

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2009)

Project Ref. No.	16-012
Project Title	Orchid Seed Stores for Sustainable Use
Country(ies)	Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, <u>Mexico</u> , China, <u>India</u> , Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
UK Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Collaborator(s)	MoU members: Jardin Botánico de Quito, Ecuador ; Universidad Tecnica Particular de Loja, Ecuador; BIOFAN, Universidad Autonoma Gabriel Rene Moreno (UAGRM), Bolivia ; Agronomia Faculdade de Ciências Agrárias Universidade do Oeste Paulista – UNOESTE, Brazil ; Banco Base de Semillas, Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias (INIA), Chile ; Jardín Botánico Nacional, Viña del Mar, Chile; Fundación Jardín Botánico de Cali, Colombia ; Jardin Botanico Lankester, Costa Rica ; Orquideario Soroa, University of Pinar del Río, Cuba ; Universidad del Valle de Guatemala, Guatemala ; Sichuan Hengduan Mts Bio-technology, Chengdu, China ; Kunming Institute of Botany, Yunnan, China; Bogor Botanic Garden, Indonesia ; Purwadadi Botanical Garden, Indonesia; Institute of Plant Breeding, College of Agriculture, the Philippines ; Mahidol University, Thailand ; Singapore Botanic Gardens, Singapore ; Dalat Institute of Biology, Vietnam . Ongoing discussions: Jardín Botánico, Universidad Autónoma de México ; Botanic Garden of Indian Republic (BGIR), India . Associate members: Estonian Univ of Life Sciences, Estonia ; Kadoorie Farm & BG, Hong Kong, China; Federal Univ of Parana, Brazil. Awaiting letters of confirmation: Beijing Botanic Gardens and XTBG, China; Panama ; Smithsonian, USA ; Spain, Italy, Dominican Republic, Peru . <u>Summary:</u> 14 full MoU countries; 2 full MoU countries ongoing discussion; 7 countries joining as associates.
Project Leader	Prof Hugh W Pritchard
Report date	31 October 2009
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	Half year of year 3
Project website	http://www.ossu.org

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). NB Specific comments in reply to the evaluator are clearly stated below.

Collaborators:

Signed MoU's have been received from 16 institutes, representing 14 countries out of the proposed 16 countries. We agree with the Evaluator that reaching 16 countries would be ideal and we have made progress with Mexico where we have a new contact at UNAM who is active in orchid seed storage. We have been assured that the institute will sign shortly. Also, Pritchard will visit Delhi in early November 2009 and Bioversity International are facilitating an appointment with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, parent body for the Botanic Gardens of Indian Republic (BGIR). Realistically, the main impact of these two countries may be in the

next phase of the network. In the meantime, we have recruited a number of Associate Members who have agreed to store and work with a minimum of 10 species each and have begun carrying out pollinations; Kadoorie Farm & BG have committed to working on about 60 species through to 2012.

Dissemination and PR:

In May 2009, Seaton gave an invited talk on OSSSU at the First Guangxi International Orchid Conservation Symposium in China; a paper is in preparation with KIB and Sichuan Hengduan Mts Bio-technology. In July 2009, Seaton gave an invited talk on OSSSU to business leaders at the First Thailand International Orchid Innovation Orchid Show (TIOIS) in Bangkok, and held project discussions with Kanchit Thammasiri, who also presented OSSSU work at TIOIS. In August 2009, Pritchard discussed the project at Kunming Institute of Botany (KIB), China. KIB is a possible deliverer of the Chinese version of the book *Growing Orchids from Seeds*, possibly as an e-book; discussions are ongoing. After a frustrating year (delays with the printer, final proof-checking, etc) we are expecting on 11 November 2009 to receive 100 copies of the book in Spanish; dispatch to project collaborators in Latin America will immediately follow and we are drawing up a list of other institutes in the region that may benefit from having this volume. The Evaluator was right to question the financial arrangements concerning the typesetting and printing of the book; we clearly underestimated both the time and cash resources needed to produce the book in two languages. However, we will raise additional money if necessary to ensure that the Chinese edition appears; this is a key deliverable for us. Presentations (oral or poster) about OSSSU have been made by Bolivia (2), Brazil (4), Chile (2), Cuba (2), Indonesia (1), Philippines (1). A number of articles and news items have appeared and these will be listed in the Y3 Annual Report.

Cascade training and technical support:

The network training continues to have a significant impact, with 6 countries reporting in the last 6 months cascade training to a total of 35 students, 2 staff and 33 members of the public. Seaton continues to provide advice on various issues: general management, media formulation, correcting manuscripts / poster layouts. We are also preparing an orchid germination paper from the gift-in-kind work performed for OSSSU at Wakehurst Place.

Seed harvested for storage:

The target for this year is seeds stored from 90 species. We noted at the end of Y2 that we were awaiting a report from Costa Rica. Between November 2008 and August 2009, Costa Rica harvested seed of 52 species of which 15 species are endemic. Brazil have also returned impressive figures; harvesting 38 species in the last 6 months, 6 of which are Red Listed. Progress in the other countries means that the yearly target will be met. Some interesting comparative germination data is emerging and Pritchard will present the OSSSU project at the triennial meeting of the International Seed Testing Association meeting in Germany in mid-2010.

Web site:

This has been enhanced and the database key provided to the network participants so that they can see the data being generated. We have applied to the Bentham-Moxon Trust for £2 k to enable us to add country pages for the Associates, in particular.

Sustainability:

Evidence is emerging that the network is starting to enable collaborators to leverage funds in-country for their facilities and practical work. Examples include: Bolivia (c. £1000), Brazil (£250) and Ecuador (£1200). The management team have submitted an EoI to the DI for the evolution of OSSSU into the Global Orchid Facility (2 years, 2010-12) - a virtual conservation laboratory based around an enhanced web portal and other information products.

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.

Our original intention for the final workshop in a years time was to hold it in Africa, as a first step to widening the network to that continent. However, the main orchid work we are aware of in the region is in Madagascar, which is expensive to reach and politically unstable. Consequently, we are likely to stage the final meeting in September 2010 in Central America; possible locations include Havana, Cuba and San José, Costa Rica .

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

We raise the matter now as it represents a small adjustment to the log-frame

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?

We will raise with the Secretariat permission to consider using any small underspend during Y3 to enhance the website as this is crucial to communication across the network and to the next phase of the project. At most we expect this to be a few thousand pounds.

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**