

DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES

ANNUAL MONITORING FORM

Project Details

DoE Project Ref No ~~162/6/052~~ _____

Project Title ~~Plant information and technology~~
transfer for Nepal

Institution ~~The Natural History Museum~~ _____

Round 1 (please tick)

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PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

- a) Outline progress over the last year against the agreed baseline timetable for the project. If some milestones have not been achieved or have slipped, explain reasons for this.
1. First project review meeting.
This took place at the Natural History Museum at the beginning of June. Dr Henry Nolte (Edinburgh) acted as the independent consultant. As well as reviewing the work to date the first candidates for Darwin Scholar posts were selected. Proposed (minor) changes to future work were discussed, as were areas for potential development.
 2. Commencement of data capture
As mentioned in the last Annual Report, investigation of type holdings and associated data capture actually began in the previous year. The various databases currently contain information for the following:
 - i) 16000 vascular plant names
 - ii) 100 taxa new to the flora since publication of baseline data
 - iii) 1100 locality names in a gazetteer of collection sites
 - iv) bibliography of over 1000 references
 - v) 500 images
 3. Training of first Nepalese post-graduates (Darwin Scholars)
The first Nepalese Darwin Scholars arrived at the Natural History Museum in October 1999. Training began one month later than intended because of delays by the Home Office in issuing work experience permits.
 4. Training of second Nepalese post-graduates (Darwin Scholars)
Arrival of the second group of Darwin Scholars (February 1999) was deferred to May/June 1999. This was caused by the late start and an enforced extension for the first group of scholars and partly by yet another delay in obtaining work permits.

This change agreed with the Darwin Office.
 5. Second project review meeting
Originally scheduled for February 1999 and timed to occur before the second set of Nepalese post-graduates arrived (see 4 above). This has now been deferred to April/May and will take advantage of a visit to London by Professor Bajracharya, Head of the Central Department of Botany at Tribhuvan University and currently Vice Chancellor of the Royal Nepal Association for Science and Technology.
 6. Visit to herbaria at Tokyo & Kyoto
NEW MILESTONE. The project's Darwin Fellow, Dr K. Shrestha, visited main Japanese repositories for Nepalese type material to gather data for the project.

This change agreed with the Darwin Office.

- b) What progress has the project made in achieving its objectives over the last year? Is the project still expected to achieve all the original objectives which were specified? Explain any problems/difficulties which have been encountered to date in achieving the objectives of the project (or any which you envisage may be encountered in the future).

The project remains on schedule to meet all objectives as revised in 1998.

The project is, in fact, likely to over-achieve. The first Darwin scholars were extremely successful and hard working. This, combined with an enforced extension to their stay in London (because the Immigration Directorate lost their passports) allowed much additional data collected. This brings its own problems which have necessitated another budgetary re-alignment (see summary sheet) to enable additional printing costs to be met.

This change agreed with the Darwin Office.

I anticipate problems regarding work permits for the final 2 Nepalese post-graduates. There are already delays for one permit: any further delays will cause the arrival of the Nepalese to be postponed even further.

I also anticipate problems in getting the Nepalese' passports stamped once they arrive in Britain. The Immigration Directorate is currently unable to fulfill its statutory obligations and may take longer to process passports than the length of the individuals stay in London.

- c) What lessons can be learnt from your experiences (both good and bad) over the last year?

At all costs, reduce involvement with the Immigration Directorate to the absolute minimum. It is impossible to contact this organisation, obtain reliable information or penetrate the beaurocracy involved.

- d) If the project timetable has slipped or changed, provide an updated project implementation timetable for the remainder of the project. *(Please note that projects are expected to adhere to their original timetable and that the timely completion of projects is an important factor taken into account by the Department when assessing project performance. However, from time to time projects may be delayed unavoidably. Where a project is falling behind schedule, details on the revised programme of work should be provided below.*

The following changes have occurred to the implementation timetable as revised in the Annual Report 1998.

1. The 2 Nepalese post-graduates due to begin 3 months London-based training in February 1999 will now start in May/June 1999 (depending on issue of work permits)

This change agreed with the Darwin Office.

2. The second project review meeting due in February 1999 will now take place in April/May 1999.

3. Dr K. Shrestha will attend the International Botanical Congress at St Louis in July 1999. He will speak at a specially organised workshop for data repatriation and the flora of Nepal, present a poster and attend various sessions.

This change agreed with the Darwin Office.

4. Two checklists (of the vascular flora and of the bryophyte flora of Nepal) will be published at the end of the project (October/November 1999 depending on printers schedule).

This change agreed with the Darwin Office.

- e) What is the estimated completion date for the project?

October 1999

- f) Is this different to the completion date set out in the original application form?

Yes

(please tick)

No

PROJECT OUTPUTS

- a) What outputs have been achieved by the project over the last year? We would like you to work through the list of standard output measures which have been agreed for the Darwin Initiative and to report on those which are relevant to your project. All information provided should be referenced clearly to the appropriate project output reference number, and should provide the level of detail required (requirements are specified in the Guidance Note on Output Definitions which accompanies the List of Standard Output Measures).

Please note you are not expected to report against all the output measures which are listed. We only expect you to report on the outputs which were agreed for your project. However, if further outputs have been generated which relate to one or more of the standard output measures, these should also be reported below. Further outputs which do not fit easily into any of the standard output categories should be reported later in this section (see sub-section b).

Output Ref. No.	Description/Commentary
6A	Post-graduates receiving training: Ms Sangeeta Rajbhandary Mrs Nirmala Pradhan
6B	30 weeks training
11B	1 Shrestha, KK & J.R. Press. 1999. Repatriation of historical and type specimen data for Nepal. <i>Newsletter of Himalayan Botany</i> 24 : 18-23.

- b) Please provide details on any further outputs generated by the project over the last year which do not fit easily into the standard output categories for the Darwin Initiative.
- c) Explain any problems encountered to date in achieving the output targets specified for this project or any problems you envisage in achieving these outputs in the future.
- d) If the project timetable has slipped or changed, provide an updated timetable for the achievement of outputs over the remainder of the project period. *(Please note that projects are expected to adhere to the original output timetable which was agreed with the Department and this is taken into account when assessing project performance. However, some projects may be delayed unavoidably. Where a project is falling behind schedule a revised output timetable should be provided below).*

The following additions and changes to the timetable should be noted:

1999

May/June	6A/B	3 months training for 2 Nepalese workers in London begins.
July	14B	Dr Shrestha to International Botanical Congress.
October	11B	Checklist of vascular plants of Nepal
	11B	Checklist of bryophytes of Nepal

PROJECT EXPENDITURE

- a) Grant expenditure last year £19,408
- b) Grant expenditure to date £50,455
- c) Please provide a breakdown of grant expenditure using the main expenditure headings in the original application form.

Expenditure Last Year	Expenditure to Date
Salaries Travel & Subsistence Conferences, seminars Other (IT equipment)	Salaries Travel & Subsistence Conferences, seminars Other (IT equipment)

- f) Explain any variations in expenditure (+/-10%) from the original application form.

There are no variations greater than +/-10% for 1998-199 but please note the changes to budget shown in the summary below

These changes have been agreed with the Darwin Office.

STAFF RESOURCES

a) Please provide details on the staff who have worked on the project over the last year.

Name	Institution	Grade/Position	% of time allocated to the project last year
Dr K. Shrestha	Tribhuvan University (based at NHM for duration of project).	Darwin Fellow (Department of Botany, NHM).	100% (from start of project in October)
Ms S. Rajbhandary	Tribhuvan University	Darwin Scholar	100% (for 3.5 months)
Mrs N. Pradhan	Natural History Museum, Nepal	Darwin Scholar	100% (for 3.5 months)
Prof. S. Blackmore	The Natural History Museum	Keeper of Botany (Band 1)	5%
Mr J.R. Press	The Natural History Museum	Head of Higher Plants Division (Band 3)	20%
Mr D. Fuller	The Natural History Museum	IT specialist	10%

b) Please explain any variations in the composition of the project team or in the inputs of key staff from the details provided in the original application form.

Mr N.J. Turland left the Museum to take up a post in the USA. He was replaced by Mr D. Fuller.