

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Preservation, rehabilitation and utilisation of Vietnamese montane forests
Country	Vietnam
Organisation	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Project Ref. No.	162/10/017
Report date	31/10/2001

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

A combined visit by three of the four UK staff was made during August and September. Survey work on the threatened conifer species in South Vietnam commenced. Five species were surveyed in detail and four others had preliminary work carried out. These surveys covered fourteen different areas. The original target was five species or five areas. Three species have been selected for intensive ex-situ conservation work. Work on two of these will be carried out within the context of the project. The third species will be the subject of a separate funding proposal. A set of herbarium vouchers were collected and are currently being processed.

Two Vietnamese staff members were intensively trained in field-work, identification, conifer ecology and biology during the visit by the conifer specialists. Five other Vietnamese staff members were also trained in field-work, identification, conifer ecology, biology and conservation assessment. An additional one day workshop on conifer taxonomy and conservation assessment, involving 10 other Vietnamese staff, was also held. The first draft for the field guide to the conifers of Vietnam has been started.

Survey work on the mycorrhizal diversity of threatened conifers commenced and the collection and processing of the fruit bodies has been undertaken. Two staff members were intensively trained in identification, culture and inoculation of mycorrhizal fungi. Four other Vietnamese staff were trained in mycorrhizal field work techniques. Arrangements have been made for the visit of the fourth UK staff member for Jan 2002 and for the visit of the Vietnamese personnel.

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?

Recent political unrest in some key areas of the Central Highlands made it impossible for UK staff to visit certain military controlled areas. Vietnamese staff were able to visit some areas. This formed part of their training. It may be possible for the UK staff to visit those areas in the second or third year of the project. The problems are unlikely to effect either the timetable or the budget for the project.

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

No other issues at the moment.

Completed forms to: Rose Clarkson, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JK, Scotland. Email: R.Clarkson@ed.ac.uk