

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	15/018
Project Title	Developing land snail expertise in South and Southeast Asia
Country(ies)	Sri Lanka, India, Nepal, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Malaysia
UK Organisation	The Natural History Museum, London (NHM)
Collaborator(s)	The Wildlife Heritage Trust (WHT), Sri Lanka Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE), India Centre for Biological Conservation (CBC), Nepal Chulalongkorn University, Thailand National University of Laos Hanoi University of Science, Vietnam (now including Vietnam National Museum of Nature and Department of National Parks) Universiti Sains Malaysia
Project Leader	Fred Naggs
Report date	11 th October 2010
Project website	www.nhm.ac.uk/tropicalsnails

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).

The only Darwin Initiative project funding remaining in the award is for publication of illustrated lists. Progress on this has been slow in the past six months in part because of our main activity, which has been intensive project legacy work, but also because Dinarzarde Raheem was away from the UK for longer than planned, as explained below. Fred Naggs was at Chulalongkorn University Bangkok, where he is a Visiting Professor, from the end of June until the end of July. One week in July was spent at the World Congress of Malacology in Phuket where the current Darwin Initiative project and earlier Darwin Initiative land snail projects were highlighted, most notably in the session run by Fred Naggs on land snail systematics in Asia and in the session on tropical land snail ecology run by Dinarzarde Raheem. Dinarzarde Raheem does not currently hold a post but she has become a Research Associate in the Department of Zoology at the NHM and has received a Research Award from the Malacological Society of London and a Small Ecological Projects Grant from the British Ecological Society that has enabled her to carry out fieldwork in Sri Lanka. Fred Naggs was engaged in collaborative work in Malaysia throughout September with Chris Wade, University of Nottingham, the Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, and Universiti Sains Malaysia, Sabah.

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.

Dinarzarde Raheem carried out fieldwork in Sri Lanka immediately after the Phuket Malacological Congress but did not return to London at the end of August as planned owing to the serious illness of a family member in Sri Lanka. Dinarzarde returned to the UK on 9th October. This has disrupted work on the illustrated lists but we are still aiming for completion by the end of March 2011. As previously reported, a loss in value of pounds sterling of almost 40% against the Singapore dollar since the project budget was drawn up leaves insufficient funds for printing the illustrated guides as books printed in Singapore, as originally proposed, and alternative forms of publication are still being explored. We understand that funds cannot be carried forward beyond the end of March 2011 and that the illustrated lists need to be completed in time and within budget.

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

Discussed with LTS: **no/yes, in..... (month/yr)**

Formal change request submitted: **no/yes, in.....(month/yr)**

Received confirmation of change acceptance **no/yes in.....(month/yr)**

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No

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 LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**