

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	17-030
Project Title	Participatory approaches to nominating Crocker Range Biosphere Reserve, Sabah, Malaysia
Country(ies)	Malaysia
UK Organisation	Global Diversity Foundation
Collaborator(s)	Sabah Parks, Pacos Trust, Buayan-Kionop JKKK
Project Leader	Gary Martin
Report date	31 October 2009
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	General updates on the project are available on GDF's UK website, www.globaldiversity.org.uk

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).

We successfully started the project on 1 August 2009, flowing on smoothly from our Darwin post-project, which ended on 31 July 2009. Project Leader Gary Martin visited Sabah from 23 August to 13 September 2009, where he consulted with various collaborators and spent a week visiting the Ulu Papar communities. On 2 September, he chaired the first project partners' meeting that was attended by all partners, and cemented mutual commitments to collaborate over the coming three years.

The project continues to be governed by the MoU between GDF and Sabah Parks. Sabah Parks has taken on the contractual employment of all GDF's local team members for the duration of the project. GDF has also signed a MoU with the Sabah Biodiversity Centre, in relation to a parallel initiative to assist the Centre in identifying potential Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) with Ulu Papar as one of the case studies.

Over two months, we have been conducting weekly informal preparatory sessions with community researchers, who will then embark on social entry visits with the 10 communities involved in this project. Implementation of field activities will be conducted jointly through the Resource Catchment Assessment (RCA) Team, which was formed during the post-project, comprising field personnel from Sabah Parks, PACOS, GDF and community researchers.

On 10 September, we conducted a training workshop on GIS and online mapping tools for key RCA Team members. The workshop was delivered by Dr. Shahir Shamsir of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), with follow-up workshops planned for the future. GDF is currently developing a MoU with UTM to facilitate this process.

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.

We recently learned of rumours that a private company intends to implement a water supply project, which would involve relocating the inhabitants of Ulu Papar to build a dam on the Papar River. This unexpected piece of news has caused an uprising of grave concerns from Federal

and State Ministers and Members of Parliament, government agencies and the peoples of Ulu Papar, sparking fierce criticism and in-depth inquiry from all quarters.

We discussed this issue intensively during the project partners' meeting on 2 September, during which we learned that the dam proposal had been developed without consultation with state government agencies. Sabah Parks remains committed to strengthening their partnership with the Buayan-Kionop community and in formalising the Community Use Zone in Buayan-Kionop. A unanimous decision was made to proceed with project activities (draft meeting minutes will be endorsed at the next partners' meeting and will be included in the DI Annual Report, but can be made available earlier upon request). Parallel initiatives, such as the formalisation of the Buayan-Kionop Community Use Zone Management Plan, the nomination of the Crocker Range Biosphere Reserve by Sabah Parks and the Sabah Biodiversity Centre, and the construction of the eBuayan telecentre by PACOS and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, are also proceeding without disruption. The Japanese Consulate to Sabah has also indicated that we should proceed with our application to the Japanese Grassroots Grants Programme to fund the building of the Buayan Biocultural Resource Centre, which we will submit in November.

With the agreement of our partners, we nevertheless delayed the initiation of field activities with communities by a few weeks, to allow time for communities to seek clarification from the respective government agencies and elected representatives on the proposed water supply project. We focussed instead on conducting weekly training sessions with community researchers, who are now prepared to start social entry workshops with communities in November.

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

No

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?

None at this early stage of the project.

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**