

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Darwin Initiative for the Sustainable Use of Sea Cucumbers in Egypt
Country	UK and Egypt
Organisation	University of Hull
Project Ref. No.	162/10/027
Report date	23 November 2001

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

The contract with Darwin was signed in Mid September. Consequently reporting period is rather short. However, there have been some problems with the project (see below) which have caused further delay. However, some progress has been made and targets reached. Also, an initiative to better manage the project is being developed which was not originally proposed.

A press release was sent out in the UK. This was taken up regionally and nationally in: Hull Daily Mail, The University Bulletin, The Yorkshire Post, The Daily Express, The Times Higher Education Supplement and the Sunday Times (Business Section). In addition, radio interviews were given for BBC Radio Humberside and the BBC World Service

Two Egyptians from the partner institute (Suez Canal University) visited Hull early November, to discuss the project management, work programme and staffing. They are currently arranging instruments in Egypt to allow management of the project (see below)

One of the students is currently working on sea cucumber identification in preparation for the monitoring programme

I am currently setting up a web based project management system to allow better management of the project. Notably better communication links between each of the partners.

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?

Following some minor delays in completing contract details we had hoped to officially launch the project in September. Unfortunately, given the country in which the project is based, the events on 11 September have caused further delays and changes in the project.

Notably, the named contact in Egypt (Dr Raouf Kilada) has emigrated to Canada. His family had already done this but he had intended to stay in Egypt to manage the project. Following September 11, his family had had some problems in Canada and consequently he had decided to move now to be with them.

This has meant identifying a new key partner in the host institution. Following a meeting in November, two people have been identified, Dr Ashraf Ibrahim and Dr Howaida Gabr. I am

currently waiting for CVs from each to pass to Darwin for acceptance of this change.

Due to this and other staff changes at Suez Canal University, the project work has been delayed. Whilst we settled for a start date of 1 October, with the changes still to be confirmed, survey work itself is unlikely to progress, as anticipated, before January 2002.

Full details of staff changes and role changes will be passed to the Darwin Initiative for approval in the near future

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

Staff from the Darwin Initiative will soon have access to the project through the interactive website. Would someone (Rose Clarkson?) like to be added to the participants on this site so that you can be kept up to date with project developments?

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