Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	162/12/002 – post project fellowship
Project Title	Darwin Fellowship
Country(ies)	Gabon
UK Organisation	ECTF Darwin Initiative Monitoring BushLoan Penicuik Midlothian UK
Collaborator(s)	University of Stirling/ Margaret Okot/ Anne Marie Ndong Obiang / University of East Anglia/ Dr Harriet Jones
Project Leader	Katharine Abernethy
Report date	June 2008
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR1
Project website	

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

A/ In September 2007 I was set to take an MSc course in Applied Ecology and Conservation at the University of East Anglia during which I would progress through each module monitored by Dr Katharine Abernethy of the University of Stirling and Dr Diana Bell of the University of East Anglia.

Compulsory units in this course include Univariate Statistics, Multivariate Statistics, Ecological census methods and Research skills for ecologists. Optional units can include Conservation genetics, Population dynamics and modelling, Introduction to GIS, Restoration ecology and Understanding environmental change.

As part of the course work I would to undertake a research project and dissertation for 4 months starting at the end of March 2008 till the end of July 2008, the fieldwork for this would be based in Gabon on Bushmeat issues with me working in close collaboration with Projet Gibier, I was to be supervised by Dr Katherine Abernethy of the University of Stirling. During my time in Gabon a couple of days would be set aside for me to give presentations to the Ministry of Water and Forestry based on what I have learnt during the teaching part of the MSc.

Finally after the end of the MSc, I would have given a series of presentations on both my dissertation and modules undertaken during the teaching part of the MSc. These presentations would be given both to the Ministry of Water and Forestry and to different national NGO's.

B/ On arrival, I started in Graduate diploma as during summer 2007, UEA installed a rule that all international students need that before do their Msc.

The Program was Graduate Diploma in Ecology; this program was act for September 2007to June 2008. At the end of the first term (December) all students were asked to select their units for the second term, starting January. All my selected units were agreed and recorded with the Admission Office. However, somewhere along the line I

was told to change the program. They asked me to move from Biological Science to INTO UEA, to take intense English lessons. I was told that my Knowledge of science was good, but I needed to improve my English.

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 affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

A/ Firstly the change from School of Biological science to INTO. This has brought about major impact on my program for example a change of accommodation, and I have to buy books and stationary that were not planned.

The budget and timetable of project activities were affected by the change of program, but as I am no longer required to return to Gabon for the summer project, the economies in this area have allowed me to continue the program.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

A/ These issues were discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and ECTF by the project leader, and with the Secretariat by myself when I visited them in early 2008.

All details could be asked to Dr Katharine Abernethy

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: yes, in de (month/yr)

yes, in dec 2007 and Feb 2008...

Changes to the project schedule/work plan: yes, in...Jan 2008......(month/yr)

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

A/ Fellow should be implicated in the management and the monitoring of the budget. For example managing finance with involving a third party. Darwin should nominate a person who act as counsellor or mentor to the fellow.

Including medical insurance in fellow stipend will be an important point.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at <u>Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please state your</u> project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half <u>Year Report</u>