

# 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**

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14 -036
<b>Project Title</b>	Conserving the Southeast Asian Guano Bat – Sustaining Livelihoods Across Borders
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam
<b>UK Organisation</b>	University of Aberdeen
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Prof. Daw Tin Nwe, Dr S. Bumrungsri, Mr J. Walston, Dr Vu The Long
<b>Report date</b>	October 2006
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	2
<b>Project website</b>	Under construction

**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).**

This project started on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June 2005 and so will only have been running for 1 year and 4 months at the time of the second half-year report deadline, and 4 months since the first year report.

I have been unable to identify a candidate to put forward for the Smithsonian CRC GIS course held in April. There is a possible candidate in Myanmar (Burma) however I have been advised that it is unlikely permission would be granted at this stage. Hopefully a candidate can be identified for future GIS courses.

In the field training took place in Thailand and Myanmar (Burma) in July as agreed.

The end of first year project workshop took place in Myanmar (Burma) as agreed from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> October with trainees and country partners from Vietnam and Thailand visiting field sites, and meeting trainees and villagers in Myanmar (Burma) where they discussed their research and progress. The Cambodian trainee was unable to attend however I visited Cambodia and worked with him for a week prior to the workshop and then presented on his behalf at the workshop.

**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.**

There have been some unexpected developments in Myanmar (Burma) where my in-country partner and head of Zoology at Yangon University retired on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2006. An acting head of Zoology then took over but was subsequently superseded within a week by a new acting head which turned out to be my original in-country partner the ex-head of Zoology. There will be no impact on budget or timetable but the development is noteworthy.

There has been a recent pay increase and re-grading for University staff both nationally and within the University of Aberdeen which will result in an overspend for budgeted salaries for postdoctoral staff.

This is unlikely to affect the budget or timetable significantly but because University of Aberdeen and Darwin financial years and budget fields are not in line it may interfere with how the budget is reported by our finance department.

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

I discussed the financial situation with the secretariat and was informed that Darwin would not accept responsibility for the overspend, no change was made to the agreement.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:** no/yes, in July 06 (month/yr)

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:** no/yes, in September 05 (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?**

I would like to establish contact with my annual report reviewer to take up their offer of advice but I have had no reply to emails sent on this matter. Please let me know how I can establish contact.

**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](mailto: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.**