

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 2009

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)
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 2008-31 March 2009, Annual Report Number 3
Project Leader Name	Martin Cheek
Project website	n/a
Author(s), date	Martin Cheek, 11 May 2009

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. (<http://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/2000/Cameroon.htm>, accessed May 2008)

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. Organise 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 several previous projects dating back to 1996. We worked together to host the triennial AETFAT congress, hosted by HNC with the support of Kew at Yaounde in Feb/March 2007. In the first year the project supported host country institutions to build their capacity to meet CBD commitments principally through hosting two workshops in Yaoundé to teach methods of assessing the Red data status of Cameroonian species and to give some basic taxonomic training. Kew has strengthened its capacity in this project by developing stronger links with national government partners than in previous projects. In the second year the partnership was strengthened further by 7 study visits of Cameroonians to Kew and 3 joint expeditions to Cameroon each involving 1-3 Kew staff.

In the last year Dr Onana, head of the National herbarium, spent 3 weeks at RBG, Kew working on the project, and we supported and secured publication of two of his research papers. We exchange communications by email actively, often on a daily basis, mainly concerning this project. His staff were involved in other of our team's projects in Guinea and in Congo.

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 Yaoundé. At a regional IUCN assessment meeting in Yaounde in June 2008, we learned from IUCN that this project was turned down for funding and that the new focus ("useful" plant species only) of a replacement funding application now being developed makes it less relevant to our Darwin supported project.

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. Contacts continue via email and telephone in the last year.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

1. Workshops: not applicable in this period.

2. Field Research and Conservation checklist production.

2A. Field Research. No field visits were planned during this period. However, Wildlife Conservation Society Cameroon, a major NGO supporting the management of protected areas in Cameroon with the Ministry of Forests, requested urgent assistance in doing a botanical inventory of a previously unbotanised evergreen forest reserve, Mone F.R., in an area of SW Province that is extremely poorly known to science. The object being to determine whether the area is important for plant conservation or not. A choice will have to be made as to whether the area should be allowed to go for logging, or whether it should be given higher protection, probably as a National Park. Since the mission objective fitted perfectly with our Red data plants project, we agreed. WCS obtained funding from the US govt. to cover costs. The expedition took place 25 Nov-15 Dec. 08 with botanist representatives of four Cameroon partner NGOs (National Herbarium, LBG, ANCO and WCS), allowing more capacity building work to be done. The summary is as follows (see also expedition report Annexe 3):

“Over a 10-day period inside Mone F.R., two teams of botanists surveyed along three E-W lines, seeking a first approximation of the plant conservation value of this forest reserve. 18 non-timber threatened species were identified, of which 10 are globally protected only at Mone, and four of which have their largest documented global populations at Mone. 10 possible new species to science were seen, of which eight are unique to Mone on current knowledge. Further, Mone protects large inselberg and rheophytic communities of a type that are included in no other protected area globally.

These initial findings support increasing the status of Mone from a forest reserve to a national park. The figures given are likely to increase once copies of the specimen samples made in the visit are made available to and identified at RBG, Kew. Further botanical survey work is needed of this important forest.

The main current threat to the botanical conservation value of Mone appears to be illegal commercial logging seen in two relatively small areas in the western part of the reserve. This could be arrested easily by placing guards on the river Mone at Nyang during November and December, it is considered.”

Given the results documented in the report it is likely that this mission will result in the strengthening of conservation protection for this forest and the threatened species it contains.

The full identification of all the specimens collected on this mission (and those likely to result from arrangements made to continue the survey) will take place under a new, separate project since time and resources for these are not available under the current one at this stage, as it comes to a close. To date two of the new taxa appear to be possible new genera to science.

2B Conservation Checklist progress.

Specimen identification for Dom is complete, Fossimondi 95% complete, Mefou 80% complete. We were planning to have had identifications 100% complete, and draft checklists outputted from the database for checking by the end of Dec 08 but are seeking to revise this to June 2009 due to delays caused executing the Mone fieldwork and the unexpected need to address our departmental funding difficulties by taking on other work. Partner NGOs have been begun to supply introductory chapters. Revised targets to complete the ms for publication are June, July and August 2009 respectively.

3 Candidate Red List Production. Not applicable. This was completed in Year 1.

4 Map development.

Bate Oben and Emma Fenton continued outputting maps of rare species to accompany the papers describing and assessing the conservation status of new and poorly known species. Map development has matched Red data species text production (see 5 below).

5 Red data book production. Red Data book manuscript progress.

We are now outputting species maps from the database, quality checking, and writing species treatments in parallel, family by family. To date most of Dicot families A-L have been treated by Martin Cheek and Ben Pollard is working on the Orchidaceae. We are seeking a revised target to complete all families by Oct. 2009, due to the delays raised in 2B above.

Sample family treatments were sent to Craig Hilton Taylor of IUCN for checking in Aug. 08 and reminders have been sent to him!.

6. Teaching pack production.

The text for these depends on the figures from the final Red Data book ms which will not be available until shortly before it is submitted for publication. However, a draft sample teaching pack and poster will be sent to Living Earth for comment early in the next reporting year. Revised target for completion of packs is Oct. 2009.

Closing workshop Yaounde.

This will be organised nearer the time that the publication outputs are completed. Ideally it will be held in Dec. 2009 when the other outputs are available for dissemination so as to launch them in Cameroon.

General activities.

Seven papers on threatened and/or new species from Cameroon completed as part of the project were published (and two others submitted) during the period. Six of the published papers were in peer-reviewed journals and described 11 new species to science all of which were assessed for conservation status (see 3.3, table 2, below). Among these is one named in honour of the Darwin initiative, *Psychotria darwiniana*.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

Output 1: candidate list.....

Completed in Yr 1.

Output 2: conservation checklists.....

Overall progress had been according to plan until Nov. 08 and the project is still on course to achieve this output but with delays in delivery dates (see 3.1, 2B above).caused by. Identifications are 80-100% complete for all three checklists. Output indicators need to be adjusted accordingly. Assumptions hold true apart from the delay.

Output 3: distribution maps.....

Overall progress is now keeping pace with the production of that for the Red data book (see below).

Output 4: Red data book

Overall progress had been according to plan until Nov. 08. Delays then began to have a knock on effect. We are now seeking to delay the delivery date of this output until Oct. 2009 (see 3.1, 2b & 5 above). Output indicators need to be adjusted accordingly. Assumptions hold true apart from the delay.

Output 5: teaching packs...

Since this will be elaborated from output 4, as with output 4, and with the same delay, the project will achieve this output. Output indicators need to be adjusted accordingly. Assumptions hold true apart from the delay.

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

Completed in Yr 1.

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	n/a	n/a		
6B	Number of workshop training weeks (4 days)	1	n/a	n/a		
8	UK project staff on project work in Cameroon, No. weeks. 58/7 days	8 weeks	16 weeks	3 weeks		
11B	No. papers submitted to peer reviewed journals	4	4	2		
13A	Species reference collection handed over (collection of duplicates from each survey)	1	3	1		
14A	Workshops organised to present project matters	2	n/a	n/a		
14B	Congress attended, disseminating project findings	1	0	0		
15B	Local press release.	1	1	0		
15C	National press release	1	0	1		
19C	Local radio broadcast	1	0	0		
23	Resources from other sources (non Darwin) for project work.	£2475	About £17,000	\$8000 (US Govt/ WCS)		
New Project specific measures	-					

Table 2 Publications: 7

Type * (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £ (if applicable)
Journal: Kew Bulletin	<u><i>Psychotria kupensis</i> (Rubiaceae)</u> a new dwarf, litter-gathering species from western Cameroon Martin_Cheek, Aline Horwath and Daniel Haynes <i>Kew Bulletin</i> , Volume 63, Number 2 / June, 2008	RBG, Kew/Springer	Springerlink.com	Free on web
See above	<u>Four new submontane species of <i>Psychotria</i> (Rubiaceae) with bacterial nodules from Western Cameroon</u> Martin_Cheek, Marcella Corcoran and Aline Horwath <i>Kew Bulletin</i> , Volume 63, Number 3 / September, 2008	See above	See above	See above
See above	<u>Revised treatment of <i>Memecylon</i> sect. <i>Afeliana</i> (Melastomataceae: Olibeoideae)</u> , including three new species from Cameroon R. Douglas Stone, Jean-Paul Ghogue and Martin_Cheek <i>Kew Bulletin</i> , Volume 63, Number 2 / June, 2008	See above	See above	See above
See above	<u>Two new names in West-Central African <i>Quassia</i> L. (Simaroubaceae)</u> Martin_Cheek and Carel C. H. Jongkind <i>Kew Bulletin</i> , Volume 63, Number 2 / June, 2008	See above	See above	See above
See above	<u><i>Berlinia korupensis</i> (Leguminosae – Caesalpinioideae)</u> , a new tree species from Cameroon Barbara A. Mackinder and Xander M. van der Burgt <i>Kew Bulletin</i> , Volume 64, Number 1 / March, 2009	See above	See above	See above
See above	<i>Ledermanniella pollardiana</i> sp.nov. (Podostemaceae) from western Cameroon. Cheek, M. & Ameka, G. Nordic. J. Bot. 26: 214-217	Nordic J. Bot./Wiley Intersciences	cs-journals@wiley.com	See above
See above	Bakossi National Park, Cameroon. Cheek, M. (2008). <i>Kew Scientist</i> 34: 4.	RBG, Kew	www.kew.org	Free on application to RBG, Kew

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Progress towards project purpose has been slower than expected in the last year due to the delays identified in 3.3, 2B above. Output indicators need to be adjusted accordingly. Assumptions hold true apart from the delay.

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

The film "Mists of Mwanenguba" (see last years annual report) featuring our project team in action in Bakossi was released on DVD in Dec. 2007. In the last year it has been repeatedly screened in Cameroon raising awareness of the dangers of illegal logging in important areas for conservation in Cameroon and highlighting the European interest in this. As was reported last year, it had already proved useful promoting conservation. A positive impact resulted. Shortly after the film was jointly viewed by the Minister of Forests and the Paramount Chief of Bakossi the Decree creating the Bakossi National Park had been signed by the Prime Minister and Minister. This is favourable news for the prospects for improving the protection of what is Tropical Africa's top documented centre for plant diversity, which has been under threat from logging followed by slash agriculture

Apart from the above, 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 Yaoundé in Yr 1. Examples were included of species believed to be extinct in Cameroon, which helped to get the message across. In Yr 2, equitable sharing of benefits with our Cameroonian colleagues was advanced by co-authorship of publications, funding of 7 study visits to Kew from Cameroon, funding of 9 botanist/technicians in the field (5HNC and 4Korup), financial, literature and equipment support to the National herbarium. This continued at a lower level in Yr 3.

The main deliverables under this heading are the key major project outputs (conservation checklists, Red data book, teaching packs) which will all be published and disseminated at the end of the project.

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

Progress on the project has been monitored at RBG, Kew by Rogier de Kok, 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.

One lesson learnt is that it was over-ambitious to attempt to complete four books more or less in parallel at the end of the project. Staggering completion over a longer time frame would have made more sense, with hindsight.

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 Yaoundé. Evidence for high interest was 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. In the last year interest has been very high due to the repeated showing in Cameroon of the film "Mists of Mwanenguba". Profile and interest is expected and planned to be highest at the end of the project 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.

9. Project Expenditure

Table 3 Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project schedule)	Expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs (eg postage, telephone, stationery)			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment			
Others			
Salaries (specify)			
TOTAL			

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](#)

The first botanical exploration of the Mone forest reserve in S.W. Province, Cameroon, resulting in the discovery of 10 possible new species to science, including 2 possible new genera to science and the discovery of 18 non-timber threatened species of which 10 are globally protected only at Mone and four of which have their largest documented global populations at Mone. The fact that there are good prospects that these results, with follow up work, will result in future to the upgrading of this forest reserve to national park status.

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 2007 - March 2008	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>
<p>Outputs</p>			

<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. Expedition report, Bakossi, May-June 2007.

Annex 4. Expedition report, Korup, May 2007.

Annex 5. Expedition report, Korup, Feb.-March 2008

Annex 6. “Join the Kew for African Film”. Copy of article from Richmond and Twickenham Times 25 Jan. 2008.

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.	