

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	162/14/029
Project Title	Monitoring and simulating threats to aquatic biodiversity in the Okavango Delta
Country(ies)	Botswana
UK Organisation	UCL
Collaborator(s)	Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC), University Botswana
Project Leader	M. Todd & AW Mackay
Report date	26 th October 2007
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Project website	www.geog.ucl.ac.uk/~mtodd/accord

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).

Agreed baseline time-table:

Training of HOORC technical staff: - this is an ongoing activity, and is especially relevant when fieldwork is being carried out, followed by subsequent analysis of data

By prior agreement with Darwin, a course in multivariate statistics was held at HOORC instead of UCL, between 8th – 9th October, 2007. This was a successful meeting, attended by 3 HOORC scientists and (importantly) 5 workers from 3 different government departments: Department Water Affairs, Department of Fisheries, and Department of Wildlife and National parks. Two further days were spent with two HOORC members applying multivariate analyses to datasets collected during the Darwin programme. Training schedules and guidelines were produced for the course and are available on the website.

The training course in climate analysis will be held at a later date.

A consortium of 3 projects (Darwin, IUCN, Biokavango) have placed an advert requesting tenders for the production of a training video. The closing date for applications is Nov 30th.

UK staff have so far collectively spent 9 weeks total in Botswana – this is an increase on the original estimate because one component of the fieldwork last year was delayed. All planned fieldwork has now been undertaken. However, an extra fieldtrip was undertaken by the HOORC team in September, which took a boat up the length of the Okavango Delta and Okavango River to the Namibian border. This is the first Darwin trip which the HOORC team have undertaken without UCL guidance, clearly highlighting that our aims of training and capacity building have been successful. These samples will add to our database, and more detail will be provided in the annual report.

We will start preparation of manuscripts once the data analyses are complete. Currently, primary census data are still being counted.

However, preliminary ecological results were presented as a talk at the British Ecological Society in Glasgow (10th – 12th September). A handout of this talk is also available on the website.

Indices of Biological Integrity will follow later on in the year.

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 work these last 6 months. If anything, our work has been augmented by the extra fieldtrip undertaken by HOORC staff (employed with Darwin funds). Furthermore, excellent relationships have been built now with a concurrent IUCN project at HOORC and the GEF funded Biokavango programme. Further details will be provided in the annual report. Finally, two MSc students based at UCL undertook dissertations linked to the Darwin project, and have passed these successfully.

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

N/A

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

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no

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 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**