

# 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.	13/023
Project Title	Tropical Forest Canopy Training Programme for the ASEAN Region
Country(ies)	Malaysia
UK Organisation	Global Canopy Programme
Collaborator(s)	Institute of Tropical Biology and Conservation (ITBC), Universiti Malaysia, Sabah
Report date	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2005 – 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	2
Project website	<a href="http://www.globalcanopy.org/training/sabahcourse.php">www.globalcanopy.org/training/sabahcourse.php</a>

**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).**

**Milestone 1: June and August 2005: Modules for 2005 course prepared by local trainers and draft canopy manual completed**

**Key Achievements:**

- Draft course manual prepared, circulated and agreed by regional workshop

**Summary of progress:**

All report authors identified at the workshop during the last course have submitted draft chapters for the canopy training manual. These were edited, collated and sent back to the group for comment. The draft manual was then collated by the GCP and submitted to the Regional Canopy Workshop held in September at ITBC (UMS). The course manual was discussed in detail during this meeting and alterations made to the design of suggested experiments. The manual structure and content was then agreed by the group with a number of additions and deletions to be actioned by ITBC and the GCP. The manual is proceeding therefore on schedule and is expected to be translated into Bahasa Malay prior to the July 2006 deadline stated in the project contract (Output 7)

**Milestone 2: September 2005: Regional workshop on canopy training held producing an agreement on the future of canopy training for the ASEAN region – course reviewed**

**Key Achievements**

- Regional workshop held for 30 Sabahan and ASEAN region participants
- Course manual agreed and signed off
- Course structure, future directions and funding strategy agreed
- Strategy developed for inclusion of course on UMS curriculum and draft module produced
- Declaration on canopy science for the ASEAN region produced

A workshop (Output 14A) was held at ITBC in Sabah from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of September 2005 and attended by 30 people, including representatives of the GCP, ITBC and ASEAN institutions. A number of subjects were discussed during this workshop and many specific outputs achieved. Key outputs included the agreement of the

workshop on the dates, structure, recruitment, agency support, staffing and assessment of the next two Darwin Initiative funded courses, the signing off of the course manual, the engagement of other ASEAN region agencies with the course, the agreement on the draft canopy training course module and the submission of this to the university board, the agreement on targets for funding the course following the end of Darwin Initiative funding, and a declaration on canopy science training in the ASEAN region to be used to sensitise Governments and other agencies about the growing network of canopy researchers in Sabah. In addition to these outputs, the workshop was opened by the Deputy Chief Minister for Sabah and Minister for Culture, Sport and the Environment who gave a supportive speech. The UMS Vice Chancellor also gave a supportive speech to the workshop. The workshop, and the associated canopy access demonstration received a lot of press attention, including 7 press articles and a number of television news items.

This project has achieved all logged action for this reporting period. Output targets have been met and in some cases exceeded. We are particularly pleased about the momentum that is being generated by the presence of the canopy training course in the region and the amount of interest and attention that the course is beginning to receive. A full workshop report will be included in our annual report.

**Output 16A Annual 'Canopy Fellows Newsletter' and bulletin board on GCP web site:**

Progress: This output was delayed and was not completed in time for the last report. The 1<sup>st</sup> fellows newsletter 'Branching Out' has now been produced and circulated to all course attendees. This publication has been useful for enhancing interest in the course from ASEAN institutions and was circulated widely during the Regional workshop in September 2005

**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 affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

The course dates for the second course have been changed due to alteration in term dates at UMS. This will impact on the project timetable only in that the 2<sup>nd</sup> course has moved from February 2006 to November / December 2005. The budget will be unaltered for the current financial year, but funds will be spent and claimed earlier than we would have otherwise anticipated.

**Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

These issues have not been discussed directly with the Darwin Secretariat as they will not delay the milestones or outputs of the project.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:** no

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:** yes. Second course will run in November / December 2005 instead of February 2006

**3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? We have no major issues to raise at this stage although, due the fact that we are a charity organisation with a minimal cash flow buffer, we have asked the Darwin Initiative to process our claims as quickly as possible upon receipt. Recent claims have taken over 6 weeks to process from the date of our posting them.**

**If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.**

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, [stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk](mailto:stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk). The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**