

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report Form

<b>Project Title</b>	Preservation, rehabilitation and utilisation of Vietnamese montane forests
<b>Country</b>	Vietnam
<b>Organisation</b>	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/10-017
<b>Report date</b>	11/10/2002

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

Two staff from the Central Forest Seed Company visited the UK during April and May 2002 for four weeks training in mycorrhizal work and conifer taxonomy. The visit was successful and both are likely to return to the UK early in 2003 for further training. This would form an extra output for the project.

The second visit by conifer specialists with its associated activities is due to take place mid October-mid November. This is slightly later than planned due to wet weather in Vietnam and commitments of the UK staff.

The second visit by mycorrhizal specialists took place mid September, slightly later than planned. This was done at the request of the Vietnamese partners and to try and ensure that the timing of the visit coincided with fruiting body production in the targeted areas. Fruiting body and root samples were collected during the visit. The purchase of a digital camera has enabled work on the mycorrhizal manual to commence.

The UK propagation expert (Dr Jan Dick, CEH) will be visiting southern Vietnam from October 20<sup>th</sup> in order to assess another Darwin funded project. This work is being undertaken at the request of ECTF monitors. During her visit she will also be working on this project. This means that her planned visit in January 2003 will probably only focus on the northern Vietnam.

### 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?

No major problems have been encountered. The only significant change to the schedule is the earlier visit to southern Vietnam by the UK propagation expert (Dr Jan Dick, CEH). This will improve the running of the project as it will result in greater contact between the partners.

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

Not at present.

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