

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	15/018
Project Title	Developing land snail expertise in South and Southeast Asia
Country(ies)	Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia
UK Organisation	The Natural History Museum, London (NHM)
Collaborator(s)	The Wildlife Heritage Trust (WHT), Sri Lanka Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), India Centre for Biological Conservation (CBC), Nepal Chulalongkorn University, Thailand National University of Laos Hanoi University, Vietnam Universiti Sains Malaysia
Project Leader	Fred Naggs
Report date	26 th October 2009
Project website	www.nhm.ac.uk/tropicalsnails

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 original project timetable finished on 31st March 2009; we are currently working on completing publications and data-basing and securing project legacy with a new project finish date of 31st March 2010.

The laminated illustrated guide to the land snails of the Western Ghats, India is in press and should be available by mid-November. The laminated guide to Nepalese snails is nearing completion. The Indian and Nepalese illustrated lists are being made ready for inclusion on our web pages and as hard copy publications.

We are continuing to work with our Thai partners in preparing taxonomic revisionary studies for publication in international journals and on providing extensive project coverage at the 2010 World Congress of Malacology <http://www.wcm2010.com/symposium.asp>.

Visits

Our Indian and Nepalese project partners were hosted at the Natural History Museum from 3rd June to 8th July 2009 to carry out identifications of survey material and work on joint papers.

With additional support from the British Council we hosted five Malaysian project partners from Universiti Sains Malaysia at the Natural History Museum and the University of Nottingham from 8th to 22nd October.

Fred Naggs will be visiting ATREE, India, from 3rd to 22nd November on external funding.

Luong Van Hao, Department of National Parks, Vietnam will visit the NHM from 17th January 2010 to 4th March 2010 to work up our Vietnamese survey collections on a Natural History Museum Special Funds Award,.

MoUs

New MoUs are being negotiated with several project partners that will build on the momentum of the current Darwin project and extend to a wide range of activities. Fred Naggs is working with project partners to produce such MoUs with ATREE, India, and Universiti Sains Malaysia. Following the Vietnamese visit to London in February, a new MoU (copy attached) has been signed between the Natural History Museum, the Vietnamese National Museum of Nature and the Vietnamese Department of National Parks. As a direct result, several projects are being supported in the Natural History Museum's Zoology, and Entomology Departments.

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.

A further extension of the project was requested and approved

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

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: yes, in August 2009

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: yes, in August 2009

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**