

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	15/035
Project Title	<i>Ex situ</i> conservation of the rare and threatened plants of Mauritius
Country(ies)	Mauritius
UK Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens Kew
Collaborator(s)	Ministry of Agro-Industry & Fisheries, Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, National Threatened Plants Technical Committee
Report date	31/10/2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	-

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).

(Starting July 2006) A draft Memorandum of Understanding, incorporating a Material Transfer Agreement, produced and submitted to the Government of Mauritius. The memorandum has been approved by government and the final copy has been sent to the MSIRI for signature. It will then be returned to Kew.

The building to house the Native Plant Propagation Centre, Robinson Road Nursery, Curepipe, completed at an estimated cost of MR400,000 (£6,700). Tenders for the purchase of drying and refrigeration equipment under way.

Job descriptions and Terms of Reference for the two in-country posts completed ready for recruitment to commence. Procedures have already begun for the recruitment. The Terms of Reference are currently with the personnel office of the Ministry of Agro-Industry and Fisheries.

Draft list of target species produced and is being finalised.

GPS unit and binoculars purchased.

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 main problem experienced to date has been a significant delay in the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. As the Government of Mauritius were unwilling to commence recruitment until the MoU had been signed, this has resulted in a corresponding delay to those aspects of the project that rely on the two staff members being in post, chiefly the training and subsequent collecting work.

Thankfully, the infrastructure components of the project have not been affected, so construction and commissioning of the seed storage facility at Curepipe is still on target. The issues relating

<p>to the MoU have now been resolved and the document is currently being signed. Recruitment will take place immediately thereafter, followed by training in the UK and a technical advisory visit to Mauritius by a Kew staff member.</p> <p>I will be in touch with the Secretariat separately to discuss the timing implications of this delay. The budget should be unaffected.</p>	
<p>Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p>	
<p>Discussed with the DI Secretariat:</p>	<p>no/yes, in..... (month/yr)</p>
<p>Changes to the project schedule/workplan:</p>	<p>no/yes, in.....(month/yr)</p>

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.**