

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	14-002
Project Title	Environmental educational programme promoting biodiversity conservation on Socotra, Yemen
Country(ies)	Yemen
UK Organisation	Durham University (Geography)
Collaborator(s)	Socotra Conservation and Development Programme, Yemen
Report date	<i>October 2005 (for the period July-September 2005)</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR1</i>
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).

Key milestones for year one are: Materials - Agreements reached on educational topics and materials selected; Yr 1: Materials drafted, translated, approved. Courses and training - Strategies and courses developed for field testing; Yr 1-2: Selected EPA staff trained in developing materials with teachers. Outreach strategy outside of curriculum developed. Teachers Training College - Teaching strategy and courses developed. Agreement with MoE - Yr 1-3: On-going meetings/discussions/emails, faxes with MoE, EPA, SCDP and other bodies in Sana'a resulting in EE being integrated into the curriculum, as initiated in Socotra.

By December 2005: Devise and agree Memoranda of Understanding with all primary stakeholders, including detailed TOR for all UK experts and host country teams involved; Meetings held with all partners to discuss appropriate materials formats; Educational topics agreed and basic formats selected; EPA staff trained in facilitation techniques to trial materials; Work modes with TTC agreed via MoE, EPA and SCDP; Meetings with MoE re curricular connections and relevance; Agreement re trialing on Socotra.

By the end of September 2005 (3 months): Core UK members had met to discuss the approach to adopt within the first year and these ideas had been shared by email with the key stakeholders in Yemen and the entire UK group. This led to on-going email communications and a first visit by Roderic Dutton (RD) to Sana'a in August for wide-ranging discussions with Abdel-Rahman al-Eryani (AR), SCDP Director and co-Director of the DI project, and a SCDP Advisor and a senior civil servant in MoE. This helped to sort out basic administrative points and to shape the introductory two-day workshop held in Sana'a in mid-September in which participated: AR, senior advisors, and core EE&A team from Socotra; A Deputy Minister from MoE and senior MoE staff concerned with curriculum, qualifications and inspection; the D-G Education for the Hadhramaut and the two Directors of Education on Socotra (for Hadibo and Qalansiyah); Dean, Faculty of Education (teacher training, TTC), Socotra (branch of University of Hadhramaut); the President and staff of EPA; Chairman and staff of the Yemeni Island's Authority; President of the Water and Conservation Unit of the Social Development Fund; Chairman and staff of the Yemen Society for the Protection of Wildlife; UNDP; three from the UK (RD; Barrie Cooper (BC), RSPB; Tony Milroy (TM), ALSCT). This very effective team-

informing and team-building exercise moved the project much further along the road towards good relations with MoE than expected so early. Similarly it began to build relations faster than anticipated with the MoE senior staff in the Hadhramaut and on Socotra and with the Faculty of Education (TTC) on Socotra. We are moving towards stakeholder MoUs and TORs. We have some way to go before reaching general agreement about the materials and, therefore, the initiation of training and of trialing the materials.

The September workshop also reached agreement about the next key steps. In the UK there is a meeting planned for November 11th (RD; Sue Christie (SC); BC) primarily to discuss the UK side of materials preparation and its close link with training. The outcome of the meeting will also facilitate the visit by RD and SC to Yemen in November, which will include a week on Socotra and some days in Sana'a and will, primarily, build on the various findings and outcomes of the September workshop and also include a workshop for all Socotra-based stakeholders. In December or January TM will visit Socotra to initiate 'learning by growing'. In March 2006 BC and Richard Porter (RP) will start the training programme, using the first materials by then produced.

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 first three months have not suggested any notable problems. However one change to overseas training has now been suggested, see below. There is also a possible financial / accounting problem in that we have activities planned for March 2006 (and therefore in the first-year budget, July 2005 to March 2006) but we are expected to make claims to Darwin for this period by end February 2006, see below.

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

Overseas training: The project document spoke of one person from Yemen coming to the UK for training. It was put to the Darwin Secretariat, and they have agreed, that it would be more cost effective (and absolutely more beneficial) if, instead, six Yemenis visited Jordan to spend time with Jordan's Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

Budget: The point about March 2006 expenditures has been put to the Darwin Secretariat and is under consideration.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: YES no/yes, in..JUNE/OCT 05..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: YES no/yes, in..JUL re training (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 by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**