

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	14-015
Project Title	Conservation of Jiaozhou Bay: biodiversity assessment and biomonitoring using ciliates
Country(ies)	China
UK Organisation	The Natural History Museum
Collaborator(s)	Ocean University of China
Report date	31 October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	N/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).

1. A total of 16 OUC staff and students have been working on the project since April. This includes 6 new postgraduate students who have begun in the last 6 months. All are receiving ongoing on-the-job training.
2. Data collection on the Jiaozhou Bay (JB) ciliate fauna has continued. Twenty species have isolated from JB for the first time of which 16 have been identified and 17 have been gene-sequenced. Biomonitoring work has also continued with two sites being sampled twice per week for analysis of the ciliate communities. Eight physico-chemical parameters are also being monitored at these sites.
3. Six papers have been published in peer-reviewed journals with a further two in press and four submitted.
4. Drafting has begun on 2 chapters for the ciliate identification guide. Data-gathering and other preparation work has begun for several other chapters.
5. Six presentations (3 oral, 3 poster) describing results from the project to date were made at the VII Asian Conference of Ciliate Biology, Wuhan, China July 2006. Presentations have also been made at the International Symposium on the Sustainable Use of Aquatic Resources, Qingdao, China, October 2006 and at the IX International Congress on Medical and Applied Malacology, Qingdao, China, October 2006.
6. The remaining two items of equipment for use at OUC Qingdao ('Purelab' water system and sterilizer/filtration equipment) were delivered and commissioned.

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 in the last 6 months although we have agreed that the visits by 5 OUC staff and students due to take place in February 2007 will be postponed until summer/autumn 2007

because of OUC academic requirements.	
Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?	
This issue has been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat who agreed that the change in the timetable can be accommodated although the details of the budget revision await final confirmation.	
Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	yes, in 09/2006..... (month/yr)
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	yes, in 02/2007....(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?
One conclusion of the review of the annual report (April 2006) was that: "There is scope for substantially revising the logical framework to make it clearer". We have requested assistance from ECTF as to how we might address this problem and are awaiting feedback.

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. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**