Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No. 14-017

Project Title Tool kits for the Sustainable Management of Ghana's Riverine Biodiversity

Country(ies)

Ghana, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Benin

UK Organisation

University of Liverpool

Collaborator(s)

Prof E Maltby, Prof B Moss, Prof M Swaine, Dr R T Leah, Prof Chris Gordon

Project Leader

Prof E Maltby

Report date

October 2007

Report No. (HYR

1/2/3/4)

HYR3

Project website

http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/aquabiol/Darwin_Ghana/

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).

03/2006 - Data analysis following the completion of the field sampling using univariate and multivariate methods of analysis.

This has been completed, although a report from the Ghanaian partners is still awaited

08/2006 - First training workshop for 20 regional scientists from 6 W. African countries on aquatic ecology and the application of EA. Training by local project staff

As reported in the Annual report, funding problems prevented the organisation of the first training workshop for regional scientists at the time originally planned so that this meeting had to be postponed. The full explanation is below under Section 2. As a consequence of the postponement of the August 2007 date, a progress visit was made to Accra by Dr Leah who met with the project partners to discuss new dates and provide further technical guidance on toolkit development.

08/2006 - Second training workshop by UK experts for 20 project staff trained for the testing of the prototype tool-kit.

The second training workshop has been rearranged to coincide with the regional training workshop.

08/2006 - Training workshop for 20 stakeholders for the testing of the prototype tool-kit. This workshop is to be run by local project staff and will therefore follow the second training workshop for project staff.

09/2006 - Testing of the prototype tool-kit by the selected and trained stakeholders
As a result of the delay to the training workshops this milestone has been rescheduled to early 2008.

08/2007 - Completion of the stakeholders testing of the prototype tool-kit. As described above, the testing of the tool-kit has been rearranged.

08/2007 - The final tool-kit is developed using the results of the stakeholders testing
The tool-kit will be finalised once feedback has been received from the stakeholders testing the tool-kit.

08/2007 - Second training workshop for 20 regional scientists from 6 W. African countries on aquatic ecology and the application of EA.

This training workshop will now be held in mid 2008. The training will be carried out by local project staff.

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.

As reported in the Annual report, delays with external funding for the Ghanaian partner prevented the organisation of the first training workshop for regional scientists at the time originally planned. Eventually, additional funding of \$11,000 has been secured by Prof Gordon and the workshop was expected to run in August 2007. However, the response from contacts in the surrounding W African countries was much greater than expected making the financial burden more than the funds available (originally planned for 8-9 visiting scientists in total from the original partner countries, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo and Benin but resulted in 11 foreign applications and an additional scientist from Cameroon together with ca 12 Ghanaians) and would have entailed making choices about which scientists/countries could attend. The University of Ghana decided that the political consequences of this were unacceptable and postponed the regional meeting until October 2007 to enable the Ghanaian partners to secure the additional funding necessary to host the workshop. A promise of these additional funds has now been secured from the GEF funded Guinea Current Commission but not agreed in sufficient time to organise the workshop for October 2007. As a consequence, the first of these regional workshops has now been postponed to January 2008.

There will be a need to vire money between spending heads during this financial year. The balance of the workload in the project has altered resulting in less expenditure on international travel and subsistence than originally envisaged. During this financial year, in order to achieve all of the project targets, we will require some changes within the distribution of the funds allocated to 2007-8 although we do not expect this to significantly alter the overall totals. There will also be a need to extend the project timetable through into 2008 so that the expected workshops can be included and reported within the project.

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

The financial changes have not yet been discussed with the Secretariat but the approach will be made at the same time as submitting this report.

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?

The problem of the two workshops for regional scientists and stakeholders was first raised in HYR2. The preparations for these are in the hands of the Ghanaian partners and although arrangements are partly funded by Darwin, they are also dependent on external funding which needed to be obtained from elsewhere. The funding was actively pursued by the Ghanaian partners but as predicted in HYR2 the timing is now significantly altering the timing and delivery of outputs. However, on a positive note, this will provide additional time for refinement of the tool-kit ahead of final testing.

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 <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 email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at <u>Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.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 eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half <u>Year Report</u></u>