

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2009)

Project Ref. No.	16-011
Project Title	Biodiversity and ecosystem functioning: Building research capacity in SE Asia
Country(ies)	Sabah, Malaysia and other SE Asian nations
UK Organisation	University of Swansea
Collaborator(s)	Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysia Yayasan Sabah, Malaysia ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, Philippines Sabah Forestry Department, Malaysia WWF Malaysia University of Beijing, China Imperial College, UK University of Zurich, Switzerland
Project Leader	Glen Reynolds
Report date	6 th November 2009
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Project website	www.sabahbiodiversityexperiment.net

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).

- Re-planting of the experimental plots has been the main field-based research activity during the reporting period. A further 10 plots (c. 10,000 seedlings) have been planted – with a total of 25 plots now replanted (c. 25,000 seedlings).
- Project website for the Sabah Biodiversity Experiment launched (www.sabahbiodiversityexperiment.net). This is a general site for the experiment – but gives full credit to the Darwin Initiative.
- The first peer-reviewed publication resulting from the project published: Saner, P., Lim, R., Burla, B., Ong, R.C., Scherer-Lorenzen, M., Hector, A. 2009. Reduced soil respiration in gaps in logged lowland dipterocarp forests. *Forest Ecology & Management*, 258, 2007-2012.
- Major new associated research and training programme, funded by the Earthwatch Institute, launched in August 2009.

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.

- Progress with replanting has been slightly slower than anticipated as a result of the El Nino event that, although relatively mild, resulted in lower than normal rainfall – and hence sporadically unfavourable planting conditions. With the return of wetter weather we hope to make up these delays over the next 6 months. This will not impact the project budget and we anticipate no substantive changes to the timetable of project activities.

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

- Considered unnecessary given the relatively minor nature of the delay – and that the causes were entirely natural.

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

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: No **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? None

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 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**