

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	16-003
<b>Project Title</b>	Tools, training and research for managing ecohydrology of the Cape Flora
<b>Country(ies)</b>	South Africa
<b>UK Organisation</b>	The Open University
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	SANBI, Cape nature
<b>Project Leader</b>	Jonathan Silvertown
<b>Report date</b>	October 2010
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 4
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.open.ac.uk/fynbos">www.open.ac.uk/fynbos</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).**

Full botanical and topographic surveys of all 10 study sites have been completed. Meanwhile, hydrological monitoring of the sites is now being undertaken by our partner organizations (SANBI, Cape Nature and SANParks) on their own account. The continuation of monitoring is a part of the legacy of our project and the good working relationship we have developed with the nature conservation bodies. We are now completing the eco-hydrological database of fynbos species and hydrological data that will also form part of the project's legacy and which will be used by our partners. We are also progressing with our decision making and conservation management modelling using the data. The DI-funded South African research student at SANBI is making good progress on the climate aspect of the modelling.

If/when a new round of funding is announced, we are also considering a follow-up DI project with our partners, who are very keen to support it.

In the last six months our project findings have been reported:

- In a Keynote Address by Jonathan Silvertown to the Fynbos Forum In August 2010 in Citrusdal, W.Cape, South Africa
- At the British Ecological Society Annual Meeting in Leeds in September by Dr. Araya.
- In a major scientific paper published in New Phytologist: Araya, Y. N., Silvertown, J., Gowing, D. J., McConway, K. J., Peter Linder, H. & Midgley, G. (2010) A fundamental, eco-hydrological basis for niche segregation in plant communities. New Phytologist, DOI 10.1111/j.1469-8137.2010.03475.x

We are progressing with the project according to the agreed time plan. We have fully involved our project partners collecting data and disseminating results.

## **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.**

No.

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

N/A

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:**                      **no/yes, in..... (month/yr)**

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

We had been granted a no-cost extension of our project till March 2011 and we are on track.

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. Attached

**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 email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at [Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk) . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**

No points were raised in the annual review requiring a response in this Half Year Report