

# 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 and Mauritius**

Institution **Royal Geographical Society (with IBG)**

Round 1  (please tick)

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### 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.

*Progress:*

- *Ongoing training in biodiversity assessment and marine environmental training progressing well*
- *Initially, six personnel were indicated for SCUBA-dive training in June 1999. This number has now been extended to 18- 36 personnel as training has been requested in each of Seychelles, Mauritius and Rodrigues, although training will be later in the year than anticipated (see below)*

*Delays:*

- *Main SCUBA-diving training not yet completed: However, PADI / BSAC diving instructor (Mr John Nortcliffe) due to travel to Seychelles and Mauritius on 17 November 1999.*
- *Severe delays in clearance of equipment through customs in Mauritius resulted in less progress than anticipated. However, freight has now cleared (early October 1999), and is being utilised immediately*
- *Main casualty of these delays was production of the marine educational poster(s). This has been discussed with the Darwin Initiative secretariat, and explained that our Shoals artist (Miss Charlotte Johnstone) is currently overseas visiting all the field bases and providing content and design for the poster. We hope that the first poster will be distributed in January 2000, the second before the end of the first quarter 2000*

- 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 expected to more than achieve its original objectives in the overall timetable of the funding, but some of the timing has slipped in this period. Progress is outlined below:*

- *Marine biodiversity training offered by Drs Helge Vogt, Graham Oliver, Bill Burnett and Mr Iain Watt – including marine benthos sampling, preservation techniques and biodiversity assessment .*
- *Practical reef survey training given by Dr Helge Vogt in coral reef survey methodology (using REEFCHECK and manta-tow) in Rodrigues with members of the Rodrigues Underwater Group (RUG)*
- *Extensive medical and first aid training provided in Rodrigues and Seychelles by Dr Bev Holt in Seychelles and Rodrigues: workshops given in Marine hazards, drowning, diving, snorkelling and envenomation, followed by practical sessions on boat rescue, oxygen administration and care of casualties in small boats. Total number of attendees c. 70*

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

- Importing large amounts of equipment into a country, even with a rigorous Memorandum of Understanding in place with the host nation government, can incur serious delays. Ideally, commitments should not be made to start projects until clearance of equipment has taken place.
- The significant delays resulting from these governmental procedures have been costly both in terms of lost time and financial liability, including storage fees, and requiring hire of equipment, boats and vehicles.
- Identification of most relevant and requested local issue to be covered in initial poster takes considerable time, including time for local networking and integration of project. A commitment to produce such educational materials in the first year was therefore ambitious.
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- 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.)*

**Revised project implementation timetable 1999/2000**

Oct – Dec	Production of artwork and finalising of design for poster I
Nov – February	Diving training in Seychelles, Mauritius and Rodrigues
January	Final design and print of poster I
February	Distribution of poster I and design of poster II
	Ongoing training, including workshops
Mar	End of year seminar in Mauritius and Seychelles
	Part 1 of manual produced & printed

**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?

Yes

(please tick)

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?

Further details provided to Darwin Initiative Secretariat in letter from Iain Watt, 12.10.99. Our apologies for delay in submission of claim forms, which is now rectified.

With field operations now well set up, the next field period will enable us to catch up with outstanding commitments.