

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	14-009
Project Title	Biodiversity Monitoring in Forest Ecosystems in Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia
Country(ies)	Ethiopia
UK Organisation	University of Aberdeen
Collaborator(s)	Fikadu Garedeu (Park Warden, Bale Mountains, Oromia Regional Agricultural Department)
Report date	31 October 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 1</i>
Project website	<i>Still under construction</i>

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).

Our project started on 1 September 05 thus this report covers our first two months of project activity. The main achievements have been these:

- we have appointed our Project Staff (Dr Menassie Gashaw);
- purchased the capital equipment for the project (i.e., a vehicle and two laptop computers);
- held a preliminary project planning meeting and have organised the project planning workshop for 5-6 Nov 05

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.

The main unexpected development was that the main project collaborator, Mr Fikadu Garedeu, was hospitalised in August and has been unable to contribute to the project to date. I met with his deputy, Mr Addisu Asefa (I have his CV if you would like to see it), in September in Addis and he agreed to take over his responsibilities until Mr Garedeu is back to work. I have recently learned that Mr Garedeu is recovering well and expects to return to the project before the close of 2005.

The impact of this problem is mainly that we were delayed by about two weeks in starting the work, I travelled to Addis unexpectedly to meet project staff with Mr Addisu, and the planning workshop will now happen in November rather than October. At this point, I don't think the delay will affect the budget as I anticipate that we will make up the time lost before the end of March and the close of the first financial year. I also expect that we can cover the cost of the September flight by being conservative with our funds.

The second unexpected development was the Dr Menassie Gashaw accepted the post of Project Researcher rather than Mr Mengesha Debsu, who accepted a teaching position at Wondo Genet College of Forestry in July 05. Dr Gashaw is well-qualified for the position and I think he will be an important asset. This has no budgetary implications as he has accepted the salary that was in the budget.

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

No, although I sent an email to Margaret Okot on (4 Oct 05) to alert her to these two developments.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no (but see above)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no

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 by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**