

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Habitat audit and change detection in Sierra Leone
Country	Sierra Leone
Organisation	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (Monks Wood)
Project Ref. No.	11/006
Report date	31 st October 2002

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

The fieldwork is about to start (UK staff fly out on the 18th November).

We have obtained the equipment and satellite data required and preliminary analysis suggests that it will be suitable (based on what I remember from 1986!). A PowerPoint presentation of preliminary results exists and can be provided if required.

A press release has appeared on the Sierra Leone Web (read by many outside Sierra Leone) and a technology company in Sierra Leone has already approached us as a result. I have negotiated with the editors of the "earth watch" to submit an article after the first field season.

Contacts are being maintained with organisations in the Cambridge Conservation Forum who have expressed an interest in the project.

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?

We were pleasantly surprised to discover an alternative source of radar data at a fraction of the cost we thought it would be. We have therefore been able to obtain data for a greater area and with better temporal resolution than we planned. This change has not been discussed with the department.

Good cloud free Landsat images could not be found for exactly the locations and years that were envisaged. We have selected slightly earlier dates than planned but this should make change detection easier.

Communication with Sierra Leone, even to the University is slow and unreliable.

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

No.