

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	15034
Project Title	Red List Plants of Cameroon
Country(ies)	Cameroon
UK Organisation	Royal Botanic Garden, Kew
Collaborator(s)	National Herbarium, Cameroon, ERUDEF, ANCO, CRES, CWAF, MINEF-MINEP
Report date	6 Dec 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
Project website	n/a

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 started in July 2006, less than 6 months ago. The opening workshop, held in Yaounde in September was planned for ten attendees. Because of extra interest, 14 were invited. 30 people actually attended on each of the days, the additions at their own expense.

Onana's existing ms towards a Red data book was reviewed during his visit to Kew in May 2006.

The draft national checklist for Cameroon was obtained and screened for potential Red data species and reviewed at the workshop.

Two surveys to poorly known areas in Cameroon, towards futures checklists, were executed in Sept. with partners ANCO, ERUDEF and HNC (Nat. Herb. Cameroon)

A technician, Olivier Sene, was recruited in Cameroon to work as technician databasing and gridref spms etc.

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.

Unexpected developments:

1. On contacting the National Herbarium to arrange the opening workshop for July, as planned, after learning of the success of our Darwin application, it was found this clashed with another workshop planned for the same time (API). Hence ours was postponed to Sept. This is not expected

to have any significant impact on the project.

2. Having, early in 2006, had extremely positive experiences with success of an African internship at Kew, an application to the secretariat was made to convert the funds for salary of the Darwin technician to an internship for a Cameroonian, it took many months before this was approved and a solution to the visa requirement was suggested by the BHC, Cameroon. At the time of writing the visa application is still ongoing. In the interim, the announcement was made that Darwin funds cannot be carried over from one financial year to another, so that a delay in beginning the appointment risks truncation of the time available to execute that part of the work plan. Accordingly, to secure completion, the decision has been taken to use the salary that will otherwise be unspent because of the delay, to appoint short-term, casual workers to fill the gap, thus the project budget and timetable should be largely unaffected.

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

These changes have been discussed with the Darwin secretariat, the second on a more or less monthly basis until the decision was agreed.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: **no/yes, in** 18 April 06, 30 May 06, 23 June 06, 28 Jul 06, 1 Aug 06 by email, other dates not recorded by phone. **(month/yr)**

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: **no/yes, in...n/a.....(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? 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 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.**