

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	162/12/034
Project Title	The Darwin Southeast Asian Wetland Restoration Initiative
Country(ies)	Vietnam
UK Organisation	Institute for Sustainable Water, Integrated Research and Ecosystem Research (SWIMMER)
Collaborator(s)	Can Tho University, An Giang University
Report date	<i>October 2005</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR3</i>
Project website	http://www.rhul.ac.uk/Environmental-Research/Research/Darwin/Darwin.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).

The principal activity over the last six months has been the planning and running of a series of workshops and project discussions in Vietnam from the 22nd to the 26th of August. The project visit comprised the following:

- Review of data collected since the previous project visit in November 2004
- Training in community engagement techniques for the project researchers in preparation for the community level dissemination workshops
- Presentation of the project results and outline conclusions to the key high level stakeholders from the region
- Stakeholder consultation on the strategic management plan for Mekong wetlands being produced by the project

The review of the data collection since the previous project visit in November 2004 examined the recently collected data on the bird, fish and plant diversity, water quality data and socio-economic data on resource use. This period saw the collection of the second additional survey designed to ensure the integration of the biophysical and socio-economic data. It is clear that there is now an extensive and valuable dataset on resource availability and use within the three study sites that will ensure that the final project report will provide valuable information on the Mekong Delta biodiversity.

With regard to the aim of the project to build capacity in the host country research teams, under the guidance of the project socio-economic expert there was a marked increase in the value of the data compared with the first socio-economic survey in August 2004. This indicates that the opportunity to review data collected and to alter data collection mistakes at the data analysis workshop held in November 2004 was a valuable exercise for the project.

The data review exercise was followed by a half day training in community engagement techniques for the project researchers. This training was in preparation for the community level dissemination workshops to be held in February 2006. The training focussed on techniques for identifying and communicating key messages from complex data and issues. The result of the training was a series of key points that the researchers felt were important to communicate at a community level from the data they have gathered. These points will be incorporated into the ongoing discussion with regard to the content of the workshops to be held in February 2006.

