

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14-016
<b>Project Title</b>	Assessing and conserving plant diversity in commercially managed tropical rainforests
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Malaysia
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Royal Society, South East Asian Program, Yayasan Sabah Group
<b>Project Leader</b>	Rogier de Kok
<b>Report date</b>	31 October 2007
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	3
<b>Project website</b>	-

## **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 third plant identification course was given in Maliau Basin from 9th till 13th August 2007. In total, 35 participants from 13 different organisations (WWF, Sabah Forest Department and Royal Society S.E. Asian project) or Yayasan Sabah (YS) departments took part in the 5 day course. The course was held in the newly opened Maliau Basin Research Centre, which also houses one of the collecting teams paid for by the project. Four Kew staff members were involved in teaching on the course. With teaching and preparation of material, the total amount of person hours donated by Kew for this course was 30 days. The course was highly successful and greatly oversubscribed.

Plant collecting has continued both in Danum and Maliau. Due to problems with the building of accommodation for researches at Imbak Canyon, collecting had to be organised from Maliau Basin. This has led to fewer specimens from this area than projected. The staff member databasing at the FRS Sandakan could be retained for one more year, which would greatly help in cataloguing specimens from the area.

Initial talks were made for the publication of the field guide with Kew Publishing and Natural History Publications (Borneo). The book will be written in the fourth and last year of the project.

The habitat assessment and Forest Certification part of the project has now been finished ahead of planning (as explained in the first year report) and the final report from ProForest has been submitted to Yayasan Sabah. The HVCF identification part of the report is slowly becoming the standard for HVCF work in both Sabah and Sarawak and requests for information have been received from various organisations (government, NGO and commercial).

## **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.**

Collecting in Imbak Canyon has started late due to problems with the building of the staff accommodation at the research station. The person employed by the project to work at the site is momentarily based at Maliau Basin. He is helping his colleague there and a collecting expedition of all the project collectors has been made to Imbak Valley in order to kick-start the

collecting there.

**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 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](mailto: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**