

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2011)

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 2011
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
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).

In the period 1 April – 31 October 2011, project activities have progressed smoothly with no significant setbacks. All project partnerships are working well and collaboration from partners continues to be excellent. GDF Director and Project Leader Dr. Gary Martin visited Sabah from 12 to 26 June.

Under Output 1, the draft Ulu Papar Biocultural Community Protocol has been finalised and is being prepared for publication in both Bahasa Malaysia (hard and softcopy) and English (pdf only). Community researchers have engaged the Sabah Biodiversity Centre in dialogue about the nomination of the Crocker Range Biosphere Reserve. They are facilitating a community-level consultation with the Centre that will take place in early October in Buayan, which will be the first community-level consultation in the nomination process.

Under Output 2, we have engaged the Rotary Club Luyang in a collaborative project to construct the Longkod Buayan Biocultural Heritage Centre in Buayan. Community leaders have prepared a scaled-down version of Longkod Buayan's building plan. In a meeting on 19 May, GDF Coordinator Dr. Agnes Lee Agama and community researchers Raymond Sipanis, Louis Bugiad and Jenny Sanem attended a Rotary Club Luyang meeting to discuss further with Club Vice President and members. Plans are underway to facilitate a field visit to Buayan so club members can meet and develop plans with community members.

Under Output 3, we successfully conducted the second in-person seminar of the Biocultural Diversity and Conservation interactive training course from 18 to 19 June, which was led by GDF Director and University of Kent lecturer Dr. Gary Martin along with guest speakers Prof. Tania Li of Toronto University and Prof. Richie Howitt of Macquarie University. On 20 June, course participants and our collaborators from University Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Dr. Shahir Shamsir and his team conducted an interactive online mapping workshop for community researchers, which follows on from previous mapping workshops in 2010. The UTM team then conducted a field methods session from 21-23 June to demonstrate the use of 360 panorama photography techniques as an engaging way to convey information about Ulu Papar landscapes. Once uploaded to the internet, viewers will be able to zoom in and see a 360 view of the photographed area, which is also a technique increasingly being used for monitoring changes in land use and forest fragmentation in other sites.

Field research activities progressed smoothly in this period, which focused on collecting GPS readings of agricultural and culturally-significant sites throughout Ulu Papar. The Ulu Papar participatory 3-dimensional modelling process was continued at village-level in Kalanggaan, where community members convened on 15 Aug to discuss the types of data they wanted to display on the model. They then painted forest types on the model and input basic data such as rivers, village settlements and boundaries. Work on the model will continue as part of Roadshow Part III scheduled for Nov 2011. We expect to field research activities on the ground to be scaled-down as we near the conclusion of the project in mid-2012. Instead we are turning our focus to enabling community researchers to consolidate and analyse research results. From 13 to 17 June GDF Coordinator Mr. Adam Murphy and community researcher Mr. Ephraem Lompoduk received specialised training in advanced GIS at the UTM campus in Johor, as part of enabling community researchers to utilise research results to develop a framework community-based zoning plan for Ulu Papar to guide management and resource use. Additionally, research results are being converted into "outreach packages" for dissemination and conservation education purposes under Output 4.

Output 4 has been the central focus of most of our resources this reporting period, with intensive activities under the Ulu Papar Community and Conservation Campaign. On 30 June, we co-hosted a training workshop with the Sabah Women's Action Resource Group (SAWO) that drew from the Semporna Islands Darwin Project's (SIDP) Coral Seas Roadshow (CSR). SIDP trainers Helen Brunt and Jamie Valiant Ng, along with Lelian Edang of Sabah Parks walked through CSR activities with community researchers and SAWO members, showing how the application of action-oriented and visually stimulating techniques were used to convey conservation messages to SIDP communities. Following on from this, community researchers redesigned the Ulu Papar Roadshow format and successfully conducted Roadshow Part II from 10-19 August and 18-19 September with Ulu Papar villages. Roadshow II highlighted the role of traditional knowledge and traditional ways of life in the conservation and management of Ulu Papar resources and landscapes by using action-oriented techniques such as games, puzzles and sing-a-long music videos. Building on this successful approach, community researchers will revisit Ulu Papar villages in Nov 2011 to conduct Roadshow Part III that will focus on returning Darwin research results, developing a zoning plan for Ulu Papar, the biosphere reserve nomination and the community use zone.

We conducted a third community exchange from 22 July to 1 August, when Mr. Artiso Mandawa from Palawan, Philippines, visited Buayan. Before coming to Sabah, Mr. Mandawa, who is also Head of ALDAW (Ancestral Land/Domain Watch), had screened Ulu Papar participatory videos to his community members in Palawan. He recorded their reactions and subsequently screened this to Buayan community members, thus commencing a chain of participatory video communications between the Palawan and Buayan communities. Touching on shared struggles in defending and managing customary lands and maintaining cultural practices, the exchange between Palawan and Buayan is expected to continue over the mid to long-term.

Also under Output 4, we participated in the state-level Borneo Eco Film Fest from 29 to 31 July in Sandakan, Sabah. Attended by more than 300 people from Malaysia and elsewhere, we screened the Ulu Papar participatory video featuring the community conservation work in Ulu Papar and the film *Trek through Borneo*, provided by partners Borneo Colours, which highlighted the tourism value of Ulu Papar. On the final day of the festival, Ulu Papar community researchers hosted a community filmmaking workshop to share their participatory video skills. This was an excellent dissemination platform that enabled the profiling of Ulu Papar as a place of rich biodiversity and important cultural value to a wide-ranging audience, including the Sabah State Minister of Youth and Sports, the Mayor of Sandakan, members of the public in Sabah, and foreign tourists.

As part of wider dissemination, GDF Director Dr. Gary Martin and Ms. Justine Vaz participated in the 17th International Symposium on Society and Resource Management (ISSRM) held from 13-17 June in Kota Kinabalu, where they presented the Ulu Papar case study in two sessions on community conservation. GDF Coordinators Dr. Agnes Lee Agama, Mr. Adam Murphy and community researcher Ms. Jenny Sanem attended the Asian Wetlands Symposium from 18-20

July where they delivered a paper on the biocultural values of Ulu Papar, which was attended by more than 300 conservationists from 24 countries, including Head of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme Dr. Ishwaran Natarajan. Additionally, we have submitted an abstract to present a paper at the 13th International Congress of Ethnobiology in May 2012 in France, and are seeking co-funding opportunities for travel bursaries.

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.

NIL

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

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Discussed with LTS: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/yes in.....(month/yr)

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

None.

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 LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**