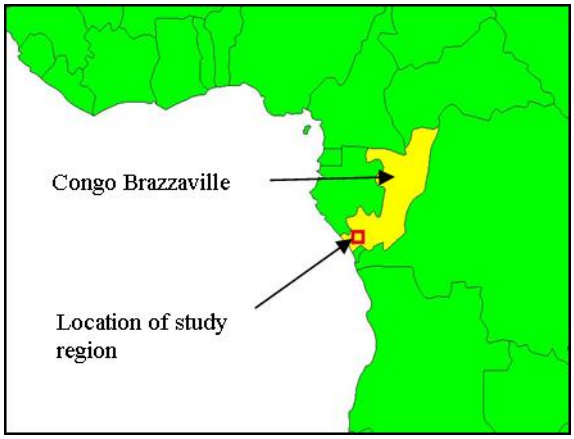
Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Darwin Project Information

Project Ref Number	15-021
Project Title	Strengthening the National Biodiversity Strategy in Congo Brazzaville
Country(ies)	Congo (Brazzaville)
UK Contract Holder Institution	University of Reading, CAER
UK Partner Institution(s)	Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew Natural History Museum, London Oxford University Museum of Natural History
Host country Partner Institution(s)	Ministère de l'Economie Forestière et de l'Environnement (MEFE) Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur la Diversité Biologique (GERDIB) Centre d'études sur les Ressources Végétales (CERVE)
Darwin Grant Value	£ 189,330
Start/End dates of Project	1 September 2006 – 31 August 2009
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)	1 Apr 2007 to 31 Mar 2008 (Annual Report No. 2)
Project Leader Name	Dr Simon G. Potts
Project website	http://www.rdg.ac.uk/caer/project_congo.html
Author(s), date	Simon G. Potts, Ralf Becker, Ioannis Vogiatakis, Alain Pauly, and Serge Valentin Pangou. Drafted 29 April 2008; revised 16 June 2008

1. Project Background



The project seeks to provide an evidence-base to help support development of the National Biodiversity Strategy of Congo Brazzaville. Currently there is relatively little data available to inform decision making for biodiversity conservation in the region, which reflects a lack of national capacity and expertise. The national herbarium has been severely degraded following the armed conflicts in the late 90's, there are no entomological facilities, and a significant gap in training in biodiversity assessment methodologies. Much of the country remains unexplored from a scientific perspective, and one area in particular, the Mayombe Mountains (see map), are virtually unknown in museum and herbarium collections. This area presents the opportunity to build local capacity, implement training, and apply rigorous scientific methodologies to generate useful datasets for CBD applications.

2. Project Partnerships

This has been a challenging year for the partnerships between Reading University and host country partners. We outline the current status of partnerships under the three groups of partners used in earlier reports: Environment, Scientific Research and Higher Education.

Environment - Mr Anatole Nagaye (Councillor to the Minister), Ministère de l'Economie Forestière et de l'Environnement (MEFE).
Relations remain good with the Ministry and its officials and the project manager (Ralf Becker) has been in regular direct contact with MEFE officials. In February 2008, Ralf made a joint presentation (with GERDIB) to the new Minister of Research (Matson Mampouja). This updated MEFE on the Darwin project activities and enlisted continued support from the Ministry. The CBD focal point (Mr Jean Colin Namedoum) has now been replaced by Mr Augustin Ngoliele and at COP9 in Bonn, Ralf Becker briefed him about the project and likely outputs. It was agreed that project outputs should be channeled to the CBD focal point via our local partner GERDIB, and the focal point will evaluate the data for integration it into the NBSAP. We also have also had discussions with the working group assessing the progress of the implementation the CBD in Congo Brazzaville.

Scientific Research - Dr Serge Valentin Pangou, Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur la Diversité Biologique (GERDIB). Dr Antoine Ouabonzi, Centre d'études sur les Ressources Végétales (CERVE). Relations are variable with local scientific partners as they often seem to be primarily motivated by money rather than scientific advancement. Training venues and students are only offered with unreasonable demands for rental costs and *per diems* for attendees and we have declined to pay for these (it goes against the Memorandum of Understanding signed by all parties prior to the project start) and instead we have opted for extensive field and on-the-job training (see below). Our scientific partners are reluctant to commit to core research though are keen to share in any outputs, a common situation acknowledged by some other organizations operating in the country (e.g. FAO, IRD, EU). Dr Pangou (GERDIB) has worked with Ralf to promote the project at MEFE and continues to provide some basic level administrative support. He was pleased with the capacity building we conducted in his institution. The Director of CERVE (Dr Ouabonzi) recently died and once his successor is appointed we will attempt to reconfirm our partnership. The project manager found clear evidence that vegetation classifications conducted by local researchers from Université Marien Ngouabi were incorrect or falsified. This finding, though communicated diplomatically, was not accepted by local partners and we therefore have a divergence in what level of quality control must operate in the pursuit of research.
The project has strengthened its partnerships in Pointe Noire where the herbarium is now operating as a effective unit (after many years of neglect) and links with Forest rangers department are excellent.

Higher Education - Université Marien Ngouabi (UMN). As suggested by our evaluator we have dropped this partner.

Other Collaborations – The project leader is a also contractor for two other Darwin projects with similar themes and has shared common experiences and lessons learned with the leaders of these projects: Dr Juliet Vickery (14-032, Conserving biodiversity in the modernizing farmed landscapes of Uganda) and Dr Janet Seeley (15-001, Bees, biodiversity and forest livelihoods in the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve, India). The Project Manager has collaborated with Xavier Garde (Institut de recherché pour le developpement, IRD).

Outside Congo - Partnerships with other institutions continue to work well with samples sent to experts at various institutions. UK: Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew; Natural History Museum, London; Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Worldwide: African Pollinator Initiative; Hamburg Herbarium, Germany; Koblenz Herbarium, Germany; Munich Herbarium, Germany; National Herbarium of Belgium; Royal Belgium Institute of Natural Sciences, Belgium; University of Muenster, Germany; US Department of Agriculture, USA; Wageningen Herbarium, Netherlands. An additional partner is now included, Dr Laurence Packer of the University of York, Canada who is a world expert on the Halictidae, a common but difficult to identify family of bees.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

The project has made excellent progress in two areas particularly: capacity building and research. We have now fully refurbished and/or established three biodiversity facilities in Congo. Extensive field surveys have been completed and some specimens have been identified with the remaining being sent to taxonomic experts. Databases for identified material have been established. The training programme has had to be adapted as local partners are unwilling to support formal workshops and we have trained 10 field assistants with a variety of skills using on-the-job training.

As recommended by the evaluator in our half year report we have linked several of the outputs together to assist in tightening up the logical framework. Outputs 3 and 4 are combined (new Output 3) with separate activities covering the various tasks; Outputs 5 and 6 (new Output 4) are combined with the manual being an activity; Outputs 7 and 8 are combined (new Output 5) as dissemination activities.

Output 1: The herbarium building in Pointe Noire has been refurbished (doors, windows and roof and electrical supply) and extensive equipment installed including all the materials necessary for processing and storing plant samples and databasing specimens. Insect collections and facilities have been established in Pointe Noire and Brazzaville (GERDIB) with dedicated storage cabinets and all the necessary equipment for preparing and curating insect material. IT equipment and databases have been provided for the herbariums and entomology collections. Full details in the 'Facilities report' in the appendix.
Output 2: We have had to modify the way we have delivered training as the support of local partners has not been available. Scientific partners have demanded payments for using workshop facilities and students and staff expect unrealistic *per diems* for attendance (contrary to signed agreements in the Memorandum of Understanding). We have therefore elected to train field assistants and forest rangers during the fieldwork programme. We have provided training for students from the Forestry College and herbarium in Pointe Noire, including two long-term assistants receiving almost a year's training and for eight short-term assistants receiving more than a week of training. The core practical content of the training remains the same (GPS methods, collection management, databasing, and rapid biodiversity assessment methods) though some more desk-based aspects have had to be dropped (CITES and IUCN protocols). Details in the 'Training Report' in the appendix.
Output 3: Following the stratification of the research region, the Mayombe Mountains, we have now completed our sampling programme and worked an additional 18 weeks. Plant material is distributed among specialists in European herbariums, butterflies have been identified in country and bees are currently with international experts. Databasing of specimens has begun. See 'Facilities report' in appendix.
Output 4: The biodiversity monitoring plan and manual will be underpinned by the analysis of the samples collected this year, and this output will be one of our foci next year.
Output 5: Dissemination activities have been undertaken in both UK and Congo. Three seminars and two TV programmes have featured the Darwin project in Congo, and in the UK a press release was taken up by two newspapers, two popular magazines and the BBC News online.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

The establishment of well maintained and data-based plant and insect collections (Output 1) is on target with all the necessary infrastructure in place in country (see 'Facilities report') and the means to upload additional species identifications on databases is ready. Providing that facilities are maintained by local partners we expect full delivery of this output; indicators and assumptions remain valid.
Even with the difficulties with formal workshops, our intensive on-the-job training should ensure partners are able to collect and curate plant and insect material in the future (Output 2). The

practical hands-on skills to do this have been taught and practiced extensively by several students, technicians and rangers in the field and in the herbarium, as evidenced by our report. Our indicator for training has had to be modified to capture our new method of delivery and the assumption that local support is needed for Output 2 remains valid though we have attempted to reduce the impact as far as possible when local support is unavailable.
Our third major output (inventory and biodiversity assessment for Mayombe Mountains) is well progressed with the fieldwork element now complete and samples either identified or with experts able to identify them. Once findings are databased then the project team will be able to undertake the analysis. Indicators and assumptions remain valid.
The data collected towards Output 3 will allow project partners to establish a monitoring framework for the Mayombe Mountains area (Output 4). The resources needed for the development of the manual are in place and potential monitoring sites will be identified from the formal analysis to be carried out once the identification work is completed. Indicators and assumptions remain valid.
Dissemination activities have progressed well (see appendix materials) with further press releases and popular articles, with a switch in emphasis now on the production of high quality scientific outputs for publication in international journals. The indicators remain valid as we have collected most of the data needed and the assumption that we still rely on the cooperation of a wide network of taxonomists remains in place.
An additional global level assumption is that the security and political situations remain stable in Congo Brazzaville. The project manager as recently arrested and held by the security police who were suspicious that the project was a front for other activities (e.g. oil and mineral prospecting). Several documents were confiscated, and we are reconstructing this information from other sources. Disruption of the project activities by the security forces remains a real risk, as does a major change in the political situation with the run up to the elections which are scheduled for 2009.

3.3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Total to date	Total planned from application
Established codes					
5	Number of people to receive at least one year of training	0	2	2	4
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training	7	8	15	45
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	1	3	4	4
7	Number of (ie. different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	2	1	3	2
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	27	32	59	31
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	0	0	0	1
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	0	0	0	3
12A	Number of computer based databases to be **established** and handed over to the host country	0	3	3	1
12B	Number of computer based databases to be **enhanced** and handed over to the host country	0	0	0	1

13A	Number of species reference collections to be **established** and handed over to the host country(ies)	0	2	2	1
13B	Number of species reference collections to be **enhanced** and handed over to the host country(ies)	0	1	1	1
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops to be organised to present/disseminate findings	1	0	1	2
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/ workshops **attended** at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	0	0	0	5
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	0	0	0	2
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	0	1	1	2
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	0	0	0	2
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	0	0	0	300
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be **established**	0	0	0	1
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	0	2	0	2
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	1	0	1	0
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	0	£10,000	£10,000	£15,750
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	0	0	0	6
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie. in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	£44,809	£57,594	£102,403	£230,449
New -Project specific measures	Staff trained and receiving extensive (>1 month) hands-on training in the field	2	10	14	?

In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, eg title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2 Publications

Type * (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
*BBC News online	Experts hope to save rare plants. 2007	BBC	http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/berkshire/6988915.stm	0
*Popular press	Scientists explore uncharted Congo. 2007. University of Reading Magazine for Alumni and Friends, Issue 5.	Belmont Press, Northampton	http://www.fp.rdg.ac.uk/alumni/magazine.htm	0
*Popular press	Exploring the Congo. 2007. University of Reading Bulletin, No 470	University of Reading	www.reading.ac.uk/bulletin	0

Newspaper	Congo trip: Examining man's effects on rainforests. 20 September 2007. Reading Evening Post	Reading Evening Post	Reading Evening Post www.getreading.co.uk	0
Newspaper	New finds in Congo. 20 September 2007. Reading Chronicle	Reading Chronicle	Reading Chronicle www.readingchronicle.co.uk	0

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Significant steps have been made towards the projects' overall purpose. Functioning biodiversity resource facilities have been established in the country in cooperation with Congolese researchers and administrators. Many individuals have been trained and are currently working in these faculties, though formal training outside the herbarium and field programme has been less effective and reflect the lack of commitment from local partners to this aspect of the project. The continued success of these facilities will still rely heavily on support form Congolese individuals and institutions, if collections and databases are to remain up to date and useable. This assumption remains in place and in addition security and political stability will need to be maintained.

Primary data collection for the Mayombe Mountains regions has progressed well with the fieldwork is complete and specimens pre-processed. Identifications have been carried out in country (butterflies) and specialist expertise from around the world is being used to identify the bees and plants. Once determinations are complete then the analysis of the biodiversity patterns in the region will be able to progress and outputs will be used to set up a monitoring framework. The ongoing adoption of the framework and uptake of biodiversity data will rely heavily on the continued interest and support of the CBD focal point and associated Ministerial staff.

3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

The provision of functioning biodiversity resource facilities will potentially provide data and evidence to help underpin policy decisions in the Mayombe region by identifying biodiversity hotspots worthy of priority conservation actions. The facilities will also provide a base level of competency for future projects (national and international) to support research and may elicit new opportunities for funding.

Our assessment of the biodiversity in Mayombe will provide the CBD focal point with the first insight into biodiversity patterns in the region. It will indicate which area may be most diverse and therefore worth protecting as new commercial activities (mining, logging and large scale agriculture) increasingly move into the region. The monitoring plots will potentially allow patterns of change to be identified (and possibly even quantified) by providing baseline data which future monitoring can be compared against, and which may allow informed decisions to be made on the need for protection and the effectiveness of long-term actions. The likelihood that the government will adopt this evidence-base in it decision making process is hard to judge, but initial indications are promising, however, any change of government may decrease this likelihood.

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

Monitoring during this reporting period has been primarily through regular reports from the project manager, Ralf Becker, who was resident in Congo throughout the year, to the project leader. Ralf is well suited to assessing the status and condition of several aspects of the project including the functioning of the herbarium and entomology facilities and also the quality and progress of the fieldwork component. He has been personally involved in the delivery of all the

training and has worked and lived together for almost the whole reporting year with the trainees while in the field and in the herbarium. Throughout the period Ralf has been in regular contact with key staff at GERDIB and MEFE and has given several formal and informal updates on the projects' progress. No Project Management meeting was formally run this year as the UMN and CERVE have not been engaged as partners this year (as detailed above) and all scientific management has been directly undertaken between the UK project team and Dr Pangou at GERDIB.
The project leader has set out a number of internal milestones to ensure the capacity building and field research have progressed satisfactorily and updates via email and telephone are usually on a weekly basis when Ralf has been out of the field. Management of the specimen identification has been undertaken by Ralf for plants through his existing network of collaborators, and by the project leader for bees through his long-term collaboration with global experts.
The main lesson learnt this year is that local partner commitments change despite prior official agreement (signed Memoranda of Understanding) and apparent enthusiasm of local partners. When benefits are straightforward and direct (e.g. provision of access to herbarium and insect collections) then local partners are supportive, but when immediate benefits are less clear (e.g. staff training) then local partners are often wholly unsupportive of the project.

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Two questions were raised by the review: coordination of partners in Congo and outside; and expenditure confirmation for period 1.
At the time of the first annual report the project had a large number of Congolese partners, as many groups wanted the opportunity to participate in the project. However, during the course of the second year it became apparent which partners were committed to the progress of the project. UMN, NHB and CERVE have been 'released' from the project and have no current involvement, though the project has left the door firmly open should any wish to make a contribution in the future. The partnership now comprises of just two organisations: Ministère de l'Economie Forestière et de l'Environnement (MEFE) and Groupe d'Etude et de Recherche sur la Diversité Biologique (GERDIB). We communicate with both directly and GERDIB are involved primarily in the research aspects of the project, while MEFE are kept updated on overall progress and are primed ready to uptake outputs when available next year. Coordination with global partners is very straightforward as these are all long-term partners realized in a number of ongoing collaborative projects. Personal meetings with new partners have been initiated to ensure their continued involvement.
Confirmation of expenditure was included as Appendix 2 of the previous half year report.

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

In March 2008, the project manager had major problems with the national security police (DST); he was arrested and intimidated on several occasions and only released once substantial documentation had been sent by Defra and the University of Reading has been received. Many documents and items of equipment are still in the possession of the DST (including the training materials) and we are trying to recover these, however none are essential for the continued success of the project. No charges were made against Ralf and the reasons for his arrest were not specified.

A second potential difficulty comes with the run up to the 2009 elections and the potential for the political and security situations to change. Again we are monitoring the situation taking local and FCO advice.

7. Sustainability

The herbarium and entomology collection at Pointe Noire are widely recognised as a unique resource in the country and are being actively used by this Darwin project and Congolese national project staff. Given that the facilities now have structural integrity, good quality equipment, and can be seen to be producing quality material, then continued interest in its upkeep during the lifetime of the project and afterwards is likely. The French governmental research organisation IRD (Institut de recherché pour le developpement) who housed the Herbarium in Pointe Noire until 2008, have indicated they may provide ongoing funding. The newly appointed Minister of Research (Matson Mampouja) visited the facilities in March 2008 and was very impressed with its refurbishment and the research conducted by the project. The project manager gave two presentations to the Minister and discussed ways to sustain continued biodiversity research in Congo. The Minister verbally promised that he would continue to encourage local scientists to work together and provide sustainable government funding for research. We will also take the opportunity to deliver recommendations for rolling funds for the upkeep of facilities when we deliver our main project findings.

At the facility in Brazzaville, at GERDIB, where there is already active research, the donated botanical and entomological equipment is already in use. The first indication that this resource will be utilised beyond the life of the project comes from a Belgium entomologist working for an NGO, who is now supervising two Congolese Masters students whose research relies entirely on the availability of the equipment we provided. We will encourage and expect further organizations and individuals to utilize the facilities.

In the final year of the project we will attempt, as far as possible, to couple the delivery of our own findings with the understanding that the capacity we built in the country could continue to deliver quality research, provided local interest is maintained and some a small amount of financial support is given by the government. In addition, at the end of the project we will put our plant and insect databases into the public domain and make them submit them to GBIF. Our exit strategy remains the same as we attempt engage a wide range of groups to use the facilities and demonstrate the long-term benefits to the government and research community in Congo.

8. Dissemination

Several dissemination activities were undertaken in this period. Two presentations were made to the Congolese Minister of Research, which promoted the Darwin project and demonstrated the positive impacts it is having, and is likely to have, in Congo (see appendix). The first presentation in Brazzaville focussed on the current aims and expected findings and impacts of the project. The second presentation was in Pointe Noire and focussed on future opportunities for projects based on the approach of the current project. Each presentation was also accompanied by posters. A talk was also given to the French Ambassador and a diverse audience of researchers, diplomatic staff, local government officials and business persons. Again the current status and expected outcomes of the project were presented.

During the visit of the Minister of Research to Pointe Noire, the project manager was included in two national TV news programmes, featuring the herbarium and entomology collections.

A press release in the UK resulted in two newspaper articles, two popular press articles and a page on the BBC News online website. Further press releases in UK and Congo are planned this year.

A dedicated project website has been online since September 2006 and will be further updated when research findings become available. http://www.rdg.ac.uk/caer/project_congo.html.

9. Project Expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 3.

Table 3 Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)

Item	Budget (Original proposal – budget remains unchanged)	Expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs (eg postage, telephone, stationery)			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment			
Others			
Salaries (specify) Simon Potts (Project Leader) Ioannis Vogiatzakis (GIS) Ralf Becker (Project Manager) Senior Technician 1 (Congo) Senior Technician 2 (Congo)			
TOTAL			

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget.

10. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)
In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project over the year that you consider worth highlighting to ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat. This could relate to achievements already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention eg in terms of best practice. We may use material from this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including e.g. publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin promotion material, or on the Darwin website. As we will not always be able to ask projects on an individual basis for their consent to publish the content of this section, please note the above agreement clause.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2007/08

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2007 - March 2008	Actions required/planned for next period
Goal: *To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve* *The conservation of biological diversity,* *The sustainable use of its components, and* *The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources*		*(report on any contribution towards positive impact on biodiversity or positive changes in the conditions of human communities associated with biodiversity eg steps towards sustainable use or equitable sharing of costs or benefits)*	*(do not fill not applicable)*
Purpose To work with Congolese nationals to strengthen the National Biodiversity Strategy.	1) National Herbarium in Pointe Noire (NHB) established as a biodiversity resource; entomological collection set up at GERDIB. 2) Developing basic research and training facilities for long-term in country expertise. 3) Integrated biodiversity assessment of Mayombe Mountains region (MM). 4) Generic framework of activities needed to assess and monitor biodiversity.	The herbarium in Pointe Noire has now been fully refurbished and is operating as a functional resource. Entomology facilities have been established in both Pointe Noire and in Brazzaville (at GERDIB). Staff have been trained in surveying, processing and databasing botanical and entomological specimens. Fieldwork programme is now complete.	Completion of specimen identification. Databases updated with new material and analysis of biodiversity data. Monitoring framework established. Projects outputs disseminated.

Output 1. Well maintained and data-based plant and insect collections.	Existing NHB material curated; entomological collection housed at GERDIB. Material data-based.	Progress is good and indicator remains appropriate for capacity building.
Activity 1.1 Provision of capacity building materials for herbarium and national entomology collection.		Herbarium refurbishment is now complete and the herbarium is operating fully. All specimens are disinfected, cleaned and restored. Botanical equipment is now installed: 4 microscopes, >250 books, journals, guides and keys, 12,000 sheets of mounting paper, 12 litres of glue, 3 computers (a CD writers a scanner-printer). All specimens are being data-based on Brahms. Entomology facilities have been established in both Pointe Noire and

		Brazzaville (at GERDIB) and equipment installed: insect display cabinets, pins, labels and chemicals. All specimens are being data-based and most butterflies and moths identified. Bees are currently with experts in Europe and US. Additional materials will be added to collections and databases in the next year.
Output 2. Partners able to collect and curate plant and insect material.	45 NHB, UMN and GERDIB staff trained variously in survey, database, GIS and identification methods.	Planned workshops for year 2 not completed. Local partners are no longer committed to workshops. Indicator no longer remains useful and can be more better replaced with indicators of extensive in-field and on-the-job training.
Activity 2.1. Training workshops: Collection management, introduction to Brahms database, basic GIS, and sampling protocols Advanced collection management and databasing, CITES protocols, overview of key CBD articles Species assessment (IUCN protocols), rapid biodiversity assessment methods, teaching methods Advanced GIS and basic data interpretation using field material		In place of the workshops extensive in-field and on-the-job training given to 10 individuals: 2 persons received a full year's training for plant assessments in the field; 8 additional field assistants worked in the field and in the herbarium in Pointe Noire. Skills taught include GPS methods, collection management, databasing, and rapid biodiversity assessment methods. Analytical methods and data interpretation will be taught in the next year.
Output 3. Inventory and biodiversity assessment for MM complete.	Vegetation mapping, analysis and monitoring report drafted. 9 months field work, identification and databasing.	Stratification and initial site selection complete. Vegetation and pollinator data to be mapped once identification and databasing complete. Indicators remains appropriate. Fieldwork in MM has been completed. Indicator remains appropriate.
Activity 3.1. Environmental stratification of MM identifying survey sites.		Completed.
Activity 3.2. Field surveys		All surveys completed. Additional 18 weeks of fieldwork undertaken.
Activity 3.3. Identification of material initially in Congo then by ex-Congo experts (after field surveys)		Local partners and international experts currently have material and identification work progressing well.
Output 4. Monitoring framework for MM established.	Biodiversity monitoring plan drafted. Manual drafted, reviewed and publication date set.	This output lies in the future and will be underpinned by the results form the fieldwork programme. Indicator remains appropriate.
Activity 4.1 Assessment and monitoring manual published and circulated.		This output lies in the future and will be underpinned by the results form the fieldwork programme.
Output 5. Dissemination of project outputs	NBS framework workshop planned and conducted. Three public seminars, press releases, popular articles and	This output lies in the future and will be underpinned by the analysis of form the fieldwork findings. Indicator remains appropriate. Project included in seminar talks, TV programmes in Congo and UK press release.

	papers. Two TV broadcasts and an exhibition.	Preparations made for other dissemination activities for 2008/9
Activity 5.1. Workshop reports (2 months post workshop)		Report on in-field and on-the-job training
Activity 5.2. Public seminar, press release, popular article and paper		Project was presented in 3 talks (Pointe Noire Herbarium, at GERDIB in Brazzaville and the French Embassy) in Congo, and a UK Press Release was taken up by 2 newspapers and 2 popular magazines and BBC News online. Research findings will underpin scientific papers for 2008/9
Activity 5.3. TV broadcast		Project included in 2 TV news programmes (TVC)
Activity 5.4 NBS framework workshop.		This activity lies in the future.

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe (modified text in blue, ~~original text crossed~~)

Outputs re-organised as advised by previous review.

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources			
Purpose To work with Congolese nationals to strengthen the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS).	1) NHB established as a biodiversity resource; ~~UMN~~ GERDIB entomological collection set up. 2) Developing basic research and training facilities for long-term in country expertise. 3) Integrated biodiversity assessment of Mayombe Mountains region (MM). 4) Generic framework of activities needed to assess and monitor biodiversity.	1) Reports on the research facilities and working database. 2) Participation of Congolese in training programme. 3) Reports and publications on plant and pollinator biodiversity of MM, and monitoring plan. 4) Report and workshop for CBD focal point and government ministries.	Effective collaboration between GERDIB, NHB, ~~UMN~~, MEFE and ex-Congo experts. Continued political stability in Congo Brazzaville. Incorporation of new knowledge into MEFE activities.
Outputs 1) Well maintained and data-based plant and insect collections. 2) Partners able to collect and curate plant and insect material. ~~3) Environmental stratification of MM completed identifying survey sites.~~ 3) ~~4)~~ Inventory and biodiversity assessment for MM complete.	1) Existing NHB material curated; ~~UMN~~ GERDIB entomological collection housed. Material data-based. 2) 45 NHB, ~~UMN~~ and GERDIB staff trained variously in survey, database, GIS and identification methods. 3) Vegetation mapping, analysis and monitoring report drafted. 4) 9 months field work, identification and databasing. 5) Biodiversity monitoring plan	1) Receipts for equipment donated. Report on facilities. 2) Reports on training; workshop attendance records and skill assessment by experts. 3) Report peer-reviewed. 4) Report on vegetation maps, checklists and databases of plants and pollinators. 5) Report and monitoring timetable. 6) Manual assessment by expert panel. 50	1) Commitment from NHB and ~~UMN~~ GERDIB staff. 2) Local support for workshops available. 3) None. Technique used by UoR. 4) Extreme weather and health issues. 5) Expert input available. 6) None. 7) Continued cooperation with MEFE maintained.

4) ~~5)~~ Monitoring framework for MM established. ~~6) Assessment and monitoring manual published and circulated.~~ 5) Dissemination of project outputs ~~7) NBS framework workshop.~~ ~~8) Publications and presentations.~~	drafted. 6) Manual drafted, reviewed and publication date set. 7) NBS framework workshop planned and conducted. 8) Three public seminars, press releases, popular articles and papers. Two TV broadcasts and an exhibition.	copies circulated; two copies sent to Darwin Initiative. 7) Direct involvement of Ministries and CBD focal point. 8) Copies of publications sent to Darwin Initiative.	

Activities	Activity milestones (summary of project implementation timetable)	Assumptions
1) Training.	1) Training workshops including assessment of attendees progress: a) Bee biodiversity assessment Feb 2007; Collection management, introduction to Brahms database, basic GIS, and sampling protocols (~~Sept 2006~~ June 2007); b) Advanced collection management and databasing, CITES protocols, overview of key CBD articles (~~May~~ June 2007); c) Species assessment (IUCN protocols), rapid biodiversity assessment methods, teaching methods (Sept 2007); d) Advanced GIS and basic data interpretation using field material (Sept 2007); e) Advanced data analysis and use of Brahms (May 2008); f) Generating outputs (checklists, maps, reports) (June 2008); g) NBS framework workshop (Aug 2009).	1) Timing of rainy season (flowering time) and dry season (fruiting time) typical. Exceptional changes may modify timetable of workshops but not number or content. Continued support of UK experts. Continued commitment local partners.
2) Field research programme.	2) Initial satellite imagery analysis and year 1 survey sites defined (Sept 2006); Ongoing analysis for further sites (Jan 2007 -~~Dec 2007~~ May 2008). Field surveys (~~Oct 2006-Mar 2007~~ Feb-May 2007; Oct 2007-~~Jan~~ Feb 2008; ~~Mar-Apr~~ Oct-Dec 2008; ~~3 months in 2008/9~~). Identification of material initially in Congo then by ex-Congo experts (after field surveys).	2) Timing of seasons, though generally predictable, will define time windows for survey work.
3) Dissemination.	3) Reports: Site selection (Oct 2006/7); NHB and UMN facilities (Dec 2007); workshop reports (2 months post workshop); MM biodiversity assessment (Aug 2008 and June 2009); monitoring report (July 2009). Manual of assessment protocols (Aug 2009). Two TV broadcasts (TVC) in Congo (~~2007~~ 2008 ~~& 2009~~); each year, one local public seminar, press release (UoR), paper and popular science article; Botanical exhibition, Kew (2009).	3) Continued commitment of TV broadcasters and local partners.

Annex 3 onwards – supplementary material (optional)

Three items of supplementary material are included:

1. Report on Facilities
2. Report on Training
3. Examples of dissemination material