

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.	14-010
Project Title	Facilitating forest restoration for biodiversity recovery in Indochina
Country(ies)	Thailand, China, Laos, Cambodia
UK Organisation	East Malling Research
Collaborator(s)	Kunming Institute of Botany - ICRAF, China; Forest Research Centre, Laos; Forest and Wildlife Science Research Institute, Cambodia; Forest Restoration Research Unit, Thailand
Report date	<i>31 October 2005</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 1</i>
Project website	www.forru.org

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).

The project has made a very good start, and has met all its outputs for the first six months, on schedule with the agreed baseline timetable. The first workshop was held in Chiang Mai in June 2005 for our Chinese partners. This was also attended in part by the UK Project Leader, and Dr Neil Hipps from East Malling Research. The workshop was a great success, and we were very pleased with the enthusiasm and expertise shown by the participants. A detailed workshop report and evaluation document was produced after the workshop, and this has been circulated to all partners. The second workshop was held in Chiang Mai in August, for the Laotian partners. This too was a great success, and once again, we were very encouraged by the interest and co-operation shown by the participants. A report of this workshop has also been circulated. The opportunity for several partners to meet face to face raised some interesting issues concerning the project timetable, which are outlined below. In September, the Thai project leader visited the UK and met with EMR officials to discuss scheduling and budget modifications to improve the planning and implementation of the project. One edition of the project newsletter was produced and distributed and translation of FORRU's publication "How to Plant a Forest" (a best-practices field guide) into Chinese and Laotian was started.

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.

We would like to revise our payment timetable, by moving some of the funds requested for year 3 into year 2 of our project. The overall total amount requested will remain the same. The reason for this request is that during face-to-face discussions between the Thai, Chinese and English partners earlier this year, it became apparent that it would be far more logical and sensible to publish our Field Guide in Year 2 (scheduled for year 3) and our Manual in Year 3 (scheduled for year 2). This will help considerably with the smooth running of the project, and provide information when it is most needed. I forwarded to Darwin on September 29, the original proposal, in which I made the necessary changes to the logframe, milestones, outputs and budget. I am awaiting a response to this.

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

I made the necessary changes to the logframe, milestones, outputs and budget in the original proposal – in edit mode for clarity – and sent this to Darwin on September 29. I have not had a response to this yet.

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?

Once again, we feel it necessary to raise the issue of funding in arrears. This creates considerable problems for project management. In this project we have partners, particularly in Laos and Cambodia, who have very little capacity to fund project activities in advance of receiving payments from Darwin. We feel strongly that Darwin should reconsider this policy with some urgency, particularly where it affects really poor, developing countries.

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.**