

# 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.

All key milestones have been met. They are:

1. A workshop took place in London (not Nepal by request of Nepalese partners and to take advantage of attendance of representatives from Tokyo University which holds the second largest array of Nepalese plant data) (October 1997).
2. The Nepalese co-ordinator arrived in London (October 1997).
3. Structures were put in place for both specimen and literature databases (December 1997).
4. Protocols have been established for the image reference collection (December 1997).
5. Conversion of the primary literature source into a database was completed (May 1998). Slippage of one month due to conversion problems.
6. Set up of Nepalese node at Tribhuvan University, due April 1998, put back at request of Nepalese partners. The reasons are:
  - i. Change in Head of Central Department of Botany, Tribhuvan University (our previous contact has been appointed temporary Vice Chancellor and the new HoD took up her post in April.
  - ii. The Nepalese partners wish to provide train pre-project training in Nepal as part of the selection procedure for the Darwin scholars. This is best done during two weeks in June when the University is otherwise closed. The Nepalese node will be set up after this.
7. Investigation of type holdings at UK institutes, due to begin in May 1998 was, in fact, begun in December 1997.

- 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).

Excellent progress has been made in achieving the objectives. Delays in some areas have been countered by bringing forward work in others.

One major change to the original objectives is explained in d) below and one potential problem outlined here.

Our original intention was to include within the databases and image collection type specimens from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. By far the most important of these are the types in the Wallich herbarium there. Unfortunately, Kew do not allow this material to be loaned because of its very fragile state and, while the specimens can still be databased we may not be able to produce images of them as there are no facilities for this at Kew. However, various options to overcome this problem are being considered and a decision will be detailed in the next six monthly report.

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

Bringing non-EU nationals in to the UK requires compliance with a large number of regulations. Anyone contemplating doing so must build in a long lead time between e.g. applying for a work permit and the start date for the individual. We also found it very hard to get accurate information on various procedures.

- 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.*

One major change involves the number of Nepalese workers (Darwin Scholars) involved in the project.

Our Nepalese partners now wish to send fewer Darwin scholars to London (4 instead of 6) but for a longer period (3 months each instead of 2). In part this change reflects the narrow taxonomic base in the country and the consequent availability of candidates. More importantly for this project, our partners are keen to have the extra period of training and experience for the scholars, all of whom will have posts to return to in Nepal (a stipulation agreed between the project partners) and which will entail these scholars undertaking teaching/training of others to build up in-country capacity.

Note that the total training time remains the same, i.e. 12 months, as do total costs for this aspect of the project. The revised schedule is now:

September 1998.      3 months training for 2 Nepalese workers in London.

February 1998      3 months training for 2 Nepalese workers in London.

The Darwin Office has been informed of the proposed changes.

As mentioned in a) above, conversion of the prime literature source was completed in May 1998 (1 month late) while investigation of type holdings in the UK was begun in Dec 1997 (4 months early).

- 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

## 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).*

<b>Output Ref. No.</b>	<b>Description/Commentary</b>
14	<p>Workshop lasting 5 days held in London, and incorporating a visit to Edinburgh by Nepalese participants. 10 principal participants, representing The Natural History Museum; Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh; Tribhuvan University; Tokyo University.</p> <p>The workshop was transferred from Nepal to London at the request of the Nepalese partners (see a above).</p>

- 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).*

With the changes in arrangements for training Nepalese workers, the following changes in project outputs will occur:

1998/99

September      6A/B              3 months training for 2 Nepalese workers in London.

February        6A/B              3 months training for 2 Nepalese workers in London.

There will be no output 6A/B in 1999/2000.

## PROJECT EXPENDITURE

- a) Grant expenditure last year £00  
b) Grant expenditure to date £19,408

c) Please provide a breakdown of grant expenditure using the main expenditure headings in the original application form.

<b>Expenditure Last Year</b>	<b>Expenditure to Date</b>
None (first year of project).	Salaries Travel & Subsistence Conferences, seminars Other (IT equipment)

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

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)
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 just before the start of the project. He is replaced by Mr D. Fuller.