

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	14-036
Project Title	Conserving the Southeast Asian Guano Bat – Sustaining Livelihoods Across Borders
Country(ies)	Myanmar (Burma), Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam
UK Organisation	University of Aberdeen
Collaborator(s)	Yangon University, Prince of Songkhla University, WCS Cambodia, University of Hanoi
Project Leader	Dr Iain Mackie
Report date	29th October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
Project website	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).

Agreed baseline timetable for field research programme has been met. Unfortunately there is no student willing to attend the conservation GIS studentship. However, in addition to the baseline timetable I presented our results at the session on Global Conservation at the World Bat Conference in Mexico, and I presented the Myanmar project findings at the First International South East Asian Bat conference in Phuket. Furthermore, two of the Darwin trainees, one from Cambodia and the other from Thailand, presented their respective findings at the South East Asian Bat Conference. The presentation from Cambodia won the best student presentation Award.

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.

The most notable development is the ongoing situation in Myanmar (Burma). The doubling of fuel prices will make fieldwork more expensive. The situation may mean fieldwork is restricted. At this time it is hard to say how future project activities will be affected. I hope to visit and discuss with in-country partners in the near future and then discuss more fully with Darwin.

There has also been a change in leadership at WCS in Cambodia. Joe Walston the original country director has moved on. Joe was a University of Aberdeen postgraduate committed to bat conservation in SE Asia so his departure seems unfortunate. However, the new country director is committed to the Cambodian Bat Conservation Programme and continues to support Yim Saksang. This has been demonstrated by his recent application to IUCN, in collaboration with the University of Aberdeen, for grant funding to assist with the development of a bat tourism project in northern Cambodia.

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?

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**