

Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Important note:

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders – it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length – Submission deadline 30 April 2007

Darwin Project Information

Project Ref Number	15034
Project Title	Red List Plants of Cameroon
Country(ies)	Cameroon
UK Contract Holder Institution	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (Kew)
UK Partner Institution(s)	n/a
Host country Partner Institution(s)	IRAD-National Herbarium of Cameroon
Darwin Grant Value	£142,225
Start/End dates of Project	July 2006-June 2009
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)	1 April 2006-31 March 2007, Annual Report Number 1
Project Leader Name	Martin Cheek
Project website	n/a
Author(s), date	Martin Cheek, 30 April 2007

1. Project Background

Cameroon is one of the most species-diverse areas in tropical Africa. Many of these species are endemics (c.500 strict endemics, c.800 near endemics) restricted to small areas of forest and so vulnerable to extinction. The main threat is forest clearance followed by agriculture. Cameroon lost 1.1 million Ha forest, 2000-2005. (www.mongabay.com).

The need for a Red Data book was identified by Dr Onana, the Head of Biodiversity programmes, Ministry of Research.

The draft Biodiversity Strategy for Cameroon (1999) states as an action with either very high or high priority for each of the six ecosystems covered:: "Identify/survey components of forest

diversity for conservation, in particular those that are at risk. Organize a centralised database including baseline data and trends in forest diversity". Our project will address these areas directly and in detail. It will provide a sound basis for the conservation of the threatened plants of Cameroon by assessing the conservation status of every species (c.10,000) and making the information available in a variety of formats for different user groups. The results will be disseminated as a national Red Data book, as three conservation checklists for different protected areas, and as teaching packs for schools, GIS-based maps, thus making this information available for national planning of sustainable development and for national education in secondary schools. The project will build an existing database and a longstanding partnership (with a track record of conservation outcomes at local level) and take them to a new level with greater national impact.

2. Project Partnerships

The partnership between RBG, Kew and the National Herbarium of Cameroon (HNC), dating back over 10 yrs, remains strong, due to co-operation on this project and also in working together to host the triennial AETFAT congress, hosted by HNC with the support of Kew at Yaounde in Feb/March 2007. The partnership supported host country institutions to build their capacity to meet CBD commitments principally through hosting two workshops in Yaounde to teach methods of assessing the Red data status of Cameroonian species and to give some basic taxonomic training. UK and regional partnerships: not applicable. Kew has strengthened its capacity in this project by developing stronger links with national government partners than in previous projects.

The project has repeatedly invited links with the developing BGCI-managed (formerly PlantLife) IUCN-GEF project that seeks to pursue Red Listing and IPAs in 6 diverse tropical countries, including Cameroon. It was also present at the first meeting of CARLA (Central African RedListing Authority) in March 2007 at Yaounde.

The project has maintained a strong link with the CBD focal point, Mary Fosi, who introduced and attended both workshops, and sent her team to attend these workshops and who requested the taxonomic training component of the project. She also visited Kew for discussions in Nov. 2006.

3. Project progress.

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Output 1: candidate list.....

Onana's existing ms towards the Red data book was reviewed at Kew during his visit in June 2006, and work also began then, and has since been completed as planned, in screening the draft checklist for Cameroon angiosperm species for those of restricted geographical range and so candidates for Red data status. This was reviewed at the first workshop.

Output 2: conservation checklists.....

The surveys of poorly surveyed areas towards production of conservation checklists were to the Bechati,Lebialem Highlands with NGO ERUDEF; Bambalang with FAP/ANCO, and to the forest of Dom with ANCO. A total of four postgrad students/NGO workers were trained on the survey missions. The resultant set of 577 specimens were deposited at the National Herbarium of Cameroon for future reference .A press release connected with the last (ANCO/Dom) was published in a local Cameroon newspaper and broadcast Radio Nkambe in NW Province. Please see Annex 6.

Activity delayed since planned to be combined with first workshop (see under that below), but carried out as planned.

Output 3: distribution maps.....

The first ten distribution maps were produced for and shown and used at the second workshop (see below). Activity carried out as planned, but begun ahead of schedule.

Technicians to dbase and gridref specimens at Kew and HNC. The decision was taken in May 06 to convert the Band B technician post into an internship for a Cameroonian botanist, and approved by the DI secretariat in August. There then ensued a series of difficulties getting the intern Bate Oben, to Kew, but this eventually occurred on 31 March 2007 and he is now receiving training (see Annex 5). The unspent funds were partly used in employing short term and part time workers to database and georeference specimens of Red data candidate species and the remainder are to be rolled over. There was less delay in appointing the parallel HNC technician, Olivier Sene. A power surge in Yaounde disabled the laptop acquired for him and so affected data inputting, but in the interim he has executed another part of his job description: curating specimens at the National herbarium. Since the National herbarium has relatively few accurately identified specimens of red data candidate species that do not already occur at Kew, the resultant delay in inputting is not project critical.

Output 4: Red data book

Outputs 1-3 will feed into this output in year 3.

Output 5: teaching packs...

This will be elaborated from output 4 in yr 3.

Output 6: 10 trained staff in taxon conservation assessment techniques.

This output is completed, through the two workshops detailed below. 15 staff of NGOs, Ministry of the Environment and Nature Protection, and the National Herbarium are now trained.

First field survey and workshop. Scheduled for July, postponed until Sept. 07 due to clash with another event at Nat. Herbarium, Yaounde, the hosts.

The workshop was very well attended. The first day introduced the project, established its objectives and methods and planned outputs, the second taught IUCN Red List assessment. 10 persons had been planned for but 30 actually attended, many inviting and supporting themselves!. Please see the report at Annex 3.

First surveys: see under output 2 above.

ANCO provided supplies of sustainably harvested ornamental forest fruit .The plan is to package and sell these in the UK in order to provide a return to the local community protecting the forest sourcing these, so as to help motivate them to continue with this (not in logframe).

Two Kew staff spent a total of 37 days in Cameroon on this visit, while 28 had been planned.

Second workshop. March 2007, as scheduled. Basic plant identification and taxonomic training by six Kew staff over two days (taking advantage of their presence at the simultaneous AETFAT Congress), also a recap of the Red list course. 10 people were budgeted to be taught, but this was stretched to 15. Numbers would have been higher still had many botanists not been distracted by the AETFAT Congress, and Univ. students had exams. See separate report at Annex 4. Owing to the competition from the AETFAT Congress, media releases on our project would have been overshadowed.

Eight Kew staff spent a total of 21 days in Cameroon organising, preparing for, teaching or otherwise assisting at the workshop.

Four papers describing new species from Cameroon with conservation assessments, were submitted for publication in a peer reviewed journal as part of this project. These papers covered three new species of Memecylon, one new species of Dracaena, and two papers describing new species of Psychotria (one and four species respectively). In the last paper, one

of the species has been given the name “Darwiniana” to honour the principle project sponsoring grant (not in logframe, but in project outputs for May 2008, so ahead of schedule.).

An oral presentation on the project’s work was delivered in the Conservation symposium at the triennial congress for African Botany (AETFAT) at Yaounde, on March 1st 2007 (additional output)

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

Output 1: candidate list.....

Completed.

Output 2: conservation checklists.....

Overall progress has been according to plan and the project is on course to achieve this output. Output indicators occur at end yr 3. Assumptions hold true.

Output 3: distribution maps.....

Overall progress has been behind plan, mainly due to the delay in putting in place the intern at Kew. The intention in yr 2 is to catch up by using unspent resources from yr 1 and employing extra staff. This being so, the project will be on course to achieve this output by the end of yr 2. Output indicators occur at end yr 3. Assumptions hold true.

Output 4: Red data book

Overall progress has been according to plan except regarding output 3 q.v. Note that outputs 1-3 will feed into this output in year 3. The project is on course to achieve this output. Output indicators occur at end yr 3. Assumptions hold true.

Output 5: teaching packs...

Since this will be elaborated from output 4 in yr 3, as with output 4, and with the same caveat, the project is on course to achieve this output. Output indicators occur at end yr 3. Assumptions hold true.

Output 6: 10 trained staff in taxon conservation assessment techniques.

Completed.

3.3 Standard Output Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	TOTAL
Established codes 6A	Number of people to receive training at workshops	40				
6B	Number of workshop training weeks (4 days)	1				
8	UK project staff on project work in Cameroon, No.	8 weeks				

	weeks. 58/7 days					
11B	No. papers submitted to peer reviewed journals	4				
13A	Species reference collection handed over (collection of duplicates from first survey)	1				
14A	Workshops organised to present project matters	2				
14B	Congress attended, disseminating project findings (AETFAT, Yaounde)	1				
15B	Local press release. This was published in NW Province.	1				
15C	National press release (not published, so far as I know)	1				
19C	Local radio broadcast in NW Province, after survey visit there in Sept. 2006, reported by ANCO in March 2007.	1				
23	Resources from other sources (non Darwin) for project work. Borne by RBG, Kew Expenses (£1200) and salary costs at £425 per day for 3 days to Cameroon of Neil Brummitt who co-ran the second workshop	£2475				
New Project specific measures	-					

Table 2 Publications: none at this stage.

Type *	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
(eg journals, manual, CDs)	(title, author, year)	(name, city)	(eg contact address, website)	(if applicable)

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Progress towards project purpose is going according to plan, although in one area, databasing and georef work, we will need to catch up in yr 2 as explained in 3.2 re output 3 (above) . Assumptions and indicators hold true.

3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

It is difficult to report on progress towards these because the key major project outputs (conservation checklists, Red data book, teaching packs) will all be published and disseminated at the end of the project. At this stage we have got the project underway. The main positive impacts on biodiversity so far have been in terms of educating local NGOs and MINEP officials on the importance and vulnerability of Cameroonian plant diversity in the course of the two workshops held in Yaounde. Examples were included of species believed to be extinct in Cameroon, which helped to get the message across. In the second reporting year more substantial impacts are likely to be recorded.

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

Progress on the project has been monitored at RBG, Kew by Daniela Zappi, Assistant Keeper of the Herbarium and line manager of the project leader who has been kept informed and observed day-to-day operations at Kew on the project.

Eimear Nic Lughadha, Head of Science Operations at RBG, Kew attended the second workshop in Yaounde, as did Alan Paton, Assistant Keeper of the Herbarium, RBG, Kew who also visited the National Herbarium of Cameroon in March 2007, our main partners in this project..

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Not applicable

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Not applicable, all comments have been included elsewhere already.

7. Sustainability

The profile of the project within the biodiversity policy community (CBD focal point for Cameroon) and amongst botanists and participating NGOs is high, thanks to the two workshops executed during the first year in Yaounde (see section 3). Evidence for high interest is shown by the unexpectedly high attendance at these workshops by various NGOs and students who heard by word of mouth and attended without being invited or supported. Profile and interest is expected and planned to be high in the final year when the outputs are produced and delivered. There is a satisfactory exit strategy in place and outputs, outcomes and impacts are likely to be sustained as much as needed as a result.

8. Dissemination

Dissemination will occur in the last year, when the results have been produced. The relationship between the two main partners will continue after the project ends, and the work of the project can be updated as part of that relationship if required by the Cameroonian partner.

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10. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

[I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section](#)

At this stage of the project we have focussed on establishing the work, building relationships and gathering data. Outstanding achievements are more likely to occur near the project's end in 2009.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2006/07

NOT COMPLETED SINCE NOT MANDATORY.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2006 - March 2007	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: <i>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <p><i>The conservation of biological diversity,</i></p> <p><i>The sustainable use of its components, and</i></p> <p><i>The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></p>			(do not fill not applicable)
Purpose			
Output 1.			
Activity 1.1			
Activity 1.2,			
Output 2.			
Activity 2.1.			

Activity 2.2.	
Output 3.	

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal:</p> <p>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conservation of biological diversity, • the sustainable use of its components, and • the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
<p>Purpose</p> <p>To provide a sound basis for the conservation of the threatened plants of Cameroon, making this information available for national planning of sustainable development and for national education in secondary schools.</p>	<p>Poorly known areas surveyed by mid yr 2.</p> <p>Threatened species of Cameroon doc'ted by end yr 3</p> <p>GIS generated distribution maps of threatened species available by end yr 3.</p> <p>Teaching packs for teachers assembled by end yr. 3</p>	<p>Survey reports available, copies to D.I.</p> <p>Red data book published, copies with Darwin Initiative.</p> <p>Maps with MINEF and available for final workshop. Copies to D.I.</p> <p>Living Earth have packs for distribution to schools, Copies to D.I.</p>	<p>Government policies remain supportive of conservation at HNC. NGOs remain viable and committed.</p>
Outputs			

<p>Candidate list of threatened plant taxa distributed.</p> <p>Conservation checklists of three or more poorly known but probably conservation-important areas.</p> <p>Distribution maps of Red List species.</p> <p>Red data book of the threatened plant species of Cameroon.</p> <p>Teaching packs on threatened plants of Cameroon.</p> <p>10 trained staff in taxon conserve. assessment techniques.</p>	<p>List available by end July 06.</p> <p>Copies peer-reviewed, 300+ copies printed by end yr 3.</p> <p>Maps completed by end yr 3.</p> <p>Copies peer-reviewed, 500+ copies printed by end yr 3.</p> <p>Ms and materials reviewed by Living Earth. Publisher and printer agreed, 2,000 copies by end yr 3.</p> <p>10 staff able to assess taxon conserv. status independently.</p>	<p>Available for 1st workshop; two copies to D.I.</p> <p>Reviews published; feedback received; featured in Kew book catalogue. 2 copies to D.I.</p> <p>MINEF staff in receipt of maps. Published on web.</p> <p>Reviews published; feedback received; featured in Kew book catalogue. 2 copies to D.I.</p> <p>Feedback received;. 2 copies to D.I.</p> <p>Staff credited as assessors in Red Data book. Test results. Certificates issued at end of course, copies to D.I.</p>
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Activities	Activity milestones (summary of project implementation timetable)	Assumptions
Workshops	Yr 1: project launch workshop with NGO, HNC and MINEF staff to establish objectives and methodologies incl.Red List training. July 2006; Yr 1: Basic plant identification and GIS workshops, March 07 to coincide with AETFAT Congress at Yaounde; Yr 3: closing workshop, presenting results to NGO, MINEF, HNC and teacher trainers, June 09.	
Field Research & Conservation checklist production	Yr 1: first survey to poorly known areas, late June 06; Yr 2: second survey to poorly known areas Oct. 07. Specimens identified and dbase for conservation checklist production ready Oct.. 08; intro chapters written by Feb. 09; reviewed by April 09, published May 09.	Permit process runs to normal timetable so specimens available for identification at Kew by Jan. 08.
Candidate Red List Production	Yr 1: Taxa on draft list screened using geography and frequency of collection for Red List candidates, May-July 06, reviewed at 1st workshop.	
Map development	Technicians in place at HNC and Kew, July 2006 , complete specimen databasing and georef. June 2008. Maps produced from database by end yr 3.	
Red Data book production	Onana's existing ms reviewed at K by end June 06. Ready for review, then publication, by April 09.	

Teaching pack production	Popular introduction to Red Data book assembled with species specific posters, relevant to particular areas, as advised by Living Earth, April & May 09, for printing in June 2009.	
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Annex 3 onwards – supplementary material (optional).

These extra annexes have been attached in the hard copy version:

Annex 3. Report on first workshop and first survey in Sept. 2006.

Annex 4. Report on second workshop, Feb. 2007.

Annex 5. Letter to Darwin co-ordination explaining exceptional circs delaying appointment of the intern at Kew.

Annex 6. Copy of press release as published in local press in Cameroon.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please advise Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk that the report will be send by post on CD, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table?	
Do not include claim forms or communications for Defra with this report.	