

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	17003
Project Title	Developing tools for reducing biodiversity losses in tropical agricultural landscapes
Country(ies)	Malaysia
UK Organisation	University of York
Collaborator(s)	Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Malaysian Palm Oil Board, Forest Research Centre, Wilmar (PPB Oil Palm Bhd), Royal Society SE Asian Rainforest Research Programme, Dato' Henry S. Barlow
Project Leader	Dr Jane K Hill
Report date	31st October 2009
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	http://bioltfws1.york.ac.uk/biostaff/staffdetail.php?id=jkh

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).

The project started in June 2009.

- Two Darwin Fellows have been appointed (June 09) and have started work on the project. The fellows are Noel Tawatao and Mazidi Abd. Ghani.
- Two of the UK partners (Dr Jane K. Hill and Dr Keith C. Hamer) visited Sabah for 6 weeks in July –September 2009 to meet project partners and to visit potential field work sites. Face-to-face meetings were held in Malaysia with the following project partners: Dr Suzan Benedick, Dr Glen Reynolds, Dato' Henry S. Barlow, Dr Chey Yun Khen, and Calley Beamish.
- Jane Hill, Noel Tawatao and Calley Beamish visited two oilpalm plantations in eastern Sabah that are owned and managed to RSPO standards by PPB Oil Palm Bhd (Wilmar). Up to 20 forest remnants spanning a range of sizes were identified as potential field sites for subsequent sampling of ants.
- Pitfall trap methods for sampling ants were discussed with Noel Tawatao in the field, and a sampling protocol is currently being developed. This protocol will be tested in September-October 2009 when the first sampling of ants is to be carried out.
- Noel Tawatao has been in communication with colleagues at the California Academy of Sciences concerning ant identification. He is due to visit the museum in January 2010 and will be involved in the setting up of a web-based ant ID facility on Antweb (<http://www.antweb.org/>) specifically for Bornean ants.

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 problems encountered since the project started in June 2009.

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?

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.

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**