

DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES

ANNUAL MONITORING FORM

Project Details

Project Reference No. 162/6/052 _____

Project Title Plant information & technology _____
transfer for Nepal

Institution The Natural History Museum _____

Round 1 (please tick)

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PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

- a) Outline progress over the last year (1999/2000) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project. If some milestones have not been achieved or have slipped, explain reasons for this.
1. Second project review meeting
This took place in June 1999 and was attended by representatives from the NHM, Tribhuvan University and the independent consultant Dr H. Noltie (Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh).
 2. Training of second Nepalese post-graduates (Darwin Scholars)
The second group of two trainees arrived on May 16th and spent three months working with various experts at UK herbaria, mainly the NHM.
 3. Attendance at the International Botanical Congress
NEW MILESTONE. IBC is the most important botanical meeting in the world. Held every four years, it sets both the international rules and the standards to which all botanists work and is a forum for launch/discussion of major international projects. Over botanists attend. Three staff associated with the project (including the Nepalese co-ordinator) attended from August 1st to August 7th. A Flora of Nepal workshop was convened at which this project was one of the main points of discussion, with two oral presentations and two poster presentations given.
 4. Meeting with World Bank
NEW MILESTONE. Prof. S. Blackmore and Dr K.K. Shrestha held discussions with representatives of the World Bank in Washington DC. in August concerning future directions of botanical research in Nepal based on the results of this project.
 5. Completion of databases and image reference collection
These were completed at the end of August for official hand-over at the final workshop. Several read only copies were made for distribution to two Nepalese nodes (Kirtipur Multiple Campus and MMM Campus, Biratnagar) and Tokyo University, and a copy was retained at the NHM. The Central Department of Botany, Kathmandu maintains the top copy.
 6. Final workshop (in Nepal)
This was held in Kathmandu in September. The first part (2 days) was attended by c. 75 people and consisted of several talks about the project and other related topics; demonstrations of the various on-line databases compiled by the project; the formal hand-over of both databases and equipment to the Nepalese Government and Tribhuvan University. The inaugural address was delivered by the Nepalese Minister of State for Science and Technology.
The second part (6 days) consisted of a field trip in which selected individuals accompanied British and American experts and the Nepalese directly associated with the

project to several classic sites for Nepalese type specimens as a practical experience in collecting and recording plant material.

7. Publication of materials from databases

NEW MILESTONE. This new milestone was added after consultation with the Darwin Office. In order to reach the widest audience three paper-based publications relating to vascular plants and bryophytes recorded from Nepal and type specimens of flowering plants collected in Nepal were produced. These will be disseminated from the NHM and Tribhuvan University. The original deadline for publication was December 1999 but was extended to April 2000 (change agreed with the Darwin Office).

- b) What progress has the project made in achieving its objectives over the last year? Is the project still expected to achieve all the original objectives which were specified? Explain any problems/difficulties which have been encountered to date in achieving the objectives of the project (or any which you envisage may be encountered in the future).

All objectives were achieved with the exception of submission of publications by December 1999 (the extended deadline originally agreed with the Darwin Office). The Nepalese coordinator having returned to Nepal in October, this was the responsibility of the project coordinator (J.R. Press). For personal reasons the original deadline could not be adhered to and a further extension (to April 2000) was agreed with the Darwin Office. All publications were submitted and printed by this date.

- c) What lessons can be learnt from your experiences (both good and bad) over the last year?

Any joint work must be completed before partner personnel return home. The difficulties of communication (even via email), availability of information in the partner country and (especially) of supervision create enormous difficulties.

- d) If the project timetable has slipped or changed, provide an updated project implementation timetable for the remainder of the project. *(Please note that projects are expected to adhere to their original timetable and that the timely completion of projects is an important factor taken into account by the Department when assessing project performance. However, from time to time projects may be delayed unavoidably due to circumstance beyond their control. Where a project is falling behind schedule, details on the revised programme of work should be provided below. This will need to be passed to the Department for approval).*

The only change from the schedule agreed with the Darwin Office and shown in the Annual Report 1999 is an extension of the project until April 2000 to allow time for completion and printing of publications to augment the databases.

This change agreed with the Darwin Office.

- e) What is the estimated completion date for the project?

April 2000

- f) Is this different to the completion date set out in the original application form?

Yes

(please tick)

No

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- a) What outputs have been achieved by the project over the last year (1999/2000)? We would like you to work through the list of standard output measures which have been agreed for the Darwin Initiative and to report on those which are relevant to your project. All information provided should be referenced clearly to the appropriate project output reference number, and should provide the level of detail required (requirements are specified in the Guidance Note on Output Definitions which accompanies the List of Standard Output Measures).

Please note you are not expected to report against all the output measures which are listed. We only expect you to report on the outputs which were agreed for your project. However, if further outputs have been generated which relate to one or more of the standard output measures, these should also be reported below. Further outputs which do not fit easily into any of the standard output categories should be reported later in the section (see sub-section b).

Output Ref. No.	Description / Commentary
4A	Post-graduates receiving training Mr Tilak Gautam Mr Devendra Bajracharya
4B	30 weeks training (total)
8	3 weeks spent by UK project staff on project work in host country
11A	One paper accepted by peer-reviewed journal: Collections of flowering plants by Francis Buchanan-Hamilton from Nepal 1802-1803. In <i>Bulletin of the Natural History Museum (Botany)</i> . One book published: <i>Annotated Checklist of the Flowering Plants of Nepal</i> . 430pp. The Natural History Museum.
Output Ref. No.	Description / Commentary

- 12A Databases established:
i) *The Nepal Plants Database*
A very large, relational database incorporating numerous separate data sets relating to vascular plants.
ii) *Bibliography of literature relating to Nepalese plants*
Also relating to vascular plants.
iii) *Nepalese bryophytes*
A relational database incorporating separate data sets, including an extensive bibliography and information on specimens held in world herbaria.
- 13 The digital image library is a species reference collection relating specifically to type specimens. The library contains c. 1000 images.
- 14A One workshop organised in host country (Nepal).
- 14D One international conference (USA).
Two workshops/review meetings (one in UK, one in USA).
- 17A One dissemination network established in Nepal. This consists of four nodes at Kathmandu (3) and Biratnagar (1) with the Central Department of Botany, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu as the control point.
- 17B Two dissemination networks established elsewhere.
One based at the Natural History Museum, London; the other at Tokyo University, Tokyo.
- 20 Physical assets to host country = £10K
- 21 Four permanent research and training facilities established in host country (Nepal). These are based in various parts of Tribhuvan University, at the Central Department of Botany, the campuses of Kirtipur Multiple (Kathmandu) and MMM (Biratnagar) and at the Natural History Museum in Kathmandu.

- b) Please provide details on any further outputs generated by the project over the last year which do not fit easily into the standard output categories for the Darwin Initiative.

- c) Explain any problem encountered to date in achieving the output targets specified for this project or any problems you envisage in achieving these outputs in the future.

- d) If the project timetable has slipped or changed, provide an updated output timetable for the remainder of the project. *(Please note that projects are expected to adhere to the original output timetable which was agreed with the Department and this is taken into account when assessing project performance. However, some projects may be delayed unavoidably. Where a project is falling behind schedule a revised output timetable should be provided below. This will need to be passed to the department for approval).*

PROJECT EXPENDITURE

- a) 1999/2000 Darwin Grant £59,044.08*
- b) Overall Darwin Grant £126,413
- c) Grant expenditure 1999/2000 £58,034.91
- d) Grant expenditure to date £125,390.83

** Entitlement calculated from revised budgets including rollover from previous year agreed with Darwin Office.*

e) Please provide a breakdown of grant expenditure using the main expenditure headings in

1999/2000	Expenditure to Date (if different to 1999/2000 expenditure)
Staff Costs	
Postage	
Travel & Subsistence	
Printing	
Conferences	
Others (mainly computer equipment)	

f) Explain any variations in expenditure (+/-10%) from the original application form.

STAFF RESOURCES

a) Please provide details on the staff who have worked on the project over the last year (1999/2000).

Name	Institution	Grade/Position	Input During 1999/2000
Dr K. Shrestha	Tribhuvan University (based at NHM for duration of project).	Darwin Fellow (Department of Botany, NHM)	100% (up to October 1999)
Mr D. Bajracharya	Tribhuvan University	Darwin Scholar	100% (for 3 months)
Mr T. Gautam	Tribhuvan University	Darwin Scholar	100% (for 3 months)
Prof. S. Blackmore	The Natural History Museum	Keeper of Botany (Band 1)	5%
Mr J.R. Press	The Natural History Museum	Head of Higher Plants Division (Band 3)	30%
Dr D.A. Sutton	The Natural History Museum	IT specialist (Band 3)	10%

b) Please explain any variations in the composition of the project team or in the inputs of key staff from the details provided in the original application form.