

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report Form

<b>Project Title</b>	Biodiversity conservation in ancient church and monastery yards in Ethiopia
<b>Country</b>	Ethiopia
<b>Organisation</b>	University of Wales (Bangor)
<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/10/031
<b>Report date</b>	31/10/01

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

The project has organised a workshop and the proceedings are due to be published before the end of the year. Published and unpublished information regarding sacred sites biodiversity has been gathered from libraries and key academics and professionals. Much of this information has been collated and where relevant has been entered in databases (e.g. bibliography, species and site lists). Church authorities have been consulted. Site to be investigated in the Rapid Biodiversity Assessment (RBA) have been identified. The RBA methodology has been finalised and fieldwork has been initiated. Training of Ethiopian staff has started (species identification) and it is envisaged to complete this training programme before Christmas.

The first project output, in the form of web pages, has been set up and these pages will be regularly updated. See: <http://members.tripod.co.uk/WoodyPlantEcology/ethiopia/>

### 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?

*The following events have affected work schedule:*

- 1. The research officer only started work in August, four months after the start of the project.*
- 2. The problems encountered by IBCR with regards to its participation to the project. Due to local administrative difficulties, IBCR could not participate directly. This was discussed with the Department and changes have been made so that project activities are not affected in the long run.*

*Implications: some staff members are required to work 6-7 day week to meet the work requirements of the first phase (RBA) time schedule.*

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

none