Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	13-026
Project Title	Field Guide to the Forest Trees of Southern Thailand
Country(ies)	Thailand
UK Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Collaborator(s)	The Forest Herbarium, Bangkok, Thailand
Report date	31 st October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	

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).

[Please note this was granted funding in mid-November 2004 to start on 1st January 2005; thus the timetable has shifted by 9 months from the Stage 2 application.]

Main tasks completed during April to September 2006 were primarily specimen processing and starting the production of a draft the field guide.

Specimen processing has resulted in all the specimens collected in the field being processed in southern Thailand and sent out (except for the final field trip in Oct. 2006); these have now been received at BKF and forwarded on to Kew – an additional c. 900 collections have been added to the specimen numbers (the specimen number collecting sequence is now up to 2757). All of fieldwork for the project, except for a three week trip in October–November 2006, was completed in the middle of May 2006 (18th May). In the period from April to May 400 collections were made. Kew has received these specimens in May – June 2006 all with labels and all with two duplicate specimens on average per collecting number. Additional specimen processing has included sorting to family, allocation of all families for specimen identification duties (mostly through botanists at BKF though several will be co-ordinated through Kew).

Production of the field guide: This involves writing draft accounts for the book, data management, and specimen identification. A key part of the field guide is the accurate identification of the specimens, once this is done the draft pages are written up. By the beginning of June 2006 all the specimens had been sorted to family (c. 4% are still unidentified to family level) and of the remainder 80% have been identified genus, and of those c. 40% have been identified to species level (baseline timetable: to complete 500 by Jan. 2007). To date 209 draft specimen accounts have been compiled (baseline timetable: 200 are to be done by Jan. 2006, a further 300 by Jan. 2007). Both species identifications and species descriptions will be increased throughout the year and reported on at the next annual report. In addition, taxonomic verification of duplicate species names, synonyms etc. has started to been done at Kew where resources are more readily available, as well as tracking down large amount of references for the project from the library at Kew.

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.

There have been no notable problems with the project, and the guide is still on schedule to be published during 2008 as in the baseline timetable. However, it appears that due to a miscalculation in the original budget the project team in Thailand may need to find more funding for the second half of 2007.

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

Not to date.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat:

no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

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

No.

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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> 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, <u>stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.</u>