

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report Form

<b>Project Title</b>	Framework for monitoring invasive tree species in Ghana
<b>Country</b>	Ghana
<b>Organisation</b>	Centre for Natural Resources and Development, Nature Bureau International
<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/9/019
<b>Report date</b>	1 April 2002 – 30 September 2002

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

Timetable	Research activities completed:
July: Complete research on natural regeneration. Complete work on developing quantitative and qualitative indicators of invasiveness with rural communities, and work on developing methods of ameliorating the negative impacts of invasive tree species.	Work continued on the burning experiments to assess plant species recovery after fire, and on the competitive ability of neem in the Shai Hills Game Reserve. A report and recommendations has been compiled by Bright Kankam (FORIG). Work on developing methods of monitoring and evaluating invasive trees species' impact on biodiversity has been completed.
August: Start testing methods of monitoring and evaluating the impact of invasive species on biodiversity	Impact assessment has been carried out in the project communities, and new methods of controlling invasive species have been suggested. Felicity Childs visited Ghana from 23 July to 2 August to assist with the impact assessment, provide additional training and begin preparations for the workshops.
September: Start planning for workshops and begin drafting field manual	Planning for the workshops has begun in terms of finalising a date, establishing a draft programme and list of participants, and the booking of venues. The field manual based on the community experiences and recommendations on controlling invasive tree species is being drafted.

### 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?

Joanne Chamberlain is pregnant, hence the project will go on hold from October-December 2002 whilst she is on maternity leave, and restart in January 2003. Workshops have been re-scheduled to take place during this month with the participation of Felicity Childs in place of Joanne, who will return to work on the project at the end of February 2003 to oversee the completion of the project outputs. A revised project schedule and spending profile has been drafted and the issue discussed with the Department. No increase in the budget is expected.

GOAN continued to experience staff changes. Staff that received training in July 2001 left shortly afterwards. This has been followed by the loss of junior staff in early July of 2002. Joanne Chamberlain was also informed that the GOAN bank account had been frozen at this time, but as yet has not received a satisfactory explanation as to why, or indeed if this was true. Felicity Childs arranged to meet with GOAN staff during her visit at the end of July, but they failed to meet with her or accompany her on visits to the field sites. Joanne is still waiting for a response to all of these issues from GOAN and has sent them a final letter requesting clarification of the situation. If she does not hear from them by the end of October, she will assume they no longer wish to be involved in the project and the project will continue work with Suntaa-Nuntaa Agroforestry and FORIG.

**3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures.**

None