



DARWIN INITIATIVE



Pre-Project Funding Report

This report should be completed and submitted with a Stage 1 Darwin Application

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| Project Title | The macroinvertebrates of riverine wetlands in Ghana |
| Country(ies) | Ghana |
| Project Ref No. (if known) | 14-017 |
| UK Organisation | Royal Holloway Institute for Environmental Research |
| Names / Titles of those who travelled to the host country | Prof. Edward Maltby Dr. Richard Thorne |
| Grant Value | £2861 |
| Start and Finishing Dates | 08/01/04 – 15/01/04 |
| Report Date | 31/07/04 |

1. Please provide a concise overview of the activities undertaken during the pre-project development visit. (Please also include relevant activities before and after, as appropriate). Please highlight those that were not planned.

- a. Identification of knowledge gaps and need for taxonomic capacity building in Ghana.
- b. Selection of study sites through discussions and field visits.
- c. Identification of roles of project partners (e.g. Centre for African Wetlands, Volta Basin Research Project, University of Ghana, WRI and Council for Scientific & Industrial Research).
- d. Identification of key stakeholders and interest groups and discussions with several.
- e. Development of detailed project workplan and timetable, sampling strategy and methods for data analysis.
- f. Development of an outline budget and identification of matching funding.
- g. Identification of key outputs for capacity building and training.

2. Were any difficulties or setbacks encountered? If so, how did they impact on the intended achievements for the visit, and on the intended Darwin project proposal.

The visit was very efficiently organised by the Centre for African Wetlands (CAW) and there were no significant difficulties. A longer visit would have permitted visits to more field sites and discussions with additional stakeholders.

3. Briefly explain how the pre-project funding has helped to confirm or change the planned project intervention – what difference did getting the grant make?

- a. Confirmed the lack of knowledge of macroinvertebrates and taxonomic capacity in the region.
- b. The visit allowed for various target groups to be identified for the project outputs
- c. The project will now be more closely linked to the Convention of Biological Diversity and its delivery in Ghana through the application of the Ecosystem Approach.
- d. A wider range of organism groups will now be considered.
- e. Allowed for a more extensive network of stakeholders to be established (e.g. Ghana Wildlife Society) which will allow outputs to be widely disseminated.
- f. The project will now have a regional impact as it will be linked to networks and a training programme administered by CAW.

4. Briefly describe the outcomes and conclusions arising from discussions with the host institution(s). What is the value of the project to the host institution(s) and what will their intended contributions be. Have any other partnerships evolved as a result of the pre-project grant?

- a. CAW will support the project in a number of ways:
- it will act as host and make its facilities available to the project;
 - it will contribute approximately 40,000 Euros to support training workshops;
 - it will act to establish support for the project from local organisations;
 - it will disseminate project outputs through its existing networks.
- b. The project will benefit CAW in a number of ways:
- it will enhance its position as the regional centre of excellence;
 - it will strengthen its links with organisations in the UK and West Africa;
 - CAW staff expertise will be enhanced through formal training and the implementation of the sampling programme and subsequent data analysis.
- c. A valuable link was established with the Ghana Wildlife Society, who will assist in the production of outputs. In addition, their network of clubs across Ghana will act in the dissemination and testing of output materials.
- d. Links were also established with the Council for Scientific Research. They will assist with the analysis of water samples.

5. Conclusion and lessons learned from the Pre-Project Grant

Briefly highlight the main conclusions (positive and negative) gained from the pre-project grant. Please also include any suggestions you may have for improving the impact of this funding scheme.

- a. The visit confirmed that there is a lack of knowledge regarding lotic macroinvertebrates in Ghana. Improving knowledge of this field will assist Ghana in the delivery of its obligations under the CBD.
- b. A number of project partners and their roles have been identified. In addition, a number of stakeholders have been identified for dissemination.
- c. Study sites were identified and a sampling programme developed.
- d. In discussion with partners a draft proposal was developed.
- e. A longer visit would have permitted visits to more field sites and discussions with additional stakeholders

Signed:

Name / Title: Prof. Edward Maltby

Date:

28th September 2004

Please restrict this report to no more than two pages in length and send the completed form to ECTF with your Stage 1 Application Form either via email to darwin-applications@ectf-ed.org.uk or by post to ECTF, Pentlands Science Park, Bush Loan, Edinburgh EH26 0PH.