## **Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species**

## Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No. 14-011

**Project Title** Taxonomic Initiative for Southeast Asian bat studies

**Country(ies)** Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Lao PDR

**UK Organisation** Harrison Institute

**Collaborator(s)** Prince of Songkla University, IEBR Vietnam, National University of Laos, RUPP,

Cambodia

**Report date** 6 October, 2006

Report No. (HYR

1/2/3/4)

HYR 2

**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 <u>revised</u> project implementation timetable, including:

April-September, 2006: data gathered in an Access file for 102 of the 155 bat species to be included on the SE Asian Bat Website

April-September, 2006: Darwin MSc students received training at PSU (Prince of Songkla University, Thailand) and at IEBR (Institute for Ecological and Biological Research) and Ba Be Ecological Research Station, Vietnam. Topics chosen and preliminary research conducted for next year's theses

May, 2006: information about the project updated on the Harrison Institute website (for address see above)

May, 2006: Data on bats provided for SAMD (S-E Asian Mammal Databank) by three Darwin project members (Paul Bates, Sara Bumrungsri, Vu Dinh Thong) at a workshop in Bogor, Java

July, 2006: Training (Paul Bates) in bat taxonomy given to 5 MSc and 1 PhD student at a workshop in PSU. Thailand

August, 2006: Training (Paul Bates, Neil Furey) in field techniques given to 5 MSc and 1 PhD student during field study in Cat Ba Island, Vietnam

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.

In June, 2006 the project implementation and outputs were amended (with the agreement of the Darwin Secretariat). These changes were made primarily to strengthen the project rather than in response to a particular problem. They included:

- upgrading from 2 to 3 students for Thailand, Vietnam and Lao PDR (all currently working on their MSc or PhD studies). Downgrading from 2 to 1 student from Cambodian (to be chosen in October, 2006)
- enrolling 5 Darwin students (2 Thai and 3 Lao) on a formal 2 year MSc course at PSU, Thailand, which started in May, 2006
- 4 Darwin students (2 Thai and 2 Lao) to attend six week training course at Harrison Institute, UK in March/April, 2007
- 2 Vietnamese students to receive supervision from Neil Furey (Aberdeen University) in Ba Be Ecological Research Station
- 1 Vietnamese PhD student to receive training at Harrison Institute and Tübingen University, Germany
- Co-hosting of the Ist International South-East Asian Bat Conference, which will take place in Thailand between 7-10 May, 2007

The only notable difficulty has been the identification of a suitable Cambodian student. However, a potential candidate has been located and will be informally interviewed by Paul Bates on 30 October in Phnom Penh with a view to his joining the project. A more routine problem has been the difficulties experienced by the three Lao and one Vietnamese MSc students in writing good scientific English – although their verbal skills are fine. In all other matters, the project is developing in an exciting and hopefully most productive manner.

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

Changes were made to the original agreement in June/July, 2006 (in correspondence with M. Okot)

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: yes, in June/July, 2006

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: yes, in June/July, 2006

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. NA

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, <u>stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.</u>