ancamil, Quintonahuel, Marillanca. Due to extreme weather conditions it has not yet been possible to conduct the survey in the highland cordillera communities of Quinenahuin and Huaiquifil. The Biodiversity Team coordinated survey activities with the Lonkos (traditional authorities) and 'dirigentes formales' (legal representatives) building on earlier work in bringing together the different authorities in the communities. This facilitated the identification and work with 10 key informants from the participating communities. These informants are elders who serve as the keepers of long-term oral history of the region. In some cases the information provided by the elders will need to be compared with historical archives (i.e. land titles and occupation records) as part of future work under the project.

The outcome of this activity is that Biodiversity Team has initiated the creation of a database which will hold historical records for the eight communities with respect to: land title, forest health, resource use, transformation and threats. All stakeholders have highlighted that the biggest threat to the sustainable management of the forest in the Valley is the Pinochet era policy under Law-Decree 701 promoting the introduction of exotic tree species, notably pine and eucalyptus.

Survey activities have been complemented by research on official sources of information that are dispersed across governmental institutions: CONAF, INDAP and CIREN

4 Third intercommunity planning workshop

The third intercommunity planning workshop was held in June. Due to extreme low temperatures and snow storms delegates from the Marillanca and Maite communities were unable to attend this workshop. However the regional CONAF representative, Adan Burgo, and Villarica Reserve manager welcomed delegates from the communities of Santiago Carinao, Manuel Quintonahue, Florenciano Quintonahuel, Quñenahuin, Hauiquifil de Maite, Santiago Calfual, Juan de Dio Ancamil and Julian Collinao.

The objective of the workshop was to prepare a framework for the renewal of the collaboration agreement between CONAF, the All the Lands Council and the communities to ensure the continuity of the Mapuche traditional afro-forestry practices including respect for the religious dimension of Mapuche land and resource use. Agro-forestry and related activities occur both at the buffer zone and inside the Villarica National Reserve. An outcome of the workshop was a focus on the potential for sustainable use of non-timber forest resources inside the buffer zone. The Mapuche-Pehuenche representatives argued that an initiative focusing on sustainable use will help to maintain and restore biodiversity in the area, with direct benefits for the management of the reserve.

Indigenous delegates expressed concern about the prospective construction of a dam and a hydroelectric plant in the Maichin river basin and proposed converting some of the buffer zone into a Mapuche protected area with the objective of protecting the river against such developments. They suggested CONAF should collaborate with this initiative, perhaps by creating a special conservation category in line with conservation aims and governmental functions. The traditional authorities (Lonkos) continued to argue that CONAF officials were contradicting their own mandate with respect to protected areas and conservation and demanded an explanation of why CONAF is currently promoting the planting of exotic species in the buffer zone surrounding the protected area. Both the state recognised community authorities and traditional authorities (Lonkos) urged CONAF to move the agenda forward by allocating resources to elaborate a long term management plan for the area that would encompass conservation objectives, sustainable use of forest resources and protection of areas considered sacred by the Mapuche-Pehuenche people. Although the representatives of CONAF conceded that such an initiative would benefit all stakeholders they have not officially responded these proposals and pursuing agreement on this issue remains a major issue for future work.

5 Formal roundtable with CONAF

Following the outcomes of inter-community workshops with CONAF and the Biodiversity Team, this roundtable began by discussing the limitations of the 2005-2006 collaboration agreement. The Mapuche-Pehuenche are particularly upset by the planting of exotic species inside the conservation area in the Wakamahuida site, a sacred place for the Mapuche-Pehuenche. As a solution indigenous peoples had offered to manage a reforestation program (with native species) in that area as a matter of urgency. The communities also insisted CONAF should honour the collaboration agreement and follow the procedures established for solving conflicts or difficulties during implementation.

6 Latin American Congress on Protected Areas

Jose Nain, Margot Collipal (CTT-BT) and Oscar A. Forero - CESAGen held a meeting in Bariloche, Argentina in September during the second Latin American Congress of protected areas, with the objective of enlarging the network of researchers and activists developing new paradigms and methodologies for assuring the protection of areas that are of special importance in terms of both biodiversity and cultural diversity. During the Congress the team was successful in strengthening ties with the Mountain Science Institute (University of Georgia) with the prospect of publishing an article in the Journal of Mountain Research and Development. The team also established relations with the protected landscapes group of the IUCN and the 3S (Sacred Species and Sites) and SL (Sacred Landscapes) research team from IUCN as well.

The Biodiversity Team held a two day meeting (October) in Ruka Curarrehue in order to reorganise the plan of activities as there had been delays in the training workshops and other activities due to the bad weather. The effect of the adverse weather conditions was not only isolation of the communities and suspension of training but also the need for the Biodiversity Team to participate in disaster relief operations, and the coordination of the distribution of food, medicine and animal fodder. Communities participating in the project communities requested assistance in developing a strategy for dealing with such events not only now but in the future.

The Biodiversity Team agreed that workshops on methodologies for collecting indigenous knowledge on environmental management practices need to begin in November and should be concise, thus facilitating beginning data collection as soon as possible.

Oscar Forero (CESAGen) held a meeting (October) with Rodrigo Huailquilao (RH) who is conducting GPS-GIS training and accompanied trainees to a fieldwork practice session. As there is only one workshop it constitutes a significant difficulty that not all participants were able to attend the workshop, and that those attending were not completely confident of doing their work independently and that only desktops (rather than the laptops) in Ruka Curarrehue are configured for uploading the information collected in the field. Bearing this in mind Oscar Forero and Rodrigo Huailquilao agreed to work closely together to support trainees' needs. In particular they agreed on the need to work together in the monitoring and evaluation process and facilitating trainees work in data analysis and dissemination of results back to source communities.

7 Intercommunity planning workshop realised to agree a framework for the environmental management plan

In June, the Biodiversity Team and four participating communities from the Maichin Valley area carried out a study about the environmental, social and cultural importance of the Wuakamahuida site (June). As this is a sacred site, the study involved interviews with the traditional authorities (Lonkos), ritual coordinators – spiritual leaders, traditional medicine practitioners and elderly participants of Llada Forestry project (1970s) through which native species were substituted by exotic species. The complete report is entitled 'Local Study on the impact of the substitution of native species by exotic species in the Wuakamahuida sector' is provided in Annex 2 as '**Estudio local sobre impacto de la sustitución, especie nativa por exótica- sector wuakamahuida**'. This study concluded that the Llada project negatively affected: the quantity and quality of water resources; the prospective use of medicinal plants; the magico-religious activities of the Mapuche-Pehuenche; and also indigenous peoples' food security and their long term economic prosperity. Part of what could be done now to address these problems is to improve the commercialisation of timber exploiting the exotic species and to begin the reforestation with native species. CONAF has agreed to cooperate with the communities by coordinating commercialisation efforts but no agreement on a reforestation project with native species has been reached yet.

Communities from the Maichin mountain area requested a meeting with the Biodiversity Team in order to discuss the problem of CONAF not allowing indigenous people that live some distance from the buffer zone of the Villarica Reserve to make use of grazing lands located within the Reserve's perimeter. This is in contravention of the PA regulation and of the collaboration agreement signed with indigenous communities and the All the Lands Council. The Biodiversity Team agreed with the communities that during the next roundtable negotiation clarification on this issue will be sought. It was also agreed that a procedure for establishing sanctions should be established in the event that parties to the collaboration agreement fail to honour its provisions.

8 Formal Round table with CONAF (August-November)

CONAF and the Biodiversity Team agreed to modify and extend the collaboration agreement that forms the basis for the project. CONAF and the Biodiversity team agreed to a procedure to insert modifications and ratification of the collaboration agreement. The procedure has three phases: draft of agreement made by communities with assistance of CTT-BT (First two weeks October); CONAF revises the communities' proposal and inserts the modifications to be discussed in the final phase (third and fourth week of October); ratification (November).

In mid-October the communities agreed the final proposed modifications to the agreement and the revised agreement has now been forwarded to CONAF for their responses and ratification. Key features of the revised draft include: reference to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity; recognition of traditional resource use; an open and transparent participatory process for the discussion of problem issues; inclusion of traditional authorities; an agreed procedure for nominating representatives. The contents of the revised agreement will be examined in greater detail in the annual report.

3.10 Chile research team continues mapping work and provides training in data collection for 32 members from the communities

Formal mapping work has not yet begun as the training of community representatives has not concluded yet. Two workshops in ethno-methodologies for collecting information on indigenous knowledge system and traditional environmental management forms will be delivered in the first week of November. Both

processes, the mapping of bio-geographical features and of collection indigenous knowledge will begin during the third week of November.