

DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES

SIX MONTHLY MONITORING FORM

Project Details

Project Reference No. 162/6/052

Project Title Plant Information and Technology
Transfer for Nepal

Institution The Natural History Musum

Round 1 (please tick)

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PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

- a) Outline progress over the last six months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project. If some milestones have not been achieved or have slipped, explain reasons for this.

Two of the three key milestones for the 6 month period April-Oct 1998 have been met. The milestones are:

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 earlier in the year, well ahead of schedule. The various databases currently contain information for the following:
 - i) type specimens of nearly 1000 taxa
 - ii) 100 taxa new to the flora since publication of baseline data
 - iii) 1000 locality names in a gazetteer of collection sites
 - iv) bibliography of over 700 references
 3. Training of first Nepalese post-graduates (Darwin Scholars) begins
The first Nepalese Darwin Scholars were due to arrive in September to begin work at the Natural History Museum. This was put back to October because of delays by the Home Office in issuing work experience permits.
- b) What progress has the project made in achieving its objectives over the last six months? 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 is still on schedule. The slight delay to the start date for the Darwin Scholars can be absorbed in the schedule and will cause no problems.

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

- 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 timetable remains unchanged from the modified version given in the Annual Report for 1998. The only slippage is a one month delay to the start date for the first Darwin Scholars (see above) which will be absorbed into the programme.

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

September 1999

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

Yes (please tick)

No

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Please use this space to provide any further information on the progress of the project over the last six months, or on the Darwin Initiative as a whole. For example, are there any issues you wish to raise on management/monitoring/financial procedures or on any other matters?