

DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES

SIX MONTHLY MONITORING FORM

Project Details

Project Reference No.: *162/7/055*

Project Title: *Marine Environmental Training in
Seychelles & Mauritius*

Institution: *The Royal Geographic Society*

Round: *6*

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

- a) Outline progress over the last six months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project. If some milestones have not been achieved or have slipped, explain reasons for this.

Staff recruitment: 04 Sept. 98 – 2 x Scientific Co-ordinators; 2 x Field Co-ordinators; and 5 Field Base Scientists.

Training personnel and trainees identified for Seychelles and Mauritius.

Training opportunities and key scientific programme developed.

Shoals programme launch and signing of MoU in Seychelles. Field base sites and facilities agreed. Field Base Scientists and co-ordinators left for Seychelles on 07 Oct 98.

- b) What progress has the project made in achieving its objectives over the last six months? 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).

The project is still expected to achieve all the original objectives specified. Progress in the field is outlined below:

Field base: set up on Ste. Anne in Seychelles. This will provide accommodation for field staff and hostel type accommodation for up to 16 visiting scientists or Darwin Initiative students. Classroom and further accommodation for 4-6 students will be made available by the Seychelles Marine Parks Authority. Facilities have been arranged for the use of wet and dry laboratories and the for the setting up of an office with a computer network.

Training: RGS/Shoals field staff have met with the National Co-ordinating Committee and identified the following initial training requirements for Government personnel: marine geological/geophysical techniques; hydrographic techniques; Reef & general marine monitoring techniques; dive training; scientific methodology; statistics; IT; first aid in the marine environment; basic taxonomy. Work has commenced on part 1 of the Seychelles training manual, covering basic marine biology, taxonomy, marine monitoring techniques, scientific diving, oceanography and first aid. The preparation for the production of a high quality education poster and training manual has commenced.

Education: Contacts have been established with local teachers organisations with a view to organising field trips and facilitating A-level projects.

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

The preparation involved in setting up the phase 1 part of the project which has included the setting up of base camps, labs and offices and co-ordinating numerous visiting scientists has taken longer than anticipated and important lessons have been learned with regards to implementing the Mauritius phase 1.

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. Where a project is falling behind schedule, details on the revised programme of work should be provided below.)*

The overall schedule and launch of the Shoals of Capricorn Programme has experienced a 2 month slip in schedule due to unforeseen delays with the organisation and availability of the Phase 1 visiting scientists and in the signing of the detailed Memorandum of Understanding between Shoals and the host Governments. The launch of Shoals (and hence of the Darwin Initiative) in the field was delayed for the Seychelles until October 98. The Mauritius phase was due to be launched in the field in November, however this is now to be delayed until January 99 due to the difficulty of working in Mauritius over the December Christmas period.

Consequently, the phase 1 training component of the Darwin Initiative has been delayed by 2-3 months.

Revised Project Implementation Timetable (of milestones not yet achieved):

1998/99

Nov Commence training phase 1 in Seychelles
Signing of MoU with Mauritius
Jan Launch of Mauritius project
Feb Commence training phase 1 in Mauritius
Seychelles first seminar
Mar Training phase 1 complete
Poster and part 1 of manual produced
Mauritius first seminar

1999/2000

Apr Training phase 2 begins
Aug Training phase 2 complete
Second poster and part 2 of manual draft
Nov Training phase 3 begins
Second poster and part 2 of manual complete
Seminar 2
Mar Second poster and manual part 2 printed
Training phase 3 complete
Apr Training phase 4 begins

2000/2001

As per original timetable.

e) What is the estimated completion date for the project?
April 2001.

f) Is this different to the completion date set out in the original application form?
No.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Please use this space to provide any further information on the progress of the project over the last six months, or on the Darwin Initiative as a whole. For example, are there any issues you wish to raise on management/monitoring/financial procedures or on any other matters?

None at this stage.