

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Conservation of Plant Diversity of western Cameroon
Country	Cameroon
Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Project Ref. No.	162/08/038
Report date	30 Oct. 2001

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

2412 historic specimens at RBG, Kew were databased (target was 2328); Species-specific conservation posters for local conservation posters in Cameroon designed; Six papers were submitted (only four were scheduled) describing seven new species, mostly with conservation assessments, of the genera *Impatiens*, *Rhaptopetalum*, *Angraecum*, *Polystachya*, *Stelechantha*, *Plectranthus* & *Tricalysia*; Red data species assessments for Mt Kupe-Bakossi begun; Determinations of specimens from Mt Kupe-Bakossi continued; Specimens from 2000 expedition delayed in arrival at Kew, sorting incomplete; Student labour unavailable for digitization of Mt Oku alt. data; Preparations for third Darwin expedition to Cameroon were made, and Darwin Officer Ben Pollard departed late Sept., followed by Cheek, to implement there.

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 effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

There is a slight element of doubt attached to Earthwatch sponsorship for the April 02 (fourth) expedition. If this does not materialize it will jeopardize our ability to execute this expedition since this line of funding supports Kew staff in the field, necessary to run the expedition with HNC co-operation. This might result in the cancellation of the fourth expedition. This possibility has only arisen recently so has not been discussed with the department. Discussion is pending with Earthwatch.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures. No.