Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

Project Ref. No.	14-007
Project Title	Community action for sustainable use and conservation of coral reefs
Country(ies)	Sabah, Malaysia
UK Organisation	Marine Conservation Society
Collaborator(s)	Sabah Parks
Project Leader	Dr Elizabeth Wood
Report date	October 28 th 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
Project website	www.sempornaislandsproject.com

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).

oTwo additional Biodiversity Conservation Zones established. Public/press information.

The two additional Conservation Zones were agreed nearly a year ago, along with other regulations for the site, but the document is still awaiting input from Sabah Parks lawyers and signing off by the Attorney General. Until this happens (which is out of the Project's control), enforcement cannot begin.

- o Final EMIPS training/trouble shooting workshop completed. Data input contuing; workshop pending
- Second phase of reef biodiversity and socio-economic field monitoring surveys completed and data entered into databases.
 Completed
- School activity days: Semporna area. Public/press information.
 Completed
- Sea ranching units fully operational.
 Seaweed farming has been successfully launched. Approximately 40 families have been trained in the techniques and supplied with seedlings and necessary equipment.
- o Newsletter produced. Completed
- Village publicity event/roadshow carried out. Public/press information.
 Extended Roadshow successfully completed involving Park communities + those on the mainland. Further educational work carried out during the seaweed farming programme.
- o Seminar/workshop to discuss results/success of the resource use strategy and the surveillance and enforcement programme for the 'at risk' species & habitats.
- o Recommendations for future action. Public/press information.
- o All Biodiversity Conservation Zones established, patrols operating. Activity logs in use. Public/press information.

The activities above have been deferred because of delays beyond project control in introducing the regulations (see above) which means that the resource use

strategies and protection of species are not being fully enforced. .

Reef Biodiversity Monitoring and Socio-economic monitoring reports completed, with recommendations for future action. Public/press information.
 Completed

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.

See note above about the delays over regulations and enforcement. However, in order to keep up the momentum we have been working both with Sabah Parks, local communities and tour operators to curtail illegal activities such as fish blasting and anchoring. We are also working with the tour operators to monitor visitor use prior to the introduction of visitor fees.

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

No – there has been no major change to the overall programme

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

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

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

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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> 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 <u>Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please state your</u> project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half <u>Year Report</u>