

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	14-017
Project Title	Tool kits for the Sustainable Management of Ghana's Riverine Biodiversity
Country(ies)	Ghana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin
UK Organisation	University of Liverpool
Collaborator(s)	Prof E Maltby, Prof B Moss, Prof M Swaine, Dr R T Leah, Prof Chris Gordon
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Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR2
Project website	http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/aquabiol/Darwin_Ghana/

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 intended level of progress has been achieved mainly this year with ongoing fieldwork in Ghana, the continued development of electronic communication between project partners and a visit by the head of the Ghanaian team (Prof Chris Gordon) to Liverpool.

The project is intended to train the participants in applying the Ecosystem Approach (sensu Convention on Biological Diversity) to riverine systems in Ghana. To fulfil these purposes, a wide range of biological and related sociological data has to be collected in the study area. For reasons already reported, the co-ordinated, one year programme of biological and water chemistry sampling originally intended to start in 2005 did not start until January 2006 but will now run through 2006. As well as short visits for reconnaissance, four main field sampling visits have already been made by Ghanaian staff to the three river basins included in the study area of the Densu, Birim and Ayensu. The rivers were sampled at the sites previously agreed in collaborative discussions during January 2006 for various physico-chemical parameters and macro-invertebrates. The questionnaire to stakeholders which was developed from the January discussions was further refined and trialled with villagers in the study area during early 2006. Preliminary findings resulted in further changes in practice and design but a substantive questionnaire dataset has now been collected and its analysis is underway. A number of meetings of Ghanaian team members have been hosted by CAW and have been used to promote further training of the staff involved.

Data analysis of quantitative data was originally scheduled to start in March 2006 but is delayed pending completion of the substantive sampling programme. However methods of data analysis were agreed in the January workshop in anticipation of the data collection and the data already obtained are currently being analysed by project members. Identification keys and other materials to support the identification of the invertebrates are being prepared and tested as the invertebrate samples are processed. Final data obtained during the remainder of 2006 will be incorporated in the analysis as soon as they are available.

Liaison with the Ghanaian team has recently been facilitated by a planned visit to Liverpool by Prof Chris Gordon during 25th-28th September 2006. Prof Gordon was able to visit the relevant facilities of the University, conduct meetings with project team members as well as make contact with Senior University administrators involved with educational interchange with West Africa. Whilst he was here, discussions about further collaborative work with Liverpool were held and a joint application for further supportive funding submitted.

The initial logframe for the project showed the design of the prototype 'tool-kit' for the assessment of ecosystem health starting during December 2005 but the initial design of the tool-kit was discussed and agreed during the Jan 2006 workshop. The outcomes were brought back to Liverpool and the first

iteration of the 'electronic' tool-kit' has been prepared by Dr Conor Linstead in Liverpool. This was presented and explained to Prof Chris Gordon during his recent visit and he has taken a copy back to Ghana for discussions and further development with the Ghanaian partners. The next training workshop for project staff in Ghana led by UK project members is scheduled for January 2007 and will be followed by training workshops for regional scientists and stakeholders run by the Ghanaian project members.

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 will be a need to vire money between spending heads during this financial year. The balance of the workload in the project has altered resulting in less expenditure on international travel and subsistence than originally envisaged. This was compounded as a consequence of a misunderstanding over invoicing at the end of the last financial year (20% of the agreed sum to be paid to the Ghanaian partners was not invoiced to Liverpool as it had been agreed that it would only be paid on successful completion of the year's work and as a consequence Liverpool only invoiced Darwin for only 80% of the total) This, together with an oversight regarding the ordering of data projectors resulted in a significant under-spend at the end of financial year. During this financial year, in order to achieve all of the project targets, we will require some changes within the distribution of the funds allocated to 2006-7 although we do not expect this to significantly alter the overall totals.

After the original delays in the start of the project, the timetable is now coming into line with the original plan so that we do not expect significant alteration to this year's timetable.

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

The financial changes have not yet been discussed with the Secretariat but the approach will be made at the same time as submitting this report.

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

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: **no , 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?

The project is committed to running two workshops for regional scientists and stakeholders in the first quarter of 2007. The preparations for these are in the hands of the Ghanaian partners and although arrangements are partly funded by Darwin, they are also dependent on independent funding which still needs to be obtained from elsewhere. This funding is being actively pursued by the Ghanaian partners but if this is not obtained in time it could significantly alter the timing and delivery of outputs.

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.**