

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 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
Project website	none

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 April to August 2007 in Sabah to carry out fieldwork and collect dung samples in additional forest reserves (Gunung Rara, Imbak, Malua, Kuamut, Ulu Kalumpang, and Deramakot Forest Reserves and Tabin Wildlife Reserve). So far, more than 700 samples have been collected in the whole State. DNA has been extracted and a significant number of individuals per forest reserves are currently genotyped. One final sampling expedition will be carried out by the PDRA in November 2007 in Kalabakan and Sapulut Forest Reserves and in Maliau Basin Conservation Area. Genotyping and sequencing will be completed by the end of February 2008. PL went to Sabah in August 2007 for the second year evaluation and met with all partners. A Memorandum of Understanding between Cardiff University, HUTAN and WWF-Malaysia for “the establishment of a genetic study on Bornean elephants to support the elephant population estimation work in Sabah” was signed on August 9, 2007, marking the restoration of the collaboration with WWF-Malaysia. PDRA and trainee 1 went to Cardiff in September 2007. Trainee 1 started to attend PL’s second year molecular ecology and final year conservation biology course. Trainee 1 will also complete mtDNA sequencing of Bornean elephants. PDRA returned to Sabah in the beginning of October to carry out additional sampling and complete genotyping of all elephant populations.

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.

We did not encounter any notable problems or unexpected developments. We have re-established an excellent working relationship with WWF-Malaysia.

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)

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

Issue raised by reviewer on 2nd year report regarding the repeat of the training course in year 3 and its funding: it was not planned to run a training course during the third year of the project. In our second year report, we only stressed out that we would like to run a similar course every year if we were able to find funding. We were thinking to start running such course in 2009.

Issue raised by reviewer on 2nd year report regarding the attempt to measure the effectiveness of the awareness raising strategies that have been implemented so far: during the summer 2007, we finally produced an awareness/education poster on the Bornean elephant, in both English and Malay, that we started to place in different institutions (Sabah Wildlife Department, Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah Parks, Universiti Malaysia Sabah), wildlife parks, nature centres, wildlife lodges, schools, etc. Our goal is to inform people about the threats to elephant populations and about ways to decrease those threats.

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.**