

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

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
Project Leader	Dr David Blakesley
Report date	31 October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
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).

Good progress continues to be made, and the project is well on course to exceed all expectations in terms of the final outputs.

Field Guides: the Chinese and Cambodian versions of the Field Guide have been published, and the Laotian version is currently being printed, and will be available shortly. In addition, the Field Guide has been translated into Vietnamese, and its publication is being sponsored by GTZ.

Manual: the manual is slightly behind schedule at this time, but it is still expected to be completed in time for the final workshop in March 2008, which was the original aim. It has been agreed that the workshop will be held in mid March 2008, rather than January as originally planned. It is hoped that a member of the Darwin Secretariat will be able to attend this workshop, and an invitation will be sent out shortly.

In our revised timetable and budget, submitted to Darwin in 2006, we included an extra workshop for the Asian partners to meet together. This was held on August 6-10 at the Forest Research Centre (NAFRI) and at Siem Reap, Cambodia. Twelve participants attended from China, Laos, Cambodia and Thailand. This was an important meeting, which discussed the various Darwin activities already undertaken, and focussed specifically on the remaining activities, notably the completion of the implementation plans, the completion of the Manual, and planning for the final workshop. A full report of the meeting will be submitted with the final report.

An additional activity carried out with supplementary funding from ICRAF was the training of two tree nursery staff from Tengchong China at the Forest Restoration Research Unit in Chiang Mai (FORRU-CMU). These staff had already made progress with establishing a Forest Restoration Research Unit (FORRU) nursery and experimental plots in the buffer zone of Goaligongshan National Nature Reserve. During a field trip in the China country workshop, a request was made for additional intensive training in nursery techniques for staff that had not joined the China workshop in Chiang Mai under this project, concentrating on experimental design and data analysis of nursery/field experiments. A specialized 10-day intensive training program was formulated by FORRU-CMU staff and implemented in late August 2007. The trainees were due to run a training course for the rest of the Tengchong nursery staff on their return.

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.

One change in staff: Horst Weyerheuser (ICRAF) has been replaced by Dr. Xu Jianchu (ICRAF) but this is not expected to cause any changes to the implementation of the project.

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

None

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 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**