

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	10 Nov. 2009
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	4
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).

At the end of yr 3, LTS/DI secretariat agreed to extend the deadline for completion of final outputs from June to December 2009. Recently a second extension has been sought to extend to March 2010. No further funds are requested to support this extension.

The project implementation timetable gives eight key milestones for this reporting period:

1. April 09. Four papers published describing new species

These were completed ahead of schedule and feature in earlier reports.

2. April 2009. Conservation checklist: ms reviewed.

The Dom conservation checklist was completed and the ms reviewed in July 2009. Two others, for Fosimondi-Lebialem and Mefou have manuscripts respectively c.80% and 60% complete.

3. April 2009. Red Data book: ms ready for publication.

The ms is not yet ready for publication. In addition to species assessment texts being completed and accompanying species-maps being checked and gap-filled for most families A-L, additional families have been completed, most notably the largest of all in terms of total species diversity and numbers of threatened species, Rubiaceae, with 137 threatened species, most of which are species never before assessed for IUCN status. Of the c.110 plant families to be included, species text completion is still required for c. 40 families.

4. May 2009. Conservation checklists: published.

One checklist is ready for publication but the other two are incomplete (see further information under milestone 2 above).

5. May 2009. Teaching pack assembled, based on popular intro. to Red Data book, with posters. Advised by Living Earth.

Teaching pack assembly is not possible until milestone 3 is completed, but trial teaching packs will be sent for testing to Living Earth Dec. 09 (see above).

6. June 2009. Teaching packs published.

Publication is not possible until milestone 5 is completed (see above).

7. June 2009. Closing workshop, presenting results to NGO, MINEF, HNC and teacher trainers. This will occur when the main outputs are ready, now planned for March 2010.

8. June 2009. Distribution maps of Red Data species produced from the database.

Species map production is largely completed, but maps require checking against species texts for c. 40 of the 110 plant families to be included in the book, as they are written family by family, and some gap-filling is needed.

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 project has fallen behind in most of the milestones that occur within the current reporting year. With hindsight, this was caused by having outputs concentrated in the last few months of the project, and not allowing enough time for writing text for the books that form the core of the outputs from the project. For this reason an extension to the date for delivery of the final outputs was requested at the beginning of the current reporting year (and thankfully granted), and recently a request has been made to extend that deadline further still, to March 2010. Effectively this modifies the project workplan and timetable to that date, but there are no budget implications.

In 2005 we publicised 50 new species to science arising from Kew's work in Cameroon in the previous 10 years. Unexpectedly, only 4 years later, coinciding largely with the life of the current project which has been the major contributor in terms of impetus and sponsorship, we find ourselves reaching another 50 new species to science published. We are now looking at how to publicise this news.

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

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: Yes, .(May 09 and Nov. 09 (change request form).

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: Yes, see modified logframe attached to reflect requested extension date.....(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? Perfectly happy with management and monitoring of this project by LTS/DI.