

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

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| Project Ref. No. | 14-050 |
| Project Title | Africulture Project |
| Country(ies) | South Africa |
| UK Organisation | GardenAfrica |
| Collaborator(s) | Umthathi Training Project. Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. |
| Project Leader | Georgina McAllister |
| Report date | 19 th October 2007 |
| Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4) | DI/AC/05 |
| Project website | www.africulture.co.za |

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).

Progress against activities / Gantt chart – with good adherence to timelines.

| Project Area: | Nature of Progress: |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Production of indigenous plants | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Site fenced, with shade netting and nursery area in place• 18 of the 30 target species identified now being cultivated.• Stock increasing to service training needs• Species cultivation to populate ex situ biomes |
| Training | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gen cultivation course pilot, phases 1&2 now completed with 5 THPs associations in target area.• On site monitoring & support visits• Phase 3&4 now underway. |
| Advocacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ongoing workshops between THPs & Dept Pharmacy, Rhodes University• Kew continues to compile information on target species. Data to be collated in a format for use as part of the official African monographs on medicinal plants.• Second Project newsletter compiled and disseminated• Peer reviewed article published.• Project website launched |
| Other | |
| Staffing | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Core UTP staff changes to effect project – notice given by finance manager, director, and training manager – the latter to be filled internally (see 2 – below). |
| Governance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional steering committee members - Phylis Mnyamana, secretary of the local THP association, and Michelle Cocks from Rhodes University's Institute for Social & Economic Research (specialising in medicinal markets)• ToR for the steering committee – to clarify integration into UTP |
| Funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU funding application now in final stages – provision of legal information as per requests. Outlook, very positive. Due 02. 08.• Funding received to progress with Phases 3&4 of training pilot.• Additional applications being considered to cover local staffing & UK costs. |

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.

The Director of the implementing partner in South Africa (UTP), Sbusisu Msomi, has recently announced his departure after 18 months in post. This means that the Africulture Centre Manager, Philip Crous is to replace him as acting director. We are assured that this will only be for a period of 3 months, and will not unduly disrupt the development of the Africulture site and production of plants for training.

GA has requested written assurances from the UTP board of trustees, that identifying and selecting an appropriate candidate will now be a priority for UTP and the Africulture Project. The UTP board of trustees are aware that the UK collaborators are concerned that the Africulture Centre Manager is currently not able to give 100% of his time to this important phase of the Africulture Project.

UTPs financial manager will be leaving at the end of Oct. This post is only now being advertised.

UTP training manager is also leaving to return to academia. This role is likely to be filled internally, by the very capable training co-ordinator Veronica Moodley.

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

It has not been necessary to implement any changes since the mid term review in Feb 2007.

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?

None

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**