

# 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**

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14-017
<b>Project Title</b>	Tool kits for the Sustainable Management of Ghana's Riverine Biodiversity
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Ghana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin
<b>UK Organisation</b>	University of Liverpool
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Prof E Maltby, Prof B Moss, Prof M Swaine, Dr R T Leah, Prof Chris Gordon
<b>Report date</b>	<i>October 2005</i>
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	<i>HYR1</i>
<b>Project website</b>	

### **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 first training workshop to take place under the auspices of the project has been rescheduled to January 2006 because of unexpected staff changes at the University of Liverpool and the need for essential new planning time following the reconnaissance/visit of Dr Leah (31 July –14 August).

The visit started with an initial discussion of the Darwin project and its aims and objectives with most of the staff who are to be involved in the project and these included representatives of all of the Ghanaian partner organisations Centre for African Wetlands (CAW), University of Ghana Zoology Department (UoGZ), Volta Basin River Project (VBRP) and the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS). The training needs of the Ghanaian partners were discussed together with the varied contributions of UoGZ and the GWS to the project. The detail of the first year programme was agreed, subject to assessing some of the practical issues involved in sampling. To provide first hand experience of these issues to RTL, the meeting was followed by two days of field work, visiting the sample sites where the first sampling campaign will be held during the period October - December 2005.

In light of the sampling issues, it was agreed during discussions that preliminary sampling of all of the previously selected sites would be completed during October – December 2005. Samples would be analysed and enumerated so that the results would be available for the January 2006 visit. The Ghanaian staff agreed that the presentations of their results and discussions on their implications for the remainder of the sampling programme during 2006 would form the main subject of a mini-symposium to be held on the first day of the January visit. The final design of the programme would then be agreed by the end of the visit after the completion of training and further fieldwork and sample analysis.

An orientation visit was also arranged to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) where after meeting the staff, the laboratory and analytical facilities that will be used for aspects of the project were inspected. It was clear that the staff of CSIR are prepared to make their contribution to ensure that the project is a success and that adequate facilities and staff exist within CSIR to provide analytical and taxonomic support for the project.

RTL also used the opportunity of being in Ghana for a privately funded tour of various areas of Ghana containing a number locations relevant to wetland management and thus to the Darwin project, together with an introductory visit to the University of Kumasi where Prof S Amisah may be able to offer valuable assistance to the project from work that they have been doing on Ghanaian rivers.

The visit to the University of Ghana was completed with a wind-up meeting with most Ghanaian team members again present to discuss the outcome of the field visits and to plan the content of the first proper training visit, now planned for January 2006.

It was further agreed to delay the press releases concerning the project until January when they can coincide with the first substantive joint training activity.

**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.**

Unexpected changes in staffing have required some readjustments to the initial implementation schedule but these are not anticipated to affect either the budget or overall deliverables.

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

Details will be discussed with the DI Secretariat ahead of the January workshop.

**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?**

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.**