

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

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| Project Ref. No. | 162/13/033 |
| Project Title | Combating alien invasive plants threatening the East Usambara mountains in Tanzania |
| Country(ies) | Tanzania |
| UK Organisation | Centre for Ecology & Hydrology & Tropical Biology Association |
| Collaborator(s) | Amani Nature Reserve & Sokoine University of Agriculture |
| Project Leader | Rosie Trevelyan |
| Report date | October 20 th 2007 |
| Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4) | HYR 3 |
| Project website | www.tropical-biology.org/training_research/dip/darwin.htm |

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 project held the second training workshop from 14th -18th May 2007 entitled Invasion Risk Assessment in Tropical Ecosystems. This was originally listed as “alien species management” in the original Darwin application and was scheduled to take place in October 2007. The workshop taught 14 Tanzanian conservation biologists from 9 institutions up to date techniques in the risk assessment of invasive alien plant species. Five participants presented work that had been stimulated by the training workshop held in 2006, and carried out in the intervening year, or stimulated by the pre-preparation for workshop 2. All participants rated the workshop as “excellent” (from a choice of excellent, good, average, poor, very poor) and the majority felt that the knowledge gained from the workshop will be “very useful” in their work back at their institutions. One participant wrote *“At first, I did not know where to start but now after the workshop, I do know how I can deal with alien species”* Eight participants have submitted joint research proposals based on the skills they learned on the workshop and are expected to complete the research by February 2008. These are new projects that would not have been initiated if it were not for the workshop, and are additional outputs for the project over and above those originally planned.

Two Tanzanians attended a TBA tropical ecology field course. These were Jackline Herman Ngowi from the University of Dar es Salaam and Rehema Shoo from Sokoine University of Agriculture.

The two Darwin Masters students have completed their field work and are writing up. They both presented their research at the Invasion Risk Assessment workshop in May, and one has drafted a paper for publication. One of their supervisors attended the May workshop.

The PhD student has continued to make good progress and will return to Amani for his final field season at the end of the year. He made important contributions to the training workshop as a teacher but also learned new risk assessment techniques and principles.

The profile of the project has been raised through talks; for example TBA staff gave talks at Cambridge University, UK and at the Kibale Chimpanzee Project 20th Anniversary workshop held in Uganda.

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 project has not encountered notable problems over the last six months.

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

The project has not followed the original timetable and this was discussed with the Darwin secretariat in year 1. Some dates and activities have been changed in order to fit in closely with our partners' timetables which is partly an inevitable consequence of planning for activities that ultimately took place four years later. We are still on track to achieving the major objectives and outputs as presented in the original agreement, and main changes have been dates rather than the activities per se. It should be noted that all activities in this year are so far ahead of schedule rather than behind.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

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

The UK staff will not attend the ANR board meetings, and this is explained in the response to the reviewer.

Workshop held in May 2007 instead of October 2007

Two Msc students to join Phil Hulme at Lincoln University for training in data analysis and publishing results as a result of the closure of Banchory

Final workshop to take place in February 2008

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

We wish to draw your attention to our response (attached) to the annual report reviews which were only received in this quarter, 2007. We are happy to discuss these issues with the Darwin Secretariat and the reviewer.

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.

We provide a detailed response to the annual report review of 2006 and 2007 - see attached

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 email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**