

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Biodiversity assessment of limestone karst dependent bats in Myanmar
Country	Myanmar (Burma)
Organisation	Harrison Institute
Project Ref. No.	162/11/019
Report date	24 October, 2003

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months 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). All key milestones were achieved. These included: [1] attendance and presentations concerning the Darwin project at two international conferences; [2] an extensively illustrated newsletter outlining the scope and activities of our Darwin project published on our institute's website www.harrison-institute.org; [3] a practical workshop in Shan State on echolocation studies by Dr Iain Mackie; [4] 2 field surveys to Mandalay and Shan State (April and August) and field studies in Bago Division [August], with plans for a 28 person (including 8 UK and foreign specialists) field survey to Tanintharyi Division (November-Dec, 2003); [5] voucher specimens for the University of Yangon and Harrison Institute collections, including previously unrecorded bat species from Myanmar; [6] 12 Myanmar students trained in various aspects of bat studies, including echolocation, diet analysis, behaviour, man-bat interaction, systematics; [7] data input into databases for bats, limestone caves and echolocation [8] preparation in progress of field keys for Myanmar bats; [9] preparation and submission of scientific papers for publication; [10] additional funding from Total E&P Myanmar (\$15,000) and smaller amounts from Premier Oil, Royal Geographical Society and Ghar Parau Foundation.

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. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? It proved impossible to get an Irish visa (there is no Irish Embassy in Myanmar; it is the responsibility of their Beijing office, who did not return calls, faxes or e-mails) for one of our Myanmar students to attend the Fourth Biennial conference of the Systematics Association, which was held in Dublin in August, 2003. Therefore her power-point presentation had to be given on her behalf by Dr Paul Bates. We anticipate we may face a similar problem when we try and take a student to the 13th International Bat Research Conference in Poland (23-27 August, 2004). It will probably be less of a problem for attending the Trans-Karst 2004: Development and Conservation of Karst Regions meeting in Hanoi, (13-18 September, 2004). We will take advice about these matters in good time.

The problem associated with staff transfers referred to in our last Annual Report has proved to be less serious than anticipated, since the individuals involved have been given leave by their new universities to carry on their training, research and participation in our workshops and field surveys.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? It would be useful to have feed back on our Annual Report so that we can modify the way we are conducting our project should there be substantive criticisms.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, Email: stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk