

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2012)

Project Ref No	19-008
Project Title	Building biodiversity research capacity to protect PNG rainforest from logging
Country(ies)	Papua New Guinea (PNG)
UK Organisation	University of Sussex
Collaborator(s)	Binatang Research Center, Madang, Papua New Guinea
Project Leader	Dr Alan J A Stewart
Report date	29 th October 2012
Report No.	HYR 1
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 following account reports against the project implementation timetable (Table 18 in application form):

1.1-1.3: Wanang Conservation Area (WCA) management and infrastructure

- Discussions initiated with Wanang village community regarding training for management of WCA and building logistical support for research.
- Application submitted to PNG Department of Environment and Conservation for declaration of WCA as a legally protected area.

2.1-2.2: Training of WCA field assistants

- 8 Wanang villagers trained in insect sampling methods for 3 weeks by Yves Basset and Vojtech Novotny

3.1-3.2: Training of Binatang Research Center (BRC) paraecologists at BRC & in UK

- BRC paraecologist Bonny Koane trained by Katerina Tvardikova (Prof Novotny's PhD student) in bird surveys,
- Jimmy Moses trained in ant community study by Tom Fayle, and completed 6 weeks of field work at Mt Wilhelm
- 12 BRC paraecologists trained in insect sampling methods for 3 weeks by Yves Basset and Vojtech Novotny

Joseph Kua and Martin Keltim (both BRC paraecologists) visited UK & Czech Republic for intensive training, including:

- 1 week visit to University of Sussex for training in REDD+ assessment and visits to protected areas and field study sites
- 1 week course in plant taxonomy at Herbarium, Royal Botanic Garden, Kew
- 1 week Basic Canopy Access course run by Canopy Access Ltd
- 1 week introduction to museum curatorial techniques, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
- Visit to research collaborators at Griffith University (Brisbane)
- Seminar given at the University of South Bohemia, Czech Republic, plus visits to protected areas and field study sites
- Seminar at the National University of Singapore.

4.1: Honours & MSc student research

Interviews and recruitment of Darwin Initiative students has been completed:

- Nigel Baro, Hons. study, ethnobotany in Wanang Conservation Area
- Jimmy Moses, MSc student, altitudinal gradient in ant communities, Mt Wilhelm

- Clant Alok, MSc student, plant-soil interactions in Wanang (50 ha plot) and along Mt Wilhelm altitudinal transect

5.1-5.3: Biodiversity surveys

Initiation of Mt Wilhelm altitudinal transect using simultaneous insect sampling by 20 flight intercept, 4 Malaise, 5 Steiner and 3 baited intercept traps at stations at 3700m, 3200m, 2700m, 2200m, 1700m, 1200m, 700m and 200m.

6.1: Fund raising for WCA

Exploring possibilities for applications to philanthropic funds in UK (e.g. Waterloo Foundation) as well as private sources in PNG such as John Swire & Sons (PNG) Ltd. and Steamships Trading Co. Ltd.

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.

None

Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? N/A

Discussed with LTS: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance 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: £ 0

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**