



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project**  
**Half Year Report**  
**(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018)**

<b>Project reference</b>	25-023
<b>Project title</b>	Conserving Rosewood genetic resources for resilient livelihoods in the Mekong
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Cambodia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Vietnam, China
<b>Lead organisation</b>	<b>University of Oxford</b>
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Institute of Forest & Wildlife Research Development, Cambodia Forestry Research Center, National Agriculture & Forestry Research Inst., Lao PDR Forest Genetics & Conservation Dept, Center for Biodiversity & Biosafety, Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences Expert Office, Forest and Plant Conservation Research Department National Wildlife & Plant Conservation, Thailand Bioversity International (Malaysia) Research Institute of Forestry, Chinese Academy of Forestry University of Copenhagen, Denmark
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>David Boshier</i>
<b>Report date and number</b>	30/10/18                      HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<i>Not yet available</i>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).**

The project is on schedule with the activities scheduled for June-Sept yr1 as follows

1.1 /2.2 Develop agreements on data sharing, database management and updating to ensure continuity and confidentiality where relevant, develop institutional arrangements:

- Project Collaboration Agreement document drawn up by Oxford Research Services. Signed by 2 partners to date, others in process.
- Database management and updating needs reviewed during inception workshop (see *workshop report*)

1.2 Data collection:

- *Species occurrence data*: compiled from national and global databases, previous field studies and literature, to date as follows: *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* (145) records, *D. oliveri* (175 records), *D. cultrata* (175 records). These numbers are generally sufficient for modelling species distributions, but will be assessed for quality, duplication and possible geographical gaps, and additional data sought as relevant in Q2 (Oct-Dec).
- *In situ reserves/ex situ collections*: specific data needs for establishing baselines, and timelines for providing the information (by 31 Dec 2018) were identified and agreed among partners (see *workshop report*).
- *Strengths and weaknesses of past conservation initiatives etc*: strengths and weaknesses of 38 community forestry and restoration projects in the subregion were identified based on literature. Focus groups were conducted among project partners

during the inception workshop to gather detailed information for developing context-relevant data collection instruments for field research.

**M&E:**

- *Inception workshop*: held 10-14/9/18 in Vientiane. Opened by British Ambassador to Lao PDR (see *workshop report and press report*)
- *Logframe*: updated prior to contract signing
- *Clarify measurement and report methodology and its implementation* – responses to proposal reviewers’ comments compiled (see Reviewers’ comments responses doc)
- Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the project in conjunction with a consultant M&E specialist. A near final draft exists and will be finalised in Q2.
- Developed activity log for shared fortnightly updating by partners on Google docs
- Developed terms of reference for the M&E advisory group

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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.**

Query raised with Eilidh Young (29/10/18) on possibility of reassignment of £ for socioeconomics consultancy from U. of Oxford budget to U. of Copenhagen. During project inception workshop it became apparent that the best group to carry out this work would be a team from the University of Copenhagen owing to their considerable and relevant experience within the region. This group was included in the original proposal, but without any budget allocation. This would allow for a more efficient use of project funds and facilitate timely realisation of project activities.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS: Yes

Formal change request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin’s management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

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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. Additionally, if you were funded under R24 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**