Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

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

Project Ref. No.	14-011
Project Title	Taxonomic initiative for Southeast Asian bat studies
Country(ies)	Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Lao PDR
UK Organisation	Harrison Institute
Collaborator(s)	Prince of Songkla University; IEBR Vietnam; National University of Laos; RUPP, Cambodia
Report date	17 October, 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	Year 1 (half year)
Project website	*www.harrison-institute.org/Darwin2/TISABS.htm*

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 met all the key milestones as set out in the project implementation timetable including:

- May, 2005: Information on the projected posted on website (for address see above)

- July, 2005: Objectives of the project presented at informal workshops and discussions in the National University of Laos, Vientiane and Phnom Penh

- July/August, 2005: Asian launch of project at Asian Bat Symposium, Japan (1 oral and 2 poster presentations)

- August, 2005: UK launch of project at 5th Biennial Conference of Systematics Association (1 oral and 1 poster presentation)

- August-Oct, 2005: training of two Darwin trainees at the Harrison Institute

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.

No major problems were met during the first six months of the programme.

For Thailand, the calibre of Darwin trainee was higher than originally envisaged. After discussions in June with senior staff at Prince of Songkla University (PSU), Dr Sara Bumrungsri (a young [aged 34] and dynamic member of staff [who studied for his PhD from Aberdeen University]) was selected as one of the Darwin trainees. It was felt that as an existing member of staff and as head of the bat research group, it would be of greatest benefit to PSU and taxonomy in Thailand, if Sara came for the training programme and attended the international

conferences. During his time in UK, Sara has been trained in aspects of bat taxonomy and collections management, conducted research for the proposed bat taxonomy website, and researched and co-authored a paper on the taxonomy of Thai bats that is about to be submitted to a peer-reviewed international journal.

Sara is now well qualified to pass on these lessons to his own staff and students. These students will also benefit from a major Darwin workshop, which we are planning to hold in PSU in March, 2006 and which will be hosted by him. It is expected that in addition to Sara, we will still have at least two Thai postgraduate students working on the Darwin project from 2006-2008.

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

No

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? 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 <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 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.**