

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2008)

Project Ref. No.	16-003
Project Title	Tools, training and research for managing ecohydrology of the Cape Flora
Country(ies)	South Africa
UK Organisation	The Open University
Collaborator(s)	SANBI, Cape nature
Project Leader	<i>Jonathan Silvertown</i>
Report date	<i>October 2008</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 2</i>
Project website	www.open.ac.uk/fynbos

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).

We have undertaken full botanical and topographic survey of 2 of our sites established last year (bringing our total surveyed sites to 8). We also have secured permits and established further 2 more research sites (bringing the total sites being monitored to 10).

We have consolidated good working cooperation with nature conservation bodies (SANParks and Cape Nature), namely by having our monitoring work incorporated into their routine conservation activities.

We have undertaken training of nature reserve rangers in two rounds: July 2008 (8 persons) and October 2008 (13 persons).

We have shared our project findings at two international conferences: Ecological Society of America (Milwaukee, WI) and International Association for Vegetation Science (Stellenbosch, South Africa) and received a very good reception at both. Our project partner has also conducted a presentation of our work at the Cape Nature annual meeting.

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.

One potentially serious problem has arisen with one of our South African partners. The postdoc working for SANBI on the modelling part of the project has now stated that he will be leaving. We are currently talking to SANBI about how the modelling objectives of the project can be modified. We anticipate replacing the Post Doc, so funding should not be affected.

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

Not yet, this problem has only just come to light.

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

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/, 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? 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. Below

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 . 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**

Point raised in the first annual review & requiring a response in this Half Year Report

"Need to clarify implications of delay in dip well installation and training delivery in terms of budget expenditure"

There was no budgetary impact of a delayed installation of dipwells.

The postponed training for field rangers took place in July 2008. This required a special visit to Cape Town by Drs Gowing and Araya and incurred unplanned extra costs for air fares. However, these costs will be accommodated by economies elsewhere in the budget.