

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	16-004
<b>Project Title</b>	Conservation of the Cerrados of Eastern Bolivia
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Bolivia (with Brazilian involvement)
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Museo de Historia Natural "Noel Kempff Mercado", Santa Cruz (principal) Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Chiquitano Herbario Nacional de Bolivia Universidade de Brasilia Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
<b>Project Leader</b>	Robert Scotland & Colin Hughes
<b>Report date</b>	3 October 2008
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 2
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.darwincerradosdebolivia.org">www.darwincerradosdebolivia.org</a>

## **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 has made substantial progress during the reporting period. During the April-June period a full programme of field work was carried out and substantial and important collections were made. Good progress has been made with identification, photographs and data entry. Two consultancy visits took place, one on Asteraceae by Dr Hind from Kew and one on imaging and data basing by Peter Hopkins from Brazil – Dr Hawthorne's visit was postponed to October. The project website was set up, papers published in in-house journals in Santa Cruz and Oxford and scientific papers are underway. Substantial quantities of herbarium paper have been purchased

## **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 has faced three unexpected difficulties during the reporting period, which have had limited impact to date but may have serious long-term implications:

- As reported earlier, we have had difficulties entering some key areas. This problem continued in the April-June period when we were unable to enter the Santo Corazon region or the Serrania de Huanchaca because roads were closed, bridges collapsed and pontoons broken. If we are unable to enter these areas over the next six months, our coverage of the project area will be limited.
- Bolivia is passing through a period of political instability with conflicts between the central government and regional authorities. To date this has only affected our link with Brazil. Three consultancy visits from Brazil have been postponed, one for illness but two because of the political situation here. We have two UK consultants due in the next few weeks and while we

expect they will come, the British Embassy has been advising against travel to the project area for several weeks now.

- Exchange rates have moved strongly against the project, especially since July. One pound bought two US dollars in July but now only purchases 1.75 dollars. Additionally the Boliviano is appreciating against the dollar and we have had to raise local salaries to US \$900 (from \$800) simply to maintain them at the equivalent level in the local currency. Clearly if this situation continues, there will be a significant impact on project costs.

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

It is best to wait to see how the situation develops over the next months before assessing any change to our work plan.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:**                      **no**

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:**      **no**

**3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No**

**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](mailto: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**