

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	14-037
Project Title	Building University Capacity to Train Future Cambodian Conservationists
Country	Cambodia
UK Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Collaborator(s)	Royal University of Phnom Penh, Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (MAFF)
Project Leader	Dr Jenny Daltry
Report date	29 October 2007
Report No.	HYR 3
Project website	www.conservationcambodia.org (new). See also http://fauna-flora.org/cambodiauniversity.php

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

The project is still running according to the original schedule and budget.

Planned Project Implementation Timetable: Financial Year Apr 2007-Mar 2008. Key Milestones: Q1&2: Exams; Continue research projects; Facilitate international university collaboration; Initiate Cambodian Journal of Natural History (CJNH).

Actual Project Implementation Timetable:

April: The first cohort of MSc students continued their thesis research, conducting fieldwork and coordinating closely with other organisations in the natural resource sector. The second cohort of MSc students completed courses on Integrated Natural Resource Management and Environmental Impact Assessment. Two students studying aspects of bat ecology in collaboration with the Prince of Songkhla University in Hat Yai, Thailand, participated in a regional bat workshop in Phuket.

May: The second cohort of students completed a course on Environmental Impact Assessment, delivered by lecturers from the Department of Environmental Science at The Royal University of Phnom Penh. A website was created to help promote this Darwin Project within Cambodia and internationally.

June: Final examinations were held for the main courses of the first semester: Research Analysis and Natural Resource Management. Dr Lee Grismer, La Sierra University, conducted herpetological surveys in Phnom Samkos Wildlife Sanctuary with students and Darwin Scholars from the Darwin Project. Many specimens were deposited in the Museum and Dr. Grismer agreed to return in December to conduct the course on Ecological Survey Techniques.

July: The Bridging Course was reviewed by the FFI-RUPP Project Steering Committee and modified to reflect the new eligibility requirements for the Masters course. The new criteria require the candidates to hold any Science degree, not only in natural sciences, so the Bridging Course will include a new courses on 'Ecology & Evolution' and 'Biology & Genetics'. Re-sits were held for second cohort students who failed the key examinations in June.

August: Summer break for the Masters candidates. The Masters course was advertised in all the leading national newspapers and sent to all environmental NGOs and government agencies in Cambodia. 26 candidates applied from a wide range of backgrounds, e.g., protected area managers, GIS analysts and private sector managers to participate as the third cohort of

students.

September: The second semester of the Masters course began, with 12 students from the second intake who successfully passed their exams, together with two students who are repeating the semester from the year before. The Editorial Board of the Cambodian Journal of Natural History (CJNH) was created, with representatives from a range of British and other universities and organisations.

NB All project material outputs, including newspaper adverts, application posters, course information packs, application forms, and teaching materials, acknowledge the support of Darwin Initiative and feature the Darwin logo. Copies can be provided on request.

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 problems.

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

Not applicable

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 second annual report from this Darwin Project was submitted at the end of April 2007 (email to Eilidh Young, dated 30 April). Please can you let us know whether we should have received a review of this report (as we did in 2006)? Thank you in advance.

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**