

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	EIDPO025
Project Title	Capacity building to enhance Marine Protected Area effectiveness,
Country(ies)	Malaysia (Sabah)
UK Organisation	Marine Conservation Society
Collaborator(s)	Sabah Parks
Project Leader	Dr Elizabeth Wood
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Project website	www.sempornaislandsproject.com

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

The following activities were scheduled for the last 6 months. Progress shown is in bold.

- Meetings and focus groups to discuss scope and content of information programme and decide on strategies. Scheduled for April – Oct 09.

Good progress has been made during formal and informal meetings with Sabah Parks and with other stakeholders. 2 new local Project staff have been appointed through Sabah Parks with project funding: Norida Salimau (Education & Awareness Officer) and Bobita Golam Ahad (Hatchery Manager). Project Team have regular communication and meetings. Discussion documents for the various elements of the project have been produced and strategies agreed.

- Awareness materials designed and produced. Scheduled for June – Dec 09

Design and production well underway and on target for completion by Dec 09

- Training and information needs identified through discussions with Sabah Parks staff. Scheduled for April – Oct 09.

Completed and draft programme for the Training Courses produced.

- Teaching and reference materials developed / acquired to use for training courses. Scheduled for June – Dec 09

Development of materials well underway and on target for completion by Dec 09

- Programme launched to culture marine invertebrates other than giant clams. Scheduled to begin April 09 and continue through to 2010.

Trials carried out with abalone and spawning successful but larvae did not survive. Research and development continuing.

- Stakeholder meetings to discuss alternative livelihood opportunities in reef/marine orientated tourism in the Park. Scheduled for April – Oct 09.

Informal meetings held with stakeholders and also an 'Alternative Livelihoods' Community Workshop held on one of the main islands in the Park in which various experts and advisors participated (e.g. from Sabah Homestay programme). Promising outlook and follow-up in progress.

