Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No. 16-014

Project Title Co-management of Forests and Wildlife in the Bi Doup-Nui Ba (BD-NB) Nature

Reserve, Vietnam

Country(ies) Vietnam

UK Organisation International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

Collaborator(s) WWF Greater Mekong Programme – Vietnam Country Office

Project Leader James MacGregor

Report date 31st October 2009

Report No. (HYR

1/2/3/4)

Project website *http://www.iied.org/natural-resources/key-issues/forestry/co-management-*

forests-and-wildlife-vietnam

1. As has been communicated to Darwin on several occasions, the project has had some difficulties in the last six months which are now being actively addressed (more details below). As a result progress against the original workplan has been limited.

The major activities which have been carried out in the last six months are:

- A team of consultants were hired to prepare a report on the logistical and commercial feasibility of nature-based tourism in Da Chais commune of BDNB national park. This had positive results and developing a plan for tourism is now being pursued as a major activity
- The photo transect has been ongoing and is revealing considerable new commercial development along the road through the park
- Meetings have been held with local people in Da Chais commune to set up a tourism learning group
- The project co-ordinator and park deputy director went on a learning visit to Cambodia to learn about Management Oriented Monitoring from the sister WWF/IIED Darwin Initiative project at Srepok Wilderness. MOM will now be implemented in the remaining project period
- A team from IIED visited Vietnam for 10 days in October 2009 to meet with project partners and make plans for the remaining project period. This was an extremely positive trip and we now have a very clear workplan for the last 9 months of the project

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.

As mentioned above, the project has had some considerable difficulties in the past six months. These have occurred for two reasons. First, the original log-frame has proven difficult to implement due to unforeseen legal difficulties with collaborative management in Vietnam. This problem is being addressed through revisions to the log frame and work plan which were made during the recent IIED field visit to Vietnam, and which are being communicated to Darwin

alongside this report. Second, there have been several changes in personnel in both IIED and WWF, resulting in a lack of technical support to the field team in Dalat. This has also been addressed through the recent field visit, and there is now a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities for all partners which will ensure rapid progress towards the project goals in the remaining time period.

The difficulties encountered will result in changes to the budget and activities. The revised activities are being communicated to Darwin alongside this report. The slightly revised budget will be communicated to Darwin very soon, most likely in the next week

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

Changes to the project personnel in IIED have been submitted to Darwin and approved. Difficulties with the project described above have been discussed with Rob Wild on the phone, so that Darwin are kept up to date with the situation. Proposed changes to the original log frame and budget agreement are being communicated to Darwin at present.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: yes, in...September 09..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: yes, in...October 09......(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?

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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> 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