

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2008)

Project Ref. No.	15/001
Project Title	Bees, Biodiversity, and Forest Livelihoods in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India
Country(ies)	India
UK Organisation	University of East Anglia/ODG
Collaborator(s)	Bees for Development, Keystone Foundation and CAER University of Reading
Project Leader	Dr Janet Seeley
Report date	26 th October 2008
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3 (April-October 2008)
Project website	http://www1.uea.ac.uk/cm/home/schools/ssf/dev/people/academic/seeley/Research/NilgiriBiodiversity

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).

Date	Key Milestones	Progress
Mar 08	Project Presented At 9th Asian Apiculture Association Conference In Vietnam	This Conference has not taken place.
By end of Mar 08	2nd Project Stakeholder Workshop held in NBR: 50 participants from NBR informed about the Project and its progress	Stakeholder workshop organized – 32 tribal participants from NBR were updated on the Project on March 11 th 2008. Meeting minutes available.
By end of May 08	Local partner has organised facilities to create the Indigenous Bee and Biodiversity Resource Unit within existing campus Keystone in NBR	100 students from Schools in Nilgiris participated in a one day programme at the IBBRU in the Bee Museum. This was to celebrate one year of the School Programmes being launched through IBBRU. Resource persons from local NGOs took part in this programme. Dame Hillary Blume, of Charities Advisory Trust, UK was the Chief Guest of the Programme. Programme consisted of Quizzes, Essay writing and debate on specific biodiversity

		related topics. IBBRU is in touch with resources persons from the Centre for Environment Education and we are looking at full time environmental education as a curriculum for schools in the district.
By end of May 08	Six consultations have taken place with members of Tribal Advisory Council living adjacent to 5 sites	Twice a month meetings in Coonoor and Kotagiri areas have been held on various governance, and community leadership issues within the tribal communities. Community members from all 5 sites of the project took active part in the wild foods festival at Kotagiri on April 29 th 2008. People participated by bringing exhibits of the uncultivated foods from their respective areas.
By end of May 08	Livelihood-relevant indigenous bee species at 5 sites identified and classified	Yes. Identification processes are underway. A visiting Entomologist from Calicut University, Kerala – Santhosh Shreevihar, has completed the identification of all pan trap specimens. More than 30 types of bee samples were sent to UK for analysis of genetic material.
By end of May 08	Six people trained in UK: on bee science (four people, three weeks), and apicultural information systems and networks (two people, three weeks)	Concerning the training in bee science, we considered that the best use of funds was for one partner to travel to India to provide the training. This was achieved by Stuart Roberts' visit to Keystone Foundation in February 2008. Concerning training in apicultural information systems, Ms Sneh Nath and Ms Shiny Rehel visited DI partner organisation Bees for Development for three weeks in April 2008.
By end of Jun 08	Fifth media report provided to press, radio, TV in UK and India (national and local)	On August 9th, 2008 – more than 500 tribal participants from all 5 project locations participated in the World Indigenous Day Celebrations at Kotagiri. This was covered extensively by the media (The Hindu, Regional papers) as

		the Minister for Khadi Govt of Tamil Nadu inaugurated the function.
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3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

We have greatly appreciated Peter O'Hara's advice over the last year, and regret that he is no longer with Darwin. We would appreciate information on who has taken his place. We had invited Peter to our end of Project conference in March 2008 for which he said he would find independent funding to support his attendance. If anyone else would like to attend from the Darwin Secretariat in his place please let us know.

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.

We will send a copy of the document produced for the Apimondia conference in 2007 under separate cover. No formal presentations on the project were made at that event.

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**