

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2011)

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	Prof Jane K Hill
Report date	31st October 2011
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
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).

- Noel Tawatao (DRF1) completed sampling and ID of ants collected from forest remnants within oil palm plantations. He also made progress with data analysis.
- Yen Yee Loh (DRF2) completed field work sampling butterfly dispersal across forest – plantation ecotones.
- Yen collected data on vegetation structure at study sites.
- Two of the UK partners (Prof Jane Hill and Dr Keith Hamer) visited Sabah for 6 weeks in July – August 2011 to meet project partners to discuss progress and to visit field work sites to assess on-site training of DRFs. Face-to-face meetings were held in Malaysia with the following project partners: Dr Suzan Benedick, Dr Glen Reynolds, Dr Chey Vun Khen, and Calley Beamish (all in Sabah) and Dato' Henry S. Barlow (in Kuala Lumpur).
- Jane Hill, Keith Hamer, Glen Reynolds and Yen presented their work at a workshop in Sabah (16th August) organised by Calley Beamish (Wilmar). The workshop enabled the Darwin researchers to explain their research, present their results and discuss what their results mean to the oil palm industry and why their research is important to the plantations. The aim of the workshop was to enable transfer of knowledge and capacity building and to allow a deeper understanding of the importance of our research to the plantations and to boost interactions between plantation staff and researchers. This mid-term workshop had not been planned and there were no cost implications to the project.
- Yen received further on-site training and field experience in experimental design and sampling butterflies across ecotones using fruit-baited traps. 20 traps were set up at each of two plantation sites adjacent to forest and were sampled for 24 days each.
- Jane Hill and Glen Reynolds met up with Darryl Webber from the RSPO in Kuala Lumpur to develop a scoping study to examine evidence of the effectiveness of RSPO 'Procedures & Conditions' for sustainable production of palm oil. R

- Noel is planning a return visit to Brian Fisher at the California Academy of Sciences (<http://www.antweb.org/>) to complete his identification of Bornean ant species, and to increase the amount of information and number of Bornean species uploaded onto antweb.
- Noel and Yen travelled to York in October to receive further training in research skills, to attend Masters' courses, and to analyse their data.
- Copies of the following recently published papers are available on request, and will be included in the final report:

1) Lucey, J.M. & Hill, J.K. (in press) Spillover of insects from rainforest into adjacent oil palm plantations. *Biotropica*

2) Hill, J.K., Gray, M.A., Chey Vun Khen, Benedick, S., Tawatao, N. & Hamer, K.C. (2011) Ecological impacts of tropical forest fragmentation: how consistent are patterns in species richness and nestedness? *Phil. Trans Roy Soc. B.*

3) Proctor, S., McClean, C.J. & Hill, J.K. (2011) Protected Areas of Borneo fail to protect forest landscapes with high habitat connectivity. *Biodiversity and Conservation.*

4) Klorvuttimontara, S., McClean, C.J. & Hill, J.K. (2011) Evaluating the effectiveness of Protected Areas for conserving tropical forest butterflies of Thailand. *Biological Conservation.*

A further manuscript is currently under review:

5) Lucey, J.M., Tawatao, N., Chey Vun Khen, Benedick, S., Hamer, K.C., Woodcock, P., Newton, R., Bottrell, S. & Hill, J.K. Tropical forest fragments can boost diversity in adjacent agricultural areas. *Journal of Applied Ecology*

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 have been encountered and the project has made considerable progress in the past 6 months. The project is still on-track to reach its objectives by the end of the project period.

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. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

4. 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 LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**