

## Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	EIDPO19
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>DarwinNet</b> and the Tumbesian Important Bird Areas
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Peru and Ecuador
<b>UK Organisation</b>	BirdLife International
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional-Peru, Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional-Ecuador, Fundación ProBosque
<b>Project Leader</b>	Dr. David Thomas
<b>Report date</b>	15 October, 2006
<b>Report No.</b>	2
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.darwinnet.org">www.darwinnet.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).

For the reporting period activities have followed the project timetable. The in-country team has had two project planning meetings (7–8 June & 30-31 August 2007). The team has also regularly visited the IBAs of interest and maintained constant communications with local and regional stakeholders, with whom some activities have been organized:-

#### Meetings and exchanges

##### Communities

- *First National Forum on Private and Community Conservation* (Lima, 19– 20 April), organized by the Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA), to exchange experiences between communities where conservation initiatives have been implemented.
- *Bi-national workshop 'Exchange of experiences and initiatives in tourism & production by communities in IBAs of the Tumbesian Region'* (Bahía de Caráquez, Ecuador, 10-11 May), organized by DarwinNet. 60 participants from community members from 10 IBAs in Peru and Ecuador, together with NGOs and government. One product was the formation of the Private Forests of Cordillera El Balsamo Network.
- *Bee-keeping Exchange workshop* (Numbiaranga, 19 July). With 30 community members and the participation of Ing. Andrés Olaechea, collaborator of Huarango (*Prosopis sp.*) conservation project funded by Darwin Initiative in southern Peru.
- *Exchange of experiences in conservation & development in the buffer zone of IBA La Ceiba* (La Ceiba, 13-14 September). 23 participants from various stakeholder groups from Peru and Ecuador.

##### Reserve Managers / NGOs / Agencies / local stakeholders

- *First Workshop on the Conservation and Development of Dry Forests in Piura Region* (Piura, 2 May) & *First Workshop on the Conservation and Development of Dry Forests in Lambayeque Region* (Chiclayo, 4 May).
- *North-west Peru Biosphere Reserve Coordination Committee meeting* (Tumbes, 21 August). Co-organized by DarwinNet, with participation of 25 institutions.

##### Planning meetings with NGOs, institutions & authorities

- DarwinNet and NCI continue to participate in the process of the implementation of the Regional System of Conservation Areas of Piura.
- NCI and DarwinNet are participating in the development of the project *Conservation of Natural Areas: Dry Forest* financed by KfW and PROFONANPE-INRENA.
- Project has participated in the elaboration of the Management Plan of the *Reserva de Producción Faunística Manglares del Salado* (Guayaquil).
- Project is participating in the elaboration of the project '*Conservation of dry forests in the El Balsamo Cordillera*'.
- Activities continue with bi-national species trafficking, together with INRENA and the Ministry of Environment. Joint border patrols have been organised and a manual on the topic has been produced.

#### Network of IBA stakeholders:

- Network is being formalized with written cooperation agreements with and between stakeholders, including: Numbiaranga community (IBA Cañon del Rio Catamayo) and La Ceiba IBA (5 April). After the First Meeting of Community Organizations of Dry Forests (22-23 March), the project supported the formation of a network of 4 community organizations, with 131 families to promote the sustainable use of some 35,800 Ha of forests in

the provinces of Loja and Zamora-Chinchipe. Project supported formation of network of Private Forests of the Cordillera EL Bálsamo (11 May). Project has formally linked to the Red-Costa of Ecuador (12 July).

- Project has formally linked with some 10 communities in the buffer zone of IBAs Cerros de Amotape Nacional Park, Coto de Caza El Angolo, RVS Laquipampa, together with INRENA.
- Project has assisted with the legal recognition of Limon parish (9 June) which includes the Frejolillo forest (1,300 Ha, part of the IBA Olmos).
- Project has established permanent communications between INRENA (Peru) and the Ministry of Environment (Ecuador) for the implementation of a work programme against the trafficking of species across the border.

**Raising awareness amongst communities:**

- During celebrations for World Environment Day, project was invited by the Department of Environment of the Municipality of Guayaquil (5 June) to install a stand at a fair.
- Project has given talks in the buffer zone of IBA Coto de Caza El Angolo (25 May, 25 June) and Frejolillo forest – IBA Olmos (16 June, 22 August), with some 300 students and teachers.

**Systematization and dissemination of information & webpage:**

- Three new editions of the project bulletin (DarwinNotas) on-line. Factsheet on-line on bee-keeping. Bulletins are always distributed in printed format during all organised events.
- .pdf version of the 1995 BirdLife book: *Biodiversity and Conservation in Tumbesian Ecuador and Peru*, launched on-line 9 May.
- Report and factsheet on NCI's conservation initiative in the Frejolillo dry forest (IBA Olmos) (<http://www.darwinnet.org/factsheet44.htm>)
- Development of database of biodiversity of Piura as part of the project 'Identification of Priority Conservation Areas in Piura', lead by the Regional Government of Piura.
- 3 peer-reviewed articles in preparation: Distribution of the Peruvian Plantcutter (*Phytotoma raimondii*); First nests and eggs of the Peruvian Plantcutter (*Phytotoma raimondii*); Nests and reproduction of the Tumbes Swallow (*Tachycineta stolzmanni*).
- Species action plans for: *Artibeus fraterculus*, *Allouata palliata aequatorialis*, *Cebus albifrons*, *Boa constrictor* and a dry forest tree, on-line in November.
- Project email-list now has 1,754 members.
- Website is in the process of being overhauled and moved to NCI server (test version available at [www.naturalezaycultura.org/darwinnet](http://www.naturalezaycultura.org/darwinnet)).

**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.**

An unexpected development has arisen with regards to the perception that many local communities' members and to a lesser extent (government) reserve managers and other regional government staff have about DarwinNet. Despite efforts to explain that DarwinNet is a CHM and not an institution, community members expect DarwinNet to provide them with micro-credits and other resources to implement in the short term what they have learned during the training and exchange visits.

To increase sustainability and secure more support and involvement from representatives of the regional government, the National Resources Management Institute (INRENA) and NGOs working in the area, the DarwinNet team has invited and secured the participation of these government and NGO officials to the local community training workshops and exchanges activities. These officials have promised their long term involvement in these areas.

**Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? NO**

**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**