Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2008)

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
Collaborator(s)	WWF Greater Mekong Programme – Vietnam Country Office
Project Leader	Ivan Bond
Report date	April 2008 to September 2008
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	2
Project website	IIED's website has just been restructured and a new project site will be developed shortly.

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).

In the last six months the following activities have been undertaken by the project:

Output 1: Appropriate legal frameworks for co-management in place:

- Study tour to on eco-tourism to Bach Ma NP and Suoi Voi Waterfall ecotourism project undertaken.
- Meetings with selected communities held to discuss the options for collaborative management

Output 2: Communities have the capacity to negotiate, benefit and monitor the comanagement agreement

- MOUs with selected villages have been agreed and signed

Output 3: Core protection zone and surrounding landuse boundaries established

- Three dimensional model of Bi Doup Nui Ba (BD-NB) built with participation from rangers and community members
- Plans to build a similar model for the DaChais Commune well advanced

Output 4: Socio-economic status (of communities) established:

- Livelihoods survey undertaken in selected villages in the DaChais and Lat communes

Output 5: Communities monitor their resources:

- Photo-transects along the main road to monitor potential landuse change revisited

Output 6: Project success communicated:

- Local communication products developed (pens and T-shirts)
- Consultation with other projects and programmes in the area held.

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.

There have been two major changes in project personnel within Vietnam in the last two months. At the end of September 2008, the WWF project coordinator in Hanoi (Richard McNally) resigned. During October 2008, the local project coordinator Ms. Huong Klingel decided not to review her contract with WWF. These personnel changes are extremely unfortunate especially as IIED had taken the initiative to devolve the an unusually large proportion of the budget to Vietnam on the basis that there was an extremely strong team in place and more importantly, facilitating collaborative management arrangements was a continuous process that needed as much on the ground support as possible.

The implication of these changes have been discussed with WWF(VN). Fortunately there was significant convergence on the solutions that broadly are:

- Greater input by IIED during the rest of the project which will mean some budget re-organisation. This is possible due to the reduced costs of coordination and oversight from WWF(VN) Hanoi Office.
- The promotion of Mr. Nhan Phamtrong to project co-coordinator, but the retention of Ms. Klingel through a consultancy arrangement while she is still resident in Dalat.

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

At this point no changes to the original agreement between IIED and the Darwin Secretariat are envisaged.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat:

no

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no

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 <u>Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please state your</u> project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half <u>Year Report</u>