

DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES

SIX MONTHLY MONITORING FORM

Project Details

Project Reference No. _____

Project Title Gorilla conservation genetics

Institution University of Wales, Cardiff

Round 1 (please tick)

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Round 7

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.

UK training period for Gabonese technician (Mireille Johnson-Bawe) and UK Post-doctoral researcher (Nicola Anthony) was carried out successfully.

We have developed non-radioactive genetic staining methods (silver staining), fluorescent-based technologies and single stranded conformational polymorphism analysis for analysing mitochondrial and nuclear DNA variation in gorilla hair and blood samples.

- 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).

Good progress was made in establishing key skills in both personnel and in establishing the appropriate molecular marker systems in shed hair from gorilla nests. The project is still expected to achieve its objectives. However, some difficulty has been encountered when attempting to amplify nuclear DNA from old hair.

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

Communication with co-workers in Gabon could have been more effective, especially with regard to preparing and setting up the course in conservation biology at the national science university. As the teaching time-table has been arranged well in advance for next year's course, we anticipate scheduling speakers, course dates and field trips to be less of a problem. Some initial language 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. Where a project is falling behind schedule, details on the revised programme of work should be provided below.)*

The revised timetable (with commencement date 1/10/99) is on track and has not slipped due to unforeseen circumstances.

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

1/10/02

- 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?

None