

**DARWIN INITIATIVE PROJECT SCHEDULE ref: 162/08/116**

**Organisation name :** University of Sheffield

**Name of project :** Conserving the rare flora of Central Argentina

**Project purpose :** To investigate how changes from earlier traditional forms of land management have affected the survival of rare species and the invasion of aliens.

**Project objectives :** To survey two important but neglected vegetation types (Dry Chaco and high mountain grasslands and shrublands) and to create a database of functional attributes for species of conservation interest. Specifically: to use British expertise for the collaboration with and training of local scientists in relevant field survey methods, techniques for measuring autecological characteristics of plants, database management, resource assessment and conservation management; to carry out survey work and develop a functional understanding of the causes of rarity and decline in the flora of Central Argentina; to produce a database to evaluate the survey information and recommend future conservation measures; to review and evaluate existing conservation measures and to make recommendations concerning management for biodiversity within the two nature reserves studied.

**Length of project :** April 1999 to March 2002

**Total project cost :** £209,200

**Darwin funding profile :** 1999/2000 £37,150; 2000/2001 £39,250; 2001/2002 £45,875

**Other sources of funding :** The University of Sheffield and the Universidad De Cordoba and the Department of Natural Areas of Cordoba will contribute a total of £86,925 covering overheads, some salaries and services, facilities and accommodation.

**Expenditure profile :** see Table A

**Target outputs :** see Table B

**Implementation timetable with milestones :** see Table C

**Key staff inputs :** see Table D

<b>Reporting requirements :</b> 31 October 1999	First report (1.4.1999 to 30.9.1999)
30 April 2000	Annual report (1.4.1999 to 31.3.2000)
31 October 2000	Six month report (1.4.2000 to 30.9.2000)
30 April 2001	Annual report (1.4.2000 to 31.3.2001)
31 October 2001	Six month report (1.4.2001 to 30.9.2001)
30 April 2002	Annual report (1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002)
30 June 2002	Final report.

**Arrangements for monitoring trainee outcomes:** A training element will run throughout the project, beginning with the Workshop in Year 1. There will be intensive training courses in Years 2 and 3, and also informal monitoring of trainee outcomes during field visits.

**Table A**

<b>PROJECT COST</b>				
<b>Total Darwin Grant : £122,275</b>				
Annual Darwin Grant				
↳	1999/2000	£37,150		
↳	2000/2001	£39,250		
↳	2001/2002	£45,875		
<b>DARWIN GRANT : EXPENDITURE DETAILS</b>				
<b>Expenditure details</b>	<b>1999/2000</b>	<b>2000/01</b>	<b>2001/02</b>	<b>Total</b>
Rents, rates, heating, lighting, cleaning				
Postage, telephone, stationery				
Travel, subsistence				
Printing				
Conferences, seminars, training				
Capital items : field equipment and consumables				
Other: medical expenses, inoculations etc.				
Salaries				

**Table B**

<b>PROJECT OUTPUTS</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Output ref. no.</b>	<b>Details</b>
<b>1999/2000</b>		
April/May	15A	Argentinean press releases issued to: 2 local/regional newspapers; 2 national newspapers; and 2 magazines involved in environmental sciences and environmental education.
April/May	15C	UK press releases issued to 35 targeted national, regional and scientific press, plus radio and TV.
February	6A/B	10 scientists (4 senior scientists, 2 post-doc, 4 PhD students) attend 2-3 day workshop, to be held at either: 1) Faculty of Sciences, National Cordoba University, or 2) at the National Park Quebrada del Condorito. Workshop will be scheduled February 2000, and will be attended by John Hodgson and Jeremy James from the University of Sheffield.
February	14A	Following the Workshop, discussion will be held with at least three conservation bodies: 1) National Parks Administration, belonging to the National Government, 2) Natural Areas Department, of the Provincial Government, 3) Two NGOs also involved in the management of the natural areas. JH and JJ will also visit study areas.
<b>2000/2001</b>		
December	6A	One week of intensive training at the National Park to involve local leaders, guardians and provincial and national technicians and, perhaps advanced students from local schools.
February	8	Two week visit to Argentina by Dr John Hodgson and Prof Phil Grime from the University of Sheffield to help with methodological problems.
March	12A	One database established.
<b>2001/2002</b>		
April-June	6A/B	Darwin Fellow in Sheffield for three months. Training in computing and database development, plus preparing scientific papers and project deliverables.
February	6A/B	One week training course at the National Park for conservationists and farmers.
March	9	Provide the regional government with Master Plan, detailing priorities for research and monitoring. We also expect to develop a joint plan of action between the scientific community and other institutions, both local and national, involved in conservation.
March	11B	“X” number of papers submitted to international journals.

Table C

<b>PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Key milestones</b>
<b>1999/2000</b>	
April-October	Review of existing information completed.
October	Work programme developed.
November	Finalise work programme and agree sampling sites, choose species for study, advise on databasing, survey techniques and autecological measurements
November-March	Validation of attributes against existing experimental and field data.
December	Fieldwork started
February	Run 2-3 day workshop for 10 Argentinean scientists, plus two UK scientists.
February	One week of discussions and field visits to be held with at least three conservation bodies: 1) National Parks Administration, belonging to the National Government, 2) Natural Areas Department, of the Provincial Government, 3) Two NGOs also involved in the management of the natural areas.
<b>2000/2001</b>	
February	Two week visit to Argentina by Dr John Hodgson and Prof Phil Grime from the University of Sheffield to help with methodological problems.
March	Fieldwork completed
<b>2001/2002</b>	
April-June	Argentinean Fellow in UK to set up database, and assist in computer programming and drafting of scientific papers.
August	In house testing in Argentina of data interpretation system for reliability and ease of use completed
October-February	Data interpretation system tested for user friendliness and usefulness with Argentinean conservationists
February	One week course run for conservationists and farmers.

**Table D**

<b>KEY STAFF INPUTS</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>Grade/Position</b>		
Dr John Hodgson	Principal Botanist		
Prof Phil Grime	Principal Ecologist/QA		
Jeremy James	Senior Project Ecologist		
Paul Bradley	Administrator		
Marcelo Cabido	Senior Ecologist		
Sandra Diaz	Senior Ecologist		
Sandra Basconcelo (tbc)	Field Ecologist		
Bernardo Sonzini/Conrado Juan Rosacher (tbc)	Communications Expert.		
<b>STAFF TIME ALLOCATIONS (% of time spent on this work)</b>			
<b>Name</b>	<b>1999/2000</b>	<b>2000/2001</b>	<b>2001/2002</b>
Dr John Hodgson	15	10	20
Jeremy James	8		
Prof Phil Grime	2	8	5
Paul Bradley	10	10	10
Marcelo Cabido	30	30	30
Sandra Diaz	30	30	20
Sandra Basconcelo 9(tbc)	50	100	100
Bernardo Sonzini/Conrado Rosacher (tbc)	----	30	30