

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.	14-014
Project Title	Conservation of the Bornean elephant (<i>Elephas maximus borneensis</i>)
Country(ies)	Malaysia (Sabah)
UK Organisation	Cardiff University
Collaborator(s)	Dr Marc Ancrenaz (HUTAN)
Report date	31 October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	

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).

PDRA spent five months (1 April-6 September 2006) in Cardiff University to perform genetic analyses on the DNA extracted at the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS). Trainee 1 spent four months (1st May-31st August) in Cardiff and was trained in molecular ecology techniques by PDRA. Twenty-five microsatellite markers for African and Asian elephants were tested on the elephant faecal DNA extracted previously, and multiplex were designed for the Bornean elephant. Unfortunately, we did not manage to genotype the samples collected in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary due to technical problems. However, we were able to carry out mitochondrial DNA sequencing for about 30 individuals from the Kinabatangan and nine captive elephants. In common with previous studies, no haplotype variation was detected. PDRA and Trainee 1 returned to Sabah in the beginning of September. PL went to Sabah for 10 days for 1st year's evaluation, he met with all host country partners, and the project partners held a one-day workshop on PHVA results for the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary orang-utan project (resulting from DI 09-016).

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.

Although, we encountered problems with the microsatellite analysis of the Kinabatangan elephant population while in Cardiff (see above), we do not anticipate any negative impact on the project since these analyses are being performed at UMS at the same time as the microsatellite analyses of Sabah elephant populations (between September 2006 and September 2007). Results should be made available by September 2007. The changes will not affect the budget.

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
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

<p>3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p>
<p>Issue raised by reviewer on 1st year report regarding the reallocation of staff costs to field costs and consumables: not more than 10% have been reallocated.</p> <p>Issue raised by reviewer on 1st year report regarding the benefits of production of the elephant booklet: we understand the reviewer's comment and we intend to produce an interim booklet as quickly as possible, although we are still of the opinion that we do not have enough data to produce something comprehensive. The workshop will give us the opportunity to be more effective in terms of awareness and we believe that it will be the best time to produce and dispatch the full booklet.</p>

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.**