Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2008)

Project Ref. No.	14-004
Project Title	A Biodiversity Monitoring System for Trinidad and Tobago
Country(ies)	Trinidad and Tobago
UK Organisation	Oxford University
Collaborator(s)	National Herbarium, University of West Indies, Forestry Division, Asa Wright Nature Centre
Project Leader	Nick Brown, University of Oxford
Report date	31st October 2008
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 4
Project website	http://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/?Caribbean

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1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) 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).

Identification and data-basing in BRAHMS of the specimens collected in both Phase II and III have been ongoing. To date, approximately two thirds (16000) of the specimens have been identified and data-based. An estimated 9000 specimens remain to be data-based, of which, about 7000 still remain to be identified (these consist of the more difficult to identify families – which require expert attention).

Additionally, Shobha Maharaj, the Project Research Assistant, together with the Forestry team surveyed the areas within Trinidad where gaps from the previous sampling phases occurred – this contributed a further 25 sites to the data. Particularly worthy of mention are samples taken far within the North-western region of the island, which due to its precipitous terrain has no previous vegetation sampling. Here at least one endemic was recorded growing in dense populations – this species was previously unknown from this area.

A one-day GPS training workshop in the use of GPS units under dense forest canopy conditions was organised and co-delivered by Ms. Maharaj – to Forestry staff.

Shobha Maharaj has been awarded a £XXX p.a. scholarship by the Department of Plant Sciences towards the cost of her D.Phil. She took up her place at the beginning of October 2008.

The University of the West Indies in collaboration with the Universities of Oxford, the University of Belize, the University of Guyana, the Anton De Kom University of Suriname, Institute for Advanced Teacher Training of Suriname have been successful in securing a $xxxxxxxxx grant from the African Caribbean and Pacific Group of State - EU Partnerships in Higher Education, EDULINK programme to support the development of a one year full-time (2 year part-time) taught an MSc in Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Development for the Caribbean. A web based delivery system of training for professionals within the Caribbean which will ensure that students do not have to move between countries or leave work to participate in the programme

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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.

No significant problems were encountered.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in……… (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/~~yes~~, in……….(month/yr)

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

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**