

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Community-based conservation of the Hoang Lien Mountain Ecosystem
Country	Vietnam
Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Project Ref. No.	10/011
Report date	5/11/01

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

- Project invitation meeting, held in Hanoi and Van Ban District, July 2001
- Biological surveys started. Large mammals and birds inventoried, main botanical survey started but currently suspended due to absence of UK botanist. The botanist appointed Dr Peter Boyce, RBG Kew failed to arrive in Vietnam and his current whereabouts are being investigated. It is believed that he suffered a breakdown.
- A number of priority sites already identified including new populations of black gibbon, and Vietnam's only population of a globally threatened conifer.
- Conservation awareness training completed.
- Black gibbon storybook in press.

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 effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

- Delays encountered during initial negotiations with local government during project implementation. Essential provincial endorsement for the project took nearly one month to secure.
- Disappearance of Peter Boyce led initially to disruptions of the main survey activity of this project, and now a complete cessation of field activities as we recruit a new botanist.

Project activities in the Van Ban district of the Hoang Lien Mountain have been successfully initiated: However, the combined impact of the above problems/unexpected developments have led to an overall six-month delay to the project schedule. Due to this the workplan for the project has been reconsidered during a recent strategic review and workplanning meeting. Proposed changes to the original workplan and consequent budget adjustments will be discussed with Ms Sylvia Smith upon submission of this report.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's

management, monitoring, or financial procedures.

Completed forms to: Rose Clarkson, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings,
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