

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report: April – September 2007

Project Ref. No.	14-035
Project Title	<i>Strengthening pro-poor wetland conservation using integrated biodiversity and livelihood assessment</i>
Countries	Cambodia and Tanzania
UK Organisation	IUCN – The World Conservation Union
Collaborator(s)	Overseas Development Group (University of East Anglia), UK IUCN Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group Asia, Sri Lanka IUCN Eastern Africa Regional Office, Kenya IUCN Cambodia Country Office IUCN Tanzania Country Office
Project Leader	Dr. William Darwall. Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, IUCN Species Programme
Report date	31 October 2007
Report No.	HYR 2
Project website	http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/our_work/freshwater/darwin_index.htm

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

The following scheduled project activities were addressed over this HYR reporting period;

- Field assessments and data collation in Stung Treng and Rufiji Floodplain

Whilst the field assessments were completed in Quarter 6, the process of identifying species from specimens and field records is continuing. Accessing taxonomic specialists to assist with species identification has proved difficult, as has obtaining export permits (in the case of the Odonata specimens from Tanzania) for external identification where relevant skills are not available locally. The remaining species identifications are expected to be completed shortly.

- Local language summaries #1

The local language summary for the Stung Treng field assessment was produced and disseminated during Qu. 6, immediately following the completion of the field assessment. Following feedback obtained from the local awareness workshop held in Mtanza-Msona, the summary for the Tanzania assessment is currently being translated into Swahili.

- Local language and National press releases #1

A press release was distributed to local media in Cambodia following completion of the field assessment. The press release resulted in a 30-minute interview in Khmer with the Morning News program of Cambodia television (KTV), which has been re-broadcast a number of times. This station is the largest in Cambodia, and is also received in other Asian countries, USA and Australia. An article based on the press release appeared in the *Environmental Magazine* (in Khmer) of the Cambodian Ministry of Environment.

A press release on the Tanzania project and its outputs has been prepared and published in local papers (*This Day* and its Swahili sister paper) during July 2007. The press release was also put on the notice boards at the Rufiji District offices in Utete. A national press release will be produced to coincide with completion of the final site report in November.

- National policy briefs #1

The national policy brief for the Cambodia assessment is in final editing by ELG with inputs from the regional consultants. The English version is to be produced by mid-October. The Tanzania policy brief is to be produced in November, following completion of the final site report.

- Local awareness workshops #1 in Stung Treng and Rufiji Floodplain

The Mtanza-Msona village workshop took place in July (Qu. 8), attended by more than 100 villagers, project staff and District Council staff. The workshop for Stung Treng was held

