

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	16-012
<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Orchid seed stores for sustainable use (OSSU)</b>
<b>Country(ies)</b>	<u>Latin America</u> : Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Colombia, *Ecuador, Guatemala; <u>Asia</u> : *China, India, Indonesia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam. *regional scientific hubs
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Wakehurst Place
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Usually one (occasionally two) institute(s) in the countries listed above
<b>Project Leader</b>	Prof Hugh W. Pritchard
<b>Report date</b>	April – Sept 2007.
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	YR 1, six-monthly
<b>Project website</b>	Not yet launched

## 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 award was made in March 2007 with an indicative start date of October 2007 and then running for 3 years across 4 financial years. The paperwork for the appointment of Phil Seaton (0.3 x Band D) as Project Manager for 3 years from 1 Oct 2007 was completed and the post started on schedule.

The main objective leading into October 2007 was preparation for two training workshops in Chengdu, China (15 – 19 Oct) and Quito, Ecuador (7 – 12 Nov), specifically: selection of attendees, booking of flights, arrangement of airport transfers and local accommodation, and the preparation of a draft MoU and the training materials. These consisted of a series of presentations and preparation of species lists for checking. Preparations were also made for the translation of 'Growing Orchids from Seeds', by Ramsay and Seaton, into both Chinese and Spanish. The project leader wishes to acknowledge the commitment made by Phil Seaton to the workshop preparations at a time when he was not formally a Darwin Initiative / Kew employee.

The Chengdu workshop has now been held, generally with two representatives of each country present. The numbers of attendees were as follows: India (2), Indonesia (2), Philippines (2), Singapore (1), Thailand (2), Vietnam (2) and China (6). From China, there were 2 from the scientific hub (Chengdu), plus 1 from the Institute of Botany, Beijing, 1 from IoB Beijing/Kunming Institute of Botany, 1 from Beijing Botanic Garden, and 1 from Hainan Univ. In other words, a total of 17 participants attended, plus Pritchard and Seaton. Two other attendees from Kunming Institute of Botany were unable to attend at the last minute, being called away on urgent business in Guizhou. However, we will pursue their involvement in the project.

The press attended the opening ceremony, as did Ms Wang of the State Forestry Administration and Mr Hong of the Sichuan Forestry. An article has already appeared on the front page of the Sichuan Economic Daily. We are anticipating an article in the Chinese

gardening press. We have already publicised the project in the Orchid Review (Orchid Journal of the RHS, July-August 2007) and an article will appear in the Oct 2007 issue of Kew Scientist.

At the workshop we dissected the full workplan (log frame), reviewed equipment needs and agreed the sharing of targets across the countries in Asia. Ten copies in English of the orchid training book were provided by the project to the participants at the Chengdu workshop and order numbers recorded for other copies in native tongues. Before the foreign language editions are made available, a new foreword will be added to reflect support from the Darwin Initiative. Pritchard and Seaton wish to acknowledge the excellent local organisation of the workshop by Holger and Wenqing Perner in Chengdu. The second workshop will take place in Quito, Ecuador in early November. Pritchard and Seaton have already analysed the evaluation forms from Chengdu (mostly very positive) and changed the programme to allow more time for participants in Quito to give more detailed presentations on the work of their institutions rather than just their orchid interests, as requested of the Chengdu participants.

**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.**

The Australian collaborator named in the project submission was invited early on to attend (at least part of) the workshop but this was not possible, nor could anyone else attend from that institute. The role specified for this collaborator was essentially advisory and lack of attendance did not mean that key topics were missed from the workshop; Pritchard, Seaton and the participants were able to cover all subject matter comprehensively. We may seek other inputs from Australia or simply reach our target of 16 contributing countries (excluding the UK) by involving another country. Any potential savings to the budget from this 'no show' is likely counterbalanced by the higher than originally anticipated local turnout and the 'miscellaneous' costs of having the media present.

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

The project schedule is intact

**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?**

Not at this stage

**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](mailto: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**