

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

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
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 Universiti Sains Malaysia UK: University of Nottingham
Project Leader	Fred Naggs
Report date	19/11/2007
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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).

This has been an extremely busy and productive period with a number of enhanced outputs in progress. Research outputs in particular are high. Collaboration with the molecular group in Nottingham has given strong molecular support for our recognition of a new family of land snails based on anatomical criteria and a paper describing the new family is in preparation. We have made presentations at a number of international and national meetings. Visits have been made to all partner countries in the past six months. SE Asian project partnerships are, as expected, achieving different but acceptable levels of activity. The new partnership in Malaysia is working particularly well.

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.

As set out in the Annual Report, we have taken control of the database at the NHM. Our Thai project partners have been slow in delivering the expected input of data for the database and a much larger than anticipated workload associated with the database will have to be carried out at the NHM in order to achieve associated target outputs. However, the Thai partnership is delivering higher than target outputs in research, media coverage, and the establishment of new partnerships in the Philippines and Korea. We have been concerned that full sets of accounts from Thailand were long overdue but accounts have now been supplied.

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

No but these issues were raised as part of the project's Mid Term Review	
Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	no, in..... (month/yr)
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no 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? This is a very ambitious and demanding project. We have experienced some difficulties as cited above and we need to work on these issues but the project is also delivering many additional outputs. The Annual Report commented that more information about project personnel on the project website would be useful. This will be done when the website is updated in the New Year.

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**