

Project Title: Training Darwin Scholars – MSc in Ecosystems Analysis and Governance

Country: UK

Contractor: Warwick University, Dept Biological Sciences

Project Ref: 162/5/126

Grant Value: £120,225

Start/ finish dates: September 1996 – September 2000

2. Masters degree, held at above department, for 9 (or 10 – see later) students from overseas countries. These were selected from suitable applicants, the intention being to train people to work successfully and usefully back in their countries of origin following their courses.

The problem to be addressed was the shortage of environmental science capacity in the countries concerned.

3. The purpose was to provide education to MSc level. Our MSc courses were 50% thesis based, and the students were encouraged (and usually did – see previous annual reports) to work on an issue from their own country.

The objectives were not modified during the project.

The project was extremely successful. All 10 students appeared to benefit greatly, and many returned back to continue work in their own countries.

4. The provision of the course was as described in the initial application for the grant, and in subsequent annual reports.

5. Project impacts will not be easily verified. Most of the students, however, did return to continue work, several in government departments, in environmental matters. To this extent, we certainly did achieve the goals. Further, as our MSc was 50% research based, those students who tackled a project from their own country also returned with results which they could put to good use.

6. Project outputs are 10 MSc students. The titles of all MSc projects are listed:

Name	Thesis Title
Christopher Dogbey	A preliminary study of biomass budget for the Ghanaian shelf ecosystem via Ecopath 3.0 model
Kapila Gunarathne	Mangrove degradation and expansion of the shrimp farm industry in Sri Lanka
Marina Kholodova	Using non-invasive molecular genetic methods for conservation and management of wild ungulates
Jane Mbendo	Integrated environmental assessment of the Kenyan coast with special reference to sea turtles
Stella Pasaribu	Assessment of conservation requirements for two marine protected areas in Indonesia
Vanessa Ramrattan	An economic valuation of the artisanal fish and shellfish industry in three wetlands in Trinidad
Oscar Forero	From pure sciences to ethnosciences, a broad perspective on ecosystems analysis and governance
Maureen Milbourn	An evaluation of the Montego bay Marine Park, Jamaica
Yipeng Zhao	Analyzing the causes of deforestation in tropical Asia
Tibenja Ngantcha	An investigation of the relationship between soil types and the occurrence of bovine tuberculosis in south-west England using geographic information systems and statistical analysis

7. Project expenditure.

Total Expenditure from Darwin

Travel and subsistence

Fees

Total

Variation in expenditure. There was a misunderstanding concerning numbers of students towards the end. Nine sets of MSc student funding was initially agreed. An ambiguous letter from Darwin in the final year led us to believe that a tenth student was agreed. We therefore offered a tenth place (to probably the most successful candidate of all, from western Africa), to find that Darwin then would not support this place. The University thus was obliged to meet all her costs internally. This variation in expenditure was at no cost to Darwin!

8. Ten 'local partnerships' have been developed, some being potentially useful in that the students returned to work actively in their own countries.

9. Our monitoring and evaluation is as for all degrees in this university.

10. The home organisations and governments of all Darwin scholars are fully aware of the source of the funding. (Even in the case of the one whose funding was not, in the end, from Darwin at all!)

11 Leverage. This could be considerable if any of these students do rise to senior positions. It is too early to tell. However, given the shortage of capacity in some of their countries, and the obvious and clear difference that these ex-students have and can now make in those countries, and given the enthusiasm that most took home with them, we have hopes that several these seeds will certainly germinate. Certainly, earlier students of the staff involved (not from this Darwin project) have risen to become useful in the sense of environmental science, and influential, in the hoped-for manner. We have no reason at present to suspect that this particular group who benefited from this course will be less successful.

12 Sustainability and legacy. As in 11 above.

13 Value for money. Excellent. And there was a tenth Darwin scholar paid for by Warwick University!

Appendix 1 categories.

12. Research and training: 10 MSc degrees were awarded. The 10 MSc projects provided direct research projects in addition to more 'conventional' MSc level training.

16. Technology transfer: A wide range of skills were learned as appropriate to the MSc concerned. These include analysis of problems, IT (including remote sensing and GIS), and in many cases practical problem solution, relevant to their own countries' issues.

Percentage total: N/A

Appendix II categories.

2b: 10 Masters qualifications

4d: 10 MSc degrees x 50 weeks each. = 500 postgraduate student weeks.

4c: None

11a, 11b, several currently being developed.

Appendix IV.

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