

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2011)

Project Ref No	18-002
Project Title	Enhancing taxonomic capacity to underpin tropical biodiversity conservation (SE Asia)
Country(ies)	Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia
UK Organisation	Harrison Institute
Collaborator(s)	Prince of Songkla University, Thailand; Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia; National University of Laos, Lao PDR
Project Leader	Dr Paul Bates
Report date	24 October, 2011
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR2
Project website	http://www.harrison-institute.org/research/CRM_R3_Darwin_taxonomic%20network.html

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).

Progress in the first six months of the second year followed the timetable as laid out in Section 18 of the application form.

- Training programmes in field, museum and laboratory techniques continued
- The 4 PhD students worked on their research topics (batsx3; birdsx1) in conjunction with their in-country and international supervisors
- 3 PhD students took part in the 2nd International SE Asian Bat Conference in Bogor, Java
- Presentations about the Darwin project were made at meetings, workshops and conferences in Europe (including UK), Asia and Africa
- 1 PhD student made a study visit to Tring to study the bird collections of the Natural History Museum
- 4 MSc (independently funded) students from Thailand, Lao PDR, Bhutan and Zambia have joined the taxonomic research team in the Prince of Songkla University, Thailand to study aspects of rodent taxonomy
- Support in grant proposal writing and networking was given to staff and students of Prince of Songkla University to promote taxonomic research in amphibians in peninsular Thailand
- The research collections of the Prince of Songkla University, Royal University of Phnom Penh and the National University of Laos were all enhanced
- Further publications were submitted on various aspects of mammal taxonomy
- The digital library of taxonomic research papers and books now exceeds 2000 pdfs

- A MoU was signed between the Harrison Institute and FFI Cambodia to promote UK-Cambodia research
- Discussions were held with senior members of the National University of Laos concerning the future signing of an MoU
- The Asian Taxonomic Network was upgraded to the Afro-Asian Taxonomic Network and now includes 146 members from 42 countries

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.

Currently, there are no notable problems or unexpected developments.

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

Not applicable

Discussed with LTS: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/yes in.....(month/yr)

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

Currently, we are pleased with the progress of the project.

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 LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**