

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2009)

Project Ref. No.	17-021
Project Title	Restoring Tropical Forests: a Practical Guide
Country(ies)	Thailand
UK Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Collaborator(s)	FORRU, Chiang Mai, Thailand
Project Leader	<i>Kate Hardwick</i>
Report date	31/10/09
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 1</i>
Project website	

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 main aim of this project is to strengthen the long term impact and legacy of two previous Darwin projects (162/11/23 and 14-010), by enabling the outputs of those projects (i.e. two manuals on tropical forest restoration for biodiversity recovery – designed for use in Indochina) to be adapted and enhanced for wider use throughout the tropics.

Work on developing the contents of the guide began soon after the official start of the project. Lengthy discussions were subsequently held at an international editorial meeting at Kew in July 2009 between the authors in the UK, Drs Hardwick and Blakesley, and Dr Steve Elliott from FORRU-CMU. Significant progress was made, resulting in the completion of a detailed itemisation of the contents, together with the allocation of writing tasks for material to be drafted in the first year. Separate meetings were also held with three Kew scientists responsible for contributing information for case studies to be featured in the book. In addition, a meeting was held with the Head of Kew Publishing to discuss the publication schedule for the book, and the logistics of design, translation and so on.

Writing is now underway, and we confidently expect that the sections planned for completion in the first year of the project will be drafted, corrected and ready for peer review by March 2010.

In summary, following the logical framework:

Output 1 Information gathering from projects around the world – ongoing

Output 2 Publication of guide – scheduled for the third year of the project

Output 3 Distribution of guide – scheduled for the third year of the project

Output 4 Publication of guide on the web – scheduled for the third year of the project

Output 5 Response to web – scheduled for the third year 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.

Following discussions with the Head of Publishing at Kew, it became clear that the original timetable for publishing the book did not allow a comfortable time period for copy layout, editing and translation. In order to ensure sufficient time, we propose to publish the book later in the third year of the project. We originally anticipated publishing and launching the guide in the second quarter of Year 3 – we would now like to publish and launch the book in the final quarter of Year 3. A new project implementation timetable has been drafted, and will be submitted to the Darwin Secretariat with a change request form by the end of 2009.

Regarding the budget, £5,000 will have to be carried over from Y2 to Y3 to cover a delay in translation resulting from this rescheduling. All other activities will still take place in the financial year originally planned.

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

The proposed revised timetable and budget transfer have not yet been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat but will be formally requested via a change request form before the end of 2009.

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

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: **no/yes, in.....(month/yr) to come**

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**