

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report

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	31 October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
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).

Progress on the project has been good, with some very exciting new initiatives. Outputs scheduled for the first six months have either been completed, or have been rescheduled for completion within this project year. The translation of the Field Guide into Chinese has nearly been completed, and this is presently being reviewed by Directors of the Kunming Institute of Botany and colleagues from the Forestry Department in Yunnan. Summaries in English of the new material included in the Guide, such as Chinese forest types and Chinese framework species are currently being prepared for review by the Drs Elliott and Blakesley. The workshop in China has been postponed until the New Year, to enable all participants invited to attend.

The Laotian version of the Field Guide has been largely translated, with about 5% of the text still to be translated. Progress on the Laotian Field Guide will be reviewed at the Cambodian Workshop (see below). The workshop in Laos was held in July 2006 and was very successful. A full evaluation report will accompany the second Annual Report.

The Cambodian version of the Field Guide has been largely translated into Khmer; some additional material provided by FORRU on framework species will be translated shortly. It will be reviewed during the Cambodian workshop, which is scheduled for the second week of October, 2006. Any additional material directly related to the local situation will be drafted at this time, or immediately afterwards. It is anticipated that the Khmer version of the Field Guide will be published on time.

In May, the Thai project leader visited EMR and Wildlife Landscapes in the UK, which proved extremely useful in terms of planning activities and discussions on the content, layout and production of the Manual; the first draft of this is scheduled to be ready for review in April 2007.

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.

There have been no notable problems or unexpected developments which will affect the budget and timetable of project activities. However, several knock-on effects have, much enhanced the value and sustainability of this project and resulted in extra outputs. Additional activities are already being undertaken by the project's Chinese partners including the beginnings of a forest restoration research program and education activities.

The project has attracted much interest from other SE Asian countries. Representatives from WWF Malaysia and Vietnam visited the project in May, and this was followed by a Darwin style workshop for the organizers of the reforestation program of Tum Dai National Park in N. Vietnam (funded by GTZ). This group also produced and funded a draft translation of the Field Guide in Vietnamese; an excellent bonus for the project. Furthermore, FORRU representatives were invited to facilitate at a workshop for NGO's in Myanmar that are involved training 60 teachers in forestry related issues.

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)

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.**