

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162/12/034
Project Title	South East Asian Wetlands Restoration Initiative
Country(ies)	Vietnam
UK Organisation	Royal Holloway Insitute for Environmental Research
Collaborator(s)	Can Tho University, An Giang University
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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 key milestones in this reporting period in the original project implementation timetable were:

04/2004 - Biophysical and socio-economic surveys completed

05/2004 - Training workshop for local staff on data analysis

05/2004 - Website updated

07/2004 – Data analysis completed, reports submitted for peer reviewed publication

As agreed with the Darwin Secretariat, the original survey schedule has been modified so that surveys are carried out bi-monthly rather than monthly. This allows the data collection a full flooding cycle, picking up annual changes, and is a more scientifically useful sampling strategy than the original proposal. For this reason the biophysical and socio-economic surveys have not been completed but are progressing according to the revised schedule. Water quality data were collected in April, June and August. The April and June samples have been processed. Analysis of the August samples is not yet complete. Two socio-economic surveys have been completed.

As a result of this change to the project and changes in project staff just before the reporting period, the training workshop for local staff on data analysis was postponed from June to November, so that it occurs at the end of the data collection period. Preparations for the workshop in November have been underway for the past two months.

In place of the June workshop, the new project co-ordinator, Dr Conor Linstead, visited the Vietnamese partners. Meetings were held with Dr Ni of Can Tho University and Dr Thanh at An Giang University to review the progress with the data collection. Some of the field sites were visited for familiarisation. Hoa An research station, which will play an important role in later deliverables was also visited. As a result of the discussions and field visits held during this trip it was decided that additional field data collection was needed to ensure the integration of the socio-economic and biophysical data. This is reported on in more detail in the following section.

Dr Ni from Can Tho University visited RHIER from 15-8-04 to 19-8-04 as part of a trip to Europe for a conference and meetings. This gave the opportunity for the RHIER project team (Prof Maltby, Dr Sollars and Dr Linstead) to discuss in more detail progress with the revised fieldwork schedule.

In response to comments made in the review of the previous project annual report, the website has been

