

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	15/001
Project Title	Bees, Biodiversity and Forest Livelihoods in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India
Country(ies)	India
UK Organisation	School of Development Studies/ODG, University of East Anglia
Collaborator(s)	Bees <i>for</i> Development, UK; Keystone Foundation, India; Centre for Agri-Environmental Research, University of Reading, UK
Report date	18 th October 2006
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Project website	Dedicated website yet to be established.

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 project commenced on 1st June 2006 and activities have followed the timeline set out in the timetable in our application. Recruitment for the project posts began immediately. The entomologist, ecologist and the majority of field staff were all in post and inducted into the project by August. An inception and planning meeting was held in Kotagiri in the Nilgiris in the third week of June which included representatives from all the partner organisations. A detailed plan for the next 6 months was worked out during that meeting and the financial and administrative systems for the project were finalised. During that meeting, visits to potential field sites were organised to gauge the terrain and practical aspects of conducting field research.

The first media reports, in the local Indian press, via the UEA press office, and in the *Bees for Development* Journal were published in June.

Fieldwork to select the field sites was carried out from June to September where the proposed sites were checked and subsequently chosen. 15 sites within 5 sub-sites have been selected. This selection was discussed further during a meeting in September and it was agreed that it might be refined over the next three months, as more becomes known about the local communities, as well as the ecology in the areas.

Detailed training on biodiversity with a particular focus on entomology was carried out in India by Stuart Roberts (University of Reading) and Nicola Bradbear (*Bees for Development*) in the third week of September. During the last week of September Janet Seeley (University of East Anglia) trained the team (in India) in approaches to social research.

Training manuals on survey analysis and methods (both for biodiversity and for social research) were completed by the end of September and distributed.

The various field centres are being upgraded to enable the facilities to support the work as integrated units. As part of the work to establish an indigenous bee research unit, a new resource centre is being built in the District headquarters in the Nilgiris which will serve as a public outreach centre.

Pratim Roy (Keystone Foundation) and Janet Seeley have visited the senior officials in forestry departments in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala to ensure that they are fully apprised of the project purpose and activities.

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 National Biodiversity Authority of India clearance for the research is 'in process'. We have been assured by the Chairman of the Authority that he does not foresee any problems in obtaining clearance however we are yet to receive information of the date of the meeting when the application will be considered. This clearance affects the taking up of entomological field research in forested areas. Such research in non-forest areas can go ahead as can social research and simple mapping (without sample collection) of biodiversity in all areas (included forested areas). We do not, therefore, expect the wait for clearance to adversely affect the project timetable

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

No changes envisaged.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no

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?

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.**