

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	CAMEROON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME II (CEESP II)
Country	CAMEROON
Organisation	Living Earth Foundation
Project Ref. No.	162/10/014
Report date	<i>1 October 2002</i>

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

During this period most of the bureaucratic problems that delayed the start of CEESP II were overcome. There is little to report against the output timetable, but essential arrangements for project implementation were put in place.

The 'Protocole D'Accord' for STABEX funding between the Ministry of Public Investment and the EC Delegation was signed in May 2002, as was the Technical Assistance Contract with Living Earth Foundation (LEF). The collaborating Ministries appointed 'focal point' representatives to the Project Steering Committee, which met for the first time in August. A costed work plan ('Devis Programme') for the first year was agreed with the EC Delegation and submitted to the relevant Ministries for approval. Memorandums of Understanding were drawn up between LEF and the three collaborating Ministries, and submitted to the Ministers for signature. Effective collaborations with the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment were especially noted.

The Programme Adviser was recruited and approved, and started work in October. He met the Ministries, visited LEF field activities and reviewed existing EE materials. The LEF Africa Programme Manager visited Cameroon during this induction period. The Senior/Project Development Officer posts were advertised: recruitment will take place in November. Other core staff, including the Programme Coordinator and Finance Manager, are already in place. Quotations were obtained for computers, and vehicle specifications were identified.

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?

CEESP II suffered major delays caused by the complexity of adhering to EC and Government procedures. Most of these hurdles were overcome with the signing of the Protocol in May, but there were further delays due to repeated re-drafting of the 'Devis Programme'. At the close of the period it was awaiting signature at the Ministry of Education, a requirement for the formal start of work. No EC funds have yet been released. While these delays are frustrating, close collaborations with the Ministries and the EC – the main funder – remain essential. The project objectives and expected outputs remain unchanged, while the two-year implementation period now runs from October 2002.

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

In order to retain consistency with the Devis Programme as agreed with Cameroon government ministries, it will be necessary to review the agreed baseline timetable with Darwin Initiative. Living Earth Foundation will submit a revised timetable for consideration during November 2002.

Completed forms to: Rose Clarkson, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JK, Scotland. Email: R.Clarkson@ed.ac.uk