

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

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

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).

All work in Sabah for this project has now finished, all specimens collected during this work have now been sent to Kew (about 3000 specimens). Several projects are underway which will build on the work started by this project. The main one is the project proposal to establish a 50 hectare plot at Danum. This project is lead by the University of Aberdeen and will build on the plant identification expertise build up during this Darwin supported project. The expanded herbarium at Danum and the improved links with Sandakan and Kew herbaria will also become a major resource for this new project. Almost all of the core people trained during this project (5 people) are still in place (one person has taken up a position at the Forestry Department at Sandakan). Other people trained during this project are generally still in their positions, for instance the c. 10 people working in the Sandakan herbarium trained during this project are still active in research in the herbarium. However contact has been lost with many of the other participants from various different organisations.

In the UK, the writing up for the field guide has started and 80 most common families have now been done (see appendix 1 for a sample page), a further 20 families will be done before 1 January 2009 and then sent for final editing. Negotiations are underway between Kew Publishing and Natural History Publications (Borneo) about publishing and distribution of the book. Natural History Publications (Borneo) has the best distribution network in Sabah and possibly the whole of Malaysia, and this will ensure that it will reach the right people and for an affordable price.

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 and Darwin. The HVCF identification part of the report is 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.

No notable problems have occurred in the last 6 months. Apart from asking due to fieldwork commitments for a different project, to submit this report 2 weeks after the due date. This permission was given.

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

Yes, see appendix 2

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: yes, in 9 October 2008 (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: yes, in 10 October 2008.....(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?

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 . 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**