



Darwin Initiative Regional Workshop Serras dos Orgaos National Park Brazil

November 2009
Proceedings



The Darwin Initiative

The Darwin Initiative is a UK Government small grants programme which was launched at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. It aims to assist countries rich in biodiversity but constrained by financial resources to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The Initiative is funded and managed by the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). This is the UK Government's main support to other countries (including the UK's Overseas Territories) in their implementation of the CBD, and more recently the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), through the funding of collaborative projects which draw on UK biodiversity expertise.

Communicating Lessons Learnt

The Darwin Initiative has a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) programme in place which is central to informing on the progress of the Darwin Initiative against its goal – 'to support countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to meet their commitments under one or more of the major biodiversity conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Convention on Migratory Species; and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species'.

The M&E programme is used in a number of ways to help inform on best practice, to support ongoing projects in their delivery, to strengthen the Darwin Initiative itself, and to demonstrate the gains Darwin Initiative projects have made in conserving biodiversity through partnerships between the UK and developing countries.

The Darwin Initiative Communications programme is essentially centred on sharing those lessons derived from both the Darwin Initiative's M&E programme but also on those lessons derived from the Darwin projects themselves. The Communications programme supports networking and sharing of lessons through a number of avenues:

- Through the Darwin Initiative website – all public documents are shared through this website including project annual reports, Evaluations of Closed Projects, Thematic Reviews and guidance notes.
- Through the Darwin Initiative newsletter. This is a resource open to the whole Darwin Initiative community to share experiences, challenges and successes through delivering work in support of the CBD, CMS and CITES using Darwin Initiative funding.
- Through UK workshops and working groups such as the New Project Leaders, Project Leaders Workshop, and the annual Darwin Lecture.
- Through the Regional Workshops hosted for, and in celebration of, the host institutions and the work carried out by them in partnership with the UK.

Cover Photo: *Workshop group in the Serras dos Orgaos National Park, November 2009. Photo Credits: Calvin Bernard.*

These workshop proceedings were developed by Lesley Brown on behalf of the Darwin Initiative.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

PURPOSE OF THE WORKSHOP

The Darwin Initiative assists countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to meet their objectives under one or more of the three major biodiversity Conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES); and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), through the funding of collaborative projects which draw on UK biodiversity expertise.

The Darwin Initiative has funded over 650 projects in 148 countries since its first round of funding in 1993 and our focus at this workshop was the Darwin Initiative's contribution to biodiversity conservation in Central and South America. To date the Darwin Initiative has provided £3 million to Central American projects and £11.8 million to South American projects; for examples of the types of projects that have been funded, please visit the Darwin Initiative website <http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/>.

This is the second regional workshop of the Darwin Initiative following our first successful workshop in Tanzania in 2008. The Darwin Initiative has traditionally hosted numerous events in the UK attended by all the UK partners and any visiting overseas partners. The regional workshop, however, is an opportunity for host country people to engage with others working in the region under the Darwin Initiative and to gain a wider perspective of the excellent work being carried out with Darwin Initiative funding. As in Tanzania, the aim was to explore partnerships but on this occasion from the perspective of Latin America.

Project staff from all the recent and current projects in Central and South America were invited to attend the workshop to discuss their experience of and issues surrounding **'Partnership Working'**:

- To strengthen the network among conservation practitioners in Central and South America;
- To develop a greater understanding of the challenges facing biodiversity conservation on this continent;
- To present the findings of their work; and
- To develop guidance for other current and potential Darwin Initiative collaborators on effective partnership working.

The proceedings contain summaries of the presentations given and the outcomes of the three breakout sessions held in the afternoon. The topics for these sessions were:

- 1) Establishing a mutually beneficial partnership;
- 2) Long-distance project management; and
- 3) Evolution of the purpose of partnerships.

Topic 1: Establishing a Mutually Beneficial Partnership

Presentation 1: Andres France

INIA - Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias

15-004 Conserving and Using Entomopathogenic Fungi and Nematodes within Chile

Project Purpose: To enhance conservation and sustainable use of epf and epn in Chile through increased capacity in collection, curation & characterisation.

This project was built upon a long-standing relationship between the Chilean host partner, INIA and the UK partner, CABI International. Due to the international structure of CABI International, INIA is the *de facto* official Chilean partner of CABI which means there is already a special relationship between the 2 institutions.

The idea for this project came from the core team in the UK and Chile to address the biodiversity first investigated by Charles Darwin on his Beagle trip. The focus of this project was on entomopathogenic fungi and nematodes, a largely under investigated taxa in both Chile and worldwide. The team intended to follow largely in Darwin's footsteps so selected sample sites in line with his historic journey. Thus the methodology took samples where agriculture is practiced in Chile, from Tierra del Fuego to the northern boundary with Peru. From sea-level to 4000m+ above sea level.

In terms of ensuring a mutually beneficial partnership this project felt the inception period was vital to its success – during this period the team met in Chile to define the field methodology and discuss roles and responsibilities. In addition the team used the survey trips as a reference point for people working on the project, these trips defined the next steps of the project. The trips were particularly useful as it brought many of the UK and Chilean participants together in an environment where there were few distractions, and were seen as an opportunity to clarify the purpose and the objectives of the work.

Outside of these field trips management of the projects was largely conducted by e-mail and occasional phone calls.

Project Outcomes

The project was successful in obtaining 528 new isolates which are expected to be important for looking at agricultural pests. Within their sampling they discovered many new species of nematodes and fungi which they hope will be useful to control pests, particularly root destroying pathogens.

In addition to this the project resulted in a newly established Technological Centre for Biological Control. This hosts the fully curated collection of isolates collected as part of this Darwin project, including 530 fungi and 101 nematodes not previously known to science.

Highlights

- The project team used many media to highlight the importance of this work including scientific presentations, newspaper, radio and TV and YouTube. A photo diary has been uploaded onto YouTube and can be found here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3viXZSvd84>;
- Adapting to extreme situations when delivering a field-orientated project was essential in Chile. For example, just 24 hours after a sampling trip a volcanic eruption caused the entire area to be blanketed by ash. This project was therefore probably the last group to sample this area before the ecology of this area changed for good. Ash from this volcanic eruption reached as far as 6,000km away. A further eruption happened at Llaima just weeks after the field team had passed through collecting samples. This area is again fully covered now by ash and lava. This highlights the fragility of the ecosystems we work in and also highlights the diversity of ecosystems we work in, particularly the micro-environments.

Presentation 2: Patricia Fabiola Beristain Ruiz

Universidad de los Lagos, Osorno Chile

15-020 Reducing the Impact of Exotic Aquaculture on Chilean Aquatic Biodiversity

Purpose: To build, in collaboration with government, industry and other stakeholders, the capacity for assessing, monitoring, and reducing the impact of the accidental or deliberate introduction of exotic fish species on Chilean aquatic biodiversity.

This project was a collaboration between the University of Swansea in the UK and the Universidad de los Lagos in Chile. There were a number of other collaborators and partners in this project but the main emphasis was between Swansea and los Lagos. These other partners included:

- ERC Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Banchory (UK);
- University of Victoria (BC, Canada);
- US Geological Survey (USA);
- Oregon State University (USA);
- Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand).

The project team believe, as a result of this Darwin Initiative project, that Chile has enhanced capacity to address the sensitive topic of exotic aquaculture in Chile, and have strong skills in engaging with sensitive partners and stakeholders to the benefit of biodiversity.

In comparison with the previous project, much of the emphasis of this project was in engaging with new collaborators to work in partnership towards reducing the impact of the accidental or deliberate introduction of exotic fish species on Chilean aquatic fish biodiversity. This is a sensitive subject; particularly for commercial operators in Chile, therefore there was a need for a soft approach to this work. In essence there were 3 objectives of the work:

- a) Capacity building and training in assessing impact of exotic invasions;

- b) Research and monitoring of exotic and naturalised fish species; and
- c) Education programme and dissemination of results.

The project hosted three large workshops which were the focal points of the project.

First workshop

The first workshop focused on the issue of escaped salmon. Most of the project partners attended this workshop in addition to a number of Chilean collaborators, who all had real enthusiasm for the subject.

The workshop was in recognition of complexity of issues surrounding escaped salmon, in that it requires a number of people to work together to form an agreement on the way forward.

As a result of this workshop the project was able to:

- Obtain a baseline for future work by written agreement from those who attended the first workshop. This agreed that there was a need to understand IAS and its potential impacts in order to manage for future escapes;
- Reach an agreement for increased communication between all these relevant stakeholders;
- Agree to work in collaboration to develop more sustainable aquaculture in future; and

Note: a most interesting aspect that many of those that signed the agreement were from the government in addition to groups from the Falkland Islands, from NGOs and from international institutes including international universities.

Second workshop

This was convened to engage those local aquaculturists and groups who found travel to the south tricky; by orientating it in the north the project team were able to engage with other stakeholders not represented at the first workshop. Also included in this workshop was a session for students and university staff on the use of genetic software for stock identification and parental assignment. This provided hands-on knowledge of the work at hand.

Third workshop

This workshop was hosted at a lake in Chile that is one of the most contaminated by escaped salmonids.

At this workshop the participants debated the development of a Code of Best Practice and a Management Action Plan which would include future strategies for more sustainable aquaculture.

Conclusions

This project engaged with a wide range of stakeholders relevant to the issue of aquaculture. This included:

- Engaging volunteers to support the project through their MSc thesis.

- Engaging with salmon industries in Chile including one of the biggest marine harvesters in Chile and also the small local businesses.

Engaging with the private sector about escaped invasive salmon, was a sensitive subject therefore we recognised the need to proceed with caution; the industries were understandably nervous about the samples and testing being undertaken. However the team were successful in their endeavours through careful relationship management.

As a result, the capacity of Chile to address the issue of invasive salmon has been built immensely through this project and the Chilean team are now looking to provide this support and capacity to other countries. It is their intention to establish a scientific network with other countries to allow them to tap into aquaculture. The project team hope the skills and capacity gained during this first Darwin project can be of use to other countries.

Question and Answer Session on Establishing a Mutually Beneficial Project

Q. Andres had a simple partnership and simple project yet Patricia has a simple output yet multiple partners. Can you please explain to me how you managed for this?

Patricia: We needed to engage with many groups, including the government. Therefore much of the time and effort on this project was to support and develop these relationships. This meant that our methods needed to be reasonably straightforward and not require hugely intensive techniques in both resources and time to detract from the relationships we were building.

Andres: We were lucky in that we have a long-standing relationship with our UK partners. therefore we already had a mutual understanding of the objectives and methods used. This meant we were able to progress fairly quickly using similar management methods that we had used on endeavours before.

Q. The topic was to look at mutually beneficial partnerships. What were the mutually beneficial elements for each project?

Patricia: The Chilean partners gained many opportunities to establish collaboration and partnerships from this work. This included new proposals developed as a result of these partnerships. This means there is now higher information flow both in Chile and elsewhere. This means we have agreed stages and priorities to the next phase of our work together.

The UK partner gained a greater understanding of how to engage with sensitive collaborators such as industry. They were amazed at the speed with which the Chilean partners were able to garner agreement from these sources and learned a lot about how to develop relationships when dealing with such a sensitive subject.

Q. What were the good practices that you found Patricia? How did they commit to reducing this impact?

Patricia: We wanted to work with these people without making massive demands to change the practice of aquaculture. We felt this was the remit of the government. For example salmon production drops as a result of escapes, causing the number of cultivation sites to drop dramatically. Therefore we looked at developing a contingency plan to include recaptures. Previously escapes were well known but recapture was not a practice that had been addressed.

Q. With regards to the agricultural pest control potential of the nematodes projects, was this something for which the benefit was only felt in Chile or did the UK partners benefit from this project also?

Patricia: Chile's agriculture model is different from Canada and Australia – they admire the developments of Chile but in general the overseas partners probably learnt a lot from Chile's ability to engage with industry. As a result of their involvement, the overseas partners are trying to use this same model in other areas now.

Andres: Taxonomy and molecular ecology expertise was not available in Chile so we needed the UK for this – it wouldn't have been possible to do this work without the UK partners. Also CABI is the major curator of micro-organisms in the world, so it is important to boost their collection with material from this project. This collection is important as it curates micro-organisms that may be useful in other regions – they can have secondary metabolism activities that can be beneficial. These benefits will be further investigated and developed in the future.

Topic 2: Long-distance project management

Presentation 1: Hemchandranauth Sambhu

Iwokrama; University of Guyana

15-013 Biodiversity and Sustainable Development of Butterfly Production (Lepidoptera)

Purpose: To increase knowledge of the butterfly diversity and to sustainably exploit these populations within the Iwokrama forest and surrounding community areas.

There have been two Darwin projects in Guyana – a wetlands project (main and post) and the butterfly project. This presentation focused on the Butterfly project and the lessons learnt.

Biodiversity and sustainable development of butterfly production

The topic being discussed is long-distance project management, therefore it is important to understand the people situation. The history of Guyana is mixed with it having been variously a Dutch, British and French Colony. There are many groups of indigenous peoples in the interior of Guyana, with the newer inhabitants mostly based on the coast. This means that all the industries and training institutions of Guyana are along the coastline, as is commerce. This in essence is a blessing in disguise as it means the culture and biodiversity of the interior have largely been preserved.

Iwokrama, where this project was based, is one of the larger protected areas but is not a 'normal' protected area. It has extensive wetlands in and around Iwokrama which were a focus of the other two Darwin Initiative funded projects in Guyana, which supported work with the reserve's communities.

Within and around Iwokrama, the focus communities of the butterfly project are quite remote, based on the many waterways and tributaries. This means logistics of some of the work is very difficult, *e.g.* during wet seasons, access is possible but is far more difficult during the drier seasons. However the people of these communities have strong knowledge of ecology and biodiversity.

The butterfly project

The project established a butterfly farm 'Kawe Amazonica Butterfly farm' within Iwokrama. Prior to this project, the people had little use for butterflies. Now, as a result of the project, the butterflies are being farmed and bringing income to the area. The good news is there is a major highway being built between Guyana and Brazil which will help trade. The bad news is this will create more threats to biodiversity from encroachment and illegal activities such as hunting. The Darwin funding has helped to create linkages between groups to conserve biodiversity.

There were problems of course with the UK/Guyana partnerships due, for example to deadlines and poor communications. The project partners included the UK institution, (University of Warwick), government agencies and local institutions in the Iwokrama. As a result, many people with differing skills were involved on this project. The barriers to long-distance management and partnerships were:

- Distance between partners both in time and geography;
- Language as a barrier, particularly with the indigenous groups;
- Maintaining expectations;
- Cultural differences in views and approaches; noting International, national and local views differ greatly.

With regards to financial administration, all money for the project is given to the UK institution which kept all the administration of finances in the UK. Under this system, all decisions on spending and administration were kept within the UK partner.

There were times when the UK and Guyana partners were working at cross purposes due to their different cultural understanding. For example, simply getting a document signed in Guyana can take weeks.

Foreign Ideas – for this project butterfly farming was completely alien to Guyana therefore the concept for the project came entirely from the UK. This created some difficulties in that those in Guyana did not necessarily share the same long-term vision for the outcomes of the project. It was a challenging environment to communicate ideas and objectives, particularly with regard to long-term vision *versus* short term vision. The project also found that the differing personalities and personal characteristics of the team play a big role in projects such as this.

The project team were also concerned that it might be necessary to promise more than was feasibly possible with the time and resources available in order to be successful in gaining funding from the Darwin Initiative. This raised immediate problems of meeting overly ambitious expectations. The team felt it was difficult therefore to maintain and manage the expectations of the Darwin Initiative, the partners and the collaborators.

Presentation 2: Cristian Bonacic

Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile

15-006 Capacity Building for Temperate Rainforest Biodiversity Conservation in Chile

Purpose: To establish new public-private partnerships for conservation, with a particular focus on securing habitat connectivity in the Valdivian temperate rainforest region of Chile.

This project was a continuation of a long-term collaboration with the UK partner. The team had a previous project funded by the EU, so were well versed in working with one another towards shared goals. The Darwin Initiative allowed the team to start again in a brand new ecosystem, the temperate rainforests in Chile.

Communication for conservation in a globalized world

The term 'Developing Countries' is a misnomer, as they are often richer in other means, for example in culture and relations. Cristian was a student in the UK, and since then has worked on an international basis so he has quite a wide perspective of how this challenges biodiversity conservation.

A recent scientific paper published on global conservation priorities gave perspectives on what was important for conservation in the Southern hemisphere. The conclusion was that local leadership is vital for the continuation of conservation in the Southern hemisphere.

We in this room are in the minority for seeing, and understanding, that biodiversity is important. It is clear that much of the global population is uninterested and does not understand the importance of biodiversity. We therefore need to look at ways to better engage with the majority population. For example, classic methods of Red Lists *etc.* have not been hugely successful. Therefore we need to include 'normal' people on expeditions, and engage them in drama and talks. This, in addition to communicating within a project, is a hierarchical situation. However, those with a vested interest in a project can have differing views and ideas. Therefore we wanted to engage with these people through social networks, in a way they recognise in their normal way of life.

We worked therefore with local people to demonstrate the importance of wildlife, for example helping farmers to understand the importance of pumas. We felt that knowledge of biodiversity is largely unknown within own countries.

Darwin Initiative Project

Long-distance project management works to a degree but we felt the need to also include face-to-face work. Therefore from the outset we planned an inception meeting where agreements were signed and there was a common understanding of the priorities.

One of the big issues encountered was to do with finances, particularly to do with exchange rates.

In the year in which this project was first funded by the Darwin Initiative, Darwin also funded a further 4 new projects in Chile. Therefore we contacted the British Council in Chile to highlight the strength of the Darwin Initiative – they were unaware at this time but supported and facilitated a meeting between the five projects.

Conclusions

We suggest the British Embassy in target countries can be a useful link particularly when encouraging networking between projects within countries.

Whilst we, the partners, shared common goals the route to achieve these goals was challenging. Chile is changing dramatically, it is now seen as a transition country so the threat to biodiversity is higher.

We tried to create awareness through people's stomachs. The project set up a restaurant and those who visited were given information on the biodiversity in the surrounding area. We attracted visitors to the centre via the restaurant and were able to engage them with biodiversity matters while they ate.

The legacy of this project was for the team to establish:

- A permanent field station;
- A private company to run the restaurant; and
- A combination of small eco-businesses.

Topic 3: The Evolution of the purpose of partnerships

Presentation 1: Elsa Leticia Valiente Riveros

Instituto de Biología, UNAM

EIDPO06 Flying the flagship: delivering axolotl action plan at Xochimilco, Mexico

Purpose: Delivery of priority elements within the axolotl S/HAP that emerged from the original project

To understand the conservation needs of the axolotl, it is important to understand the history of their habitat within this lake in Mexico. In the 1500's, the Aztecs built islands in the lake, and cultivated this land. When the lakes began to dry up canals were built. In the 1950's these canals were used to irrigate the city. The water dried up further from this, so the city began to start to use the lake for sewage treatment. Therefore the remnant lake is tiny in comparison with the previous great lake.

Xochimilco was the Mexican city used in the Olympics. It has wet zones but only in a small area and the canals cut through this. Traditionally this area was used to plant seeds.

Threats to Axolotl

As an amphibian, the axolotl was very important culturally for the Aztec, who used to eat them. It is a top predator in its ecosystem but in the last 20 years, numbers have decreased immensely. Challenges facing Axolotl are:

- It is a popular meal;
- Population encroachment;
- Exotic species; and
- Popular laboratory species for study.

In 2005 with the first Darwin grant a research group was developed on the axolotl, to promote ecosystem rehabilitation and to promote appropriate management policies.

Participants in this work were largely from government and education institutions. By the time of the third meeting, academic institutions, government and foreign institutions such as Toronto zoo had been brought together. Training courses to support the development of tourism for the project has also been offered.

The project started working with other institutions to develop capacity in society to protect axolotl. What is important to understand is that reintroduction of the axolotl is not an option, due to the poor quality of the water environment.

So the focus of the work now is on:

- Reducing exotic species in the canal system;
- Creating refuges for axolotls in the canals to help increase the numbers;
- Aquaculture work to support tilapia growth in order to provide economic opportunities to support biodiversity conservation;

- Setting up a blog to support the establishment of management policies and action plans; and
- Have priorities set up for the next few years which include management plans and encouraging conservation of the axolotl and its environment.

Presentation 2: Frank Gonzalez-Brenes

INBio - The National Biodiversity Institute of Costa Rica

EIDPO033 Integrating local communities and science: management of La Amistad (Costa Rica – Panama)

Purpose: To increase the capacity and ability of local communities to use PILA in a sustainable manner whilst ensuring that the central role played by local communities in PILA's continued survival is recognised by national and binational authorities.

An initiative that works towards binational mutual benefit

This project was a direct partnership between the Natural History Museum in the UK and the National Institute of Biodiversity in Costa Rica and Panama. This project received two lots of funding from the Darwin Initiative, with the most recent, the post-project funding, finishing in September. The project was to support sustainable use of the Parc Internacional La Amistad (PILA), a transboundary protected area between Costa Rica and Panama.

The Objectives of this work were:

- Providing support to government agencies, NGOs and local communities through strategic information (Data), tools and training in order to support the development of a management plan for PILA;
- Devising a map of vegetation, unified and prioritised to identify the key species. This map would then serve as a base for a programme of binational management; and
- Supporting the compliance with the binational commitments in biodiversity stipulated by international initiatives, like the Convention of Biological Diversity (CDB) and the Global Strategy for the Conservation of Plants.

On paper, PILA is a strong park but in practice it has been difficult to ensure proper management. Hence the project's objective: *to develop a full baseline of the park's flora and fauna*. In addition, decision making between the two nations (Costa Rica and Panama) has been quite divisive. So the project collated information held in Panama and Costa Rica to develop a comprehensive map of the actual biodiversity of this park (from 1970's – 2005). This also served to highlight areas that have not been surveyed previously.

Although the project aimed to develop baseline knowledge, **through** this we were able to develop the skills and expertise of the current management staff. This, combined with the good maps, should see better, more informed decisions being made.

Expectations were high from outset but things changed. For example, the budget to include the entire park staff to be involved in the survey work was difficult to manage (logistically) and would leave us under-resourced. So, to support this, the project

developed the skills of local people to work as parataxonomists. Unfortunately it wasn't possible to fully complete this work. As 70% of area is inhabited by indigenous groups, it means there are cultural differences that can make working with them difficult.

Project partners included two individuals who are responsible for the biodiversity management. There was limited support from the institutions however for this work. So these individuals were involved in the sampling work in collaboration with the UK partners. As a result, many new specimens were collected. There was more field work in Panama compared to Costa Rica though. Some of the results of the fieldwork were quite exciting, for example:

- 50% of amphibian species were newly described as a result of the work;
- Similar new species in insects and beetles;
- We were able to publish a lot of the work in UK and elsewhere in scientific papers.

So what has been achieved?

- Baseline data of La Amistad national park;
- Human expertise greatly improved;
- Development of tools to support the management of the park;
- Development of skills of the staff to use these tools;
- There is now a wider network of people engaged to monitor biodiversity;
- This should mean a clearer decision making process;
- Also the project often doubled up resources with other groups working in this remote area e.g. Medical groups when visiting communities which made a greater impact on the region with fewer resources.

As a result of the project, the strategy of the two management groups has now changed to allow them to focus on the management of the project. The post project has kept the same partners but now the focus is on working with indigenous groups. The post-project will allow people to be trained to use the tools developed under the original project.

Of course long-term sustainability of the project requires a sustainable financial plan. The group is now working as scientific advisors to the government and using these finances to support the Protected Area work.

Question and Answer Section on Long-Distance Project Management, and The Evolution of Partnerships.

Q. What is your experience in terms of the influence on the expertise is needed from the UK i.e. who came up with the idea? Cristian's project was driven by the Chilean partners but Guyana was an idea from the UK who had limited expertise and knowledge of the situation.

Elsa: We inherited the project as a result of a previous project. Initially the UK institute was strongly involved in developing the training courses. When the project was continued the research became a larger component of the project. In the post-project, we wanted to remove reliance on the UK partner.

Sambhu: The initial idea for this project very much came from UK not Guyana. Farming butterflies was not a subject that anyone had any knowledge of in Guyana – although we perceive that as possibly being a lack of knowledge of what is available. Without greater awareness of what is possible it would have been impossible for this scheme to have been conceived in Guyana.

Cristian: The idea for this project was driven by both the UK and Chilean partners. As we were both starting in a new area we were on a similar playing field – i.e. similar challenges to both. So experience of bringing together project partners to work on mutual goals and objectives helped this.

Q. Has the CBD focal point been useful to anyone in delivering your project?

Sambu: Whilst we didn't mention them in our presentation, they were involved in the application for funding. However they did not play a role in the eventual project.

Q. When you start up a project what is the connection between the UK and beyond. Who is the actual project manager in practice – the UK or host?

Sambhu: In our case we saw the decision making largely lying with the UK partner, particularly the finances. As the implementation of this work was largely long-distance it put strong expectations on us, the Guyana partner.