### **Darwin Initiative**

Half Year Report: April – September 2007

Project Ref. No.	14-035
Project Title	Strengthening pro-poor wetland conservation using integrated biodiversity and livelihood assessment
Countries	Cambodia and Tanzania
UK Organisation	IUCN – The World Conservation Union
Collaborator(s)	Overseas Development Group (University of East Anglia), UK
	IUCN Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group Asia, Sri Lanka
	IUCN Eastern Africa Regional Office, Kenya
	IUCN Cambodia Country Office
	IUCN Tanzania Country Office
Project Leader	Dr. William Darwall. Freshwater Biodiversity Unit, IUCN Species Programme
Report date	31 October 2007
Report No.	HYR 2
Project website	http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/our_work/freshwater/darwin_index.htm

## 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

The following scheduled project activities were addressed over this HYR reporting period;

Field assessments and data collation in Stung Treng and Rufiji Floodplain

Whilst the field assessments were completed in Quarter 6, the process of identifying species from specimens and field records is continuing. Accessing taxonomic specialists to assist with species identification has proved difficult, as has obtaining export permits (in the case of the Odonata specimens from Tanzania) for external identification where relevant skills are not available locally. The remaining species identifications are expected to be completed shortly.

### Local language summaries #1

The local language summary for the Stung Treng field assessment was produced and disseminated during Qu. 6, immediately following the completion of the field assessment. Following feedback obtained from the local awareness workshop held in Mtanza-Msona, the summary for the Tanzania assessment is currently being translated into Swahili.

Local language and National press releases #1

A press release was distributed to local media in Cambodia following completion of the field assessment. The press release resulted in a 30-minute interview in Khmer with the Morning News program of Cambodia television (KTV), which has been re-broadcast a number of times. This station is the largest in Cambodia, and is also received in other Asian countries, USA and Australia. An article based on the press release appeared in the *Environmental Magazine* (in Khmer) of the Cambodian Ministry of Environment.

A press release on the Tanzania project and its outputs has been prepared and published in local papers (*This Day* and its Swahili sister paper) during July 2007. The press release was also put on the notice boards at the Rufiji District offices in Utete. A national press release will be produced to coincide with completion of the final site report in November.

### National policy briefs #1

The national policy brief for the Cambodia assessment is in final editing by ELG with inputs from the regional consultants. The English version is to be produced by mid-October. The Tanzania policy brief is to be produced in November, following completion of the final site report.

Local awareness workshops #1 in Stung Treng and Rufiji Floodplain

The Mtanza-Msona village workshop took place in July (Qu. 8), attended by more than 100 villagers, project staff and District Council staff. The workshop for Stung Treng was held

immediately following the completion of the field assessment in the previous half-year period.

Training Course #2 and National Awareness Workshops #1 in Cambodia and Tanzania

In both countries, the second training course and the first national awareness workshop are to be run back-to-back in December 2007 and January 2008 in Tanzania and Cambodia, respectively. This will maximise staff presence from ODG and IUCN international staff.

# 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.

Changes in core project staff have continued, but the transitions have been managed. Dr. Edward Allison, project principle with ODG, moved to a new post in September 2007 and has been replaced by Dr. Oliver Springate-Baginski, a livelihoods expert with extensive experience in Asia. A letter confirming this staff change has been forwarded to the Darwin Secretariat. Dr. Lucy Emerton, project principle with IUCN Ecosystems and Livelihoods Group (ELG) Asia, is to move within the next half-year period to a new position with the IUCN HQ in Switzerland. At this stage it is still to be determined whether, and if so how, the internal project agreement will change to take account of this move, but it is likely that ELG will remain as the project lead, such that a change in project contracts is not required, whilst Lucy Emerton will retain involvement in key project outputs including the training and dissemination workshops, the *Toolkit*, and the Tanzania final report production.

Feedback from the field survey consultants in both Cambodia and Tanzania was somewhat compromised by the need to pay them for their work prior to the 2006/7 financial year-end. Given that they survey reports and analysis were not completed at that time we would have preferred to hold back some payments to help insure their continued full participation in the work. In some cases it therefore proved difficult to get the feedback requested. With hindsight we should have spread the payment to consultants across the 2006/7 and 2007/8 budgets. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

We have discussed the changes in staff at ODG and will shortly be forwarding to the Darwin Secretariat the letter of confirmation from ODG of the appointment of Dr. Springate-Baginski as their project representative. Similarly, potential changes to the internal agreement with ELG will be discussed with the DS, as will the new arrangements for the involvement of Lucy Emerton, when they are confirmed.

### Discussed with the DI Secretariat:

Yes

No

### Changes to the project schedule/workplan:

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

The management of project participants' expectations has arisen as a potential issue in both case study areas. In Cambodia, whilst project research activities have ceased at the Stung Treng Ramsar site, interested governmental institutions and NGOs are seeking information regarding follow-up activities and support for the Ramsar site management, particularly the potential for the integration of the livelihoods findings into the draft management plan for the Ramsar site. More than 100 villagers attended the awareness workshop held in the Mtanza-Msona village, the focus of the Tanzania assessment project, and there was a very strong willingness from villagers to participate in the project research. IUCN Tanzania staff have reported high expectations from villagers with regard to direct project benefits and the ability of the project to influence government policy.