

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Building Capacity for Plant Biodiversity, Inventory and Conservation in Nepal.
Country	Nepal
Organisation	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Project Ref. No.	162/12/030
Report date	31 st 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).

June '03: Drs M. Watson and M. Pullan (RBGE) visited Kathmandu, Nepal, for a series of meetings and site visits over four days at the three Nepali collaborating organisations. A report was produced.

Sept '03: Nepalese collaborators Prof. D. Bajracharya and Dr K.D. Yami (RONAST), Prof. K.K. Shrestha (TUCDB), and Dr. K.R. Rajbhandari (DPR) spent six days in Edinburgh to participate in the Planning Meeting (including Prof. S. Blackmore, Drs D. Long, H. Noltie and M. Watson). Details of the activities were refined and the baseline timetable was revised to take into account political difficulties in Nepal (see below). A report was produced with revised timetable and supporting documents.

IT equipment identified in the budget has been purchased, the two laptop computers and software have been delivered to Nepal. Other equipment has been purchased and awaits transport to Nepal.

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?

A deterioration of political stability within Nepal caused by resumption of activities by the Maoist rebels has impacted on the project. At the Edinburgh Planning Meeting it was decided to postpone the first in-country workshop to March 2004. This will allow time for the political situation to stabilise and give more time for selection of the Darwin Scholars. The timing of events for the following years was also refined and a revised timetable produced (included in the report of the Planning Meeting). As none of the changes move expenditure across the financial years (and so do not affect the budget), they have not been discussed with the Department. Full details are available in the two reports. These will be appended to the end of year report, but are available in electronic copy on request.

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

No.

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