

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Marine Turtle Conservation and Ecotourism on the North Coast of Trinidad
Country	Trinidad, West Indies
Organisation	University of Glasgow
Project Ref. No.	162/10/026
Report date	31 st October 2002

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

The project's progress over the last 6 months has achieved all the goals and covered all the activities that were agreed in the original timetable. The NGO members of the project attended the conservation and ecotourism training scheme which was prepared preceding the trip to the host country. The North coast beach monitoring programme began in April, and data was collected continuously until the end of August with the help of students from Glasgow University and members of the NGO that successfully completed the training course. A youth group was initiated within the village of Matelot and took part in lessons on biodiversity and life skills to improve the level of awareness of the younger members in the community. Details of the second field season were discussed with the host country partners with plans for trial ecotourist groups. The researcher is currently analysing data from the turtle monitoring scheme, and the community based element of the project, and planning the visits of trial ecotourist groups.

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?

There has been one notable problem encountered over the last 6 months. On arrival in Trinidad, it appeared that the boat and engine that was meant to be used for the data collection had gone into disrepair and was unusable. Due to this, project money was used to purchase a boat and engine. This has affected the project from a budget perspective only, the timetable was not affected – besides the data collection starting a couple of weeks later than planned. An attempt will be made to find alternative funding to cover the money used for the boat and engine.

A change in the host country co-ordinator was an unexpected development within the project. This was due to disputes between the original co-ordinator group (TTO) and the community group (PAWI). TTO's role was no longer necessary as a mediator between the researcher and the community group. After talks within the wildlife Government Section, it appeared that it would be more reasonable for Stephen Poon (wildlife officer in charge of leatherback turtle conservation) to take the host country co-ordinator role. We are still working with TTO for publicity purposes. There will be little effect on the budget or the timetable.

Both of these issues have been discussed with DEFRA and approved. No changes have been made to the original agreement.

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

Not at present.

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