

## **COVER SHEET FOR DARWIN INITIATIVE ANNUAL REPORT ON PROJECT 162/8/038**

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### Enclosures:

1. Project Implementation timetable ex Schedule.
2. Research Methodology
3. Conservation Posters x 11
4. Reprints of one published paper and two articles
5. Expedition report '01

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Annual Report

### 1. Darwin Project Information

Project title	Conservation of Plant Diversity of western Cameroon
Country(ies)	Cameroon
Contractor	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Project Reference No.	162/08/038
Grant Value	£121, 947.00
Start/Finishing dates	1 <sup>st</sup> November 1999-31 <sup>st</sup> December 2003
Reporting period	1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002

### 2. Project Background

The project covers South West and North West Provinces of Cameroon (i.e. western Cameroon). This area has been shown to have the highest concentration of plant species per degree square in Tropical Africa. Many of these plant species are restricted to small parts of the area and so are vulnerable to extinction. The main threat is thought to be felling of forest followed by establishment of agriculture. The project is addressing the problem of the threat of extinction to the plant species of this area.

### 3. Project Objectives

To develop further the National Herbarium of Cameroon at Yaounde (hereafter HNC) as the national centre for plant diversity assessment by full involvement with the "WCam" (abbreviated version of our project's title) project and to foster communication with the three protected area conservation projects; to compile a taxonomically up-to-date checklist of species in W. Cameroon; to generate 3 individual "protected area" checklists; to use information from the checklists to enhance conservation by identifying, locating and mapping conservation priority species, advising conservation bodies on management of priority species, proposing key areas for conservation and producing conservation posters.

No "logical framework" was requested, as such. The project implementation timetable from the schedule is included as an appendix since this is what we are reporting against.

There have been no modifications to the objectives over the last year nor any suggestions that any be made.

### 4. Progress

The history of the project to the beginning of this reporting period is as follows. The project began in November 1999 with the first joint RBG, Kew-National Herbarium of Cameroon botanical inventory expedition of the project to western Cameroon. Two project Darwin staff were recruited in February 2000: Suzanne White, whose task was databasing historic specimens at RBG, Kew, and Ben Pollard who began by producing conservation posters. During the first reporting year (ending April 2000) four papers describing new species from western Cameroon, including conservation assessments, were submitted for publication. Baseline maps of vegetation, climate and elevation were produced by Justin Moat (GIS officer, RBG, Kew).

The period **April 2000-March 2001** was the first full reporting year of the project. During this year Ben Pollard made a poster presentation featuring the "WCam" project at the public Earthwatch Millennium Conference at Oxford in April (additional output).

In April the decision was taken to concentrate efforts on naming specimens and describing species from the Mt Oku area, so as to be able to produce one of the key outputs (a protected area "conservation checklist") ahead of schedule. This decision was prompted by:

1. an expression of keen interest from BirdLife International, who manage the protected area project responsible for the Mt Oku area (i.e. the Kilum-Ijim Forest Project).
2. our estimate that 96% of the natural vegetation of the Bamenda Highlands (in which Mt Oku falls) has been destroyed.

3. our GIS studies that show that surviving natural vegetation in the area is still being lost at a high rate.

4. BirdLife offering to make a contribution to the publishing costs of the book.

Accordingly "The Plants of Mount Oku and the Ijim Ridge, a Conservation Checklist" was published in August 2000 after four months of extremely concentrated effort at RBG, Kew. Data gathered in the first Darwin expedition to Cameroon in November 1999 forms an important part of the book. This book enumerates the nearly one thousand species of the area including c. 20 new to science (some published as separate papers by us). It also includes 52 detailed Red Data taxa assessments, mostly for endemic species never previously assessed, using the latest IUCN criteria. IUCN have already adopted these Red Data assessments for these taxa (see [www.redlists.org](http://www.redlists.org)). Our project is now the most active source of Plant Red Data assessments in West and Central Africa.

The book was promoted at the triennial AETFAT (Association for the Study of Tropical African Plant Taxonomy) congress in Brussels in August 2000 and is already being used as a model to acquire and present data for protected area inventory work in Southern Africa (Chris Willis pers. comm.). A checklist for an area in Venezuela, published in USA in 2001 (Dorr et al., Census Catalogue of Guaramacal, Smithsonian Institution), is clearly influenced in structure by the Mt Oku book. Advance copies of the Mt Oku book were sent to the libraries of the national herbaria of ten African countries via delegates at the AETFAT congress. The book received a lengthy and favourable review in *Taxon* (the international journal of plant taxonomists) in February 2000 and is selling steadily. It was launched formally at R.B.G., Kew in September 2000 in the presence of a representative from the Cameroonian High Commission. 50 copies were taken out to Cameroon for presentation to libraries, local community, government forestry and media representatives in the Mt Oku area and to national representatives in the capital. A stock is held for sale by the Bamenda Highlands Forest Project for purchase in Cameroon at 10,000 fcfa per copy.

We learnt in June 2000 that the data we had provided to BirdLife International on threatened species of Mt Oku (see annual project report to Darwin Initiative 99/01) had helped to obtain a 1 million dollar grant from UNDP-GEF which will secure the future of the Kilum-Ijim Project, and so the natural vegetation of the Mt Oku area, for the next four years (additional output).

In July 2000 two Nuffield (A-level) students were assigned to the "WCam" project for a month. One student designed a third conservation poster for use in Cameroon following the pattern used for the posters we produced in 99/01 which were found to be extremely effective by the Kilum-Ijim Forest project (John DeMarco, pers. comm.). The other student produced as her project a guide to the identification of the upper montane tree species of the Bamenda Highlands for use by conservation technicians in Cameroon. Both products were delivered in November 2000 to the Bamenda Highlands Forest Project and were well received.

In August 2000, two presentations (one poster, one lecture) arising from the "WCam" project were delivered at the AETFAT congress in Brussels. This proved a useful opportunity to publicize the Darwin Initiative Project. One paper was submitted for publication in the proceedings (see table 1). At the congress copies of the newly signed MOU between RBG, Kew and the mother organization (IRAD) of Herbarier National Camerounais were exchanged with Dr Achoundong, head of HNC, culminating 12 months of negotiation.

In the period September-March 2000, five papers (four were scheduled) describing a total of eight new taxa (including one new genus) and giving conservation assessments where appropriate, were submitted for publication (see table 2).

In October, Darwin Officer Ben Pollard departed for Cameroon to prepare the way for the second Darwin botanical inventory expedition to western Cameroon to be held in November-December (see expedition report). These expeditions are carried out jointly by HNC and R.B.G., Kew. Two new areas, each administered by conservation projects (The Bamenda Highlands Forest Project and the Banyang Mbo Wildlife Sanctuary project) with whom links had been newly established in the last year, were inventoried. Teaching of trainees in botanical inventory for conservation management continued. The expedition featured the highest representation of Kew staff in Cameroon ever known (6 staff) including Prof. Simon Owens, Keeper of the Herbarium, who is monitoring the project. Prof. Owens started his visit by an inspection of the National Herbarium in Yaoundé and meetings with IRAD, the British High Commission and with CBD personnel. He also gave a lecture to students at the Ecole Normale. Barbara Mackinder (Legume specialist) and Sally Hinchcliffe (Computing specialist) also gave presentations, at the Univ. Yaoundé I Botany Dept.

1252 specimens were collected. The top set went to HNC in December. Subsets of duplicates were given to the two projects whose forests were being inventoried.

In January we learnt from WWF Cameroon that the 12 page report that we had provided them on the conservation importance of the Mt Kupe-Bakossi area (see annual report 99/00) had led to the gazetting by the Ministry of the Environment and Forests (MINEF) of two areas previously lacking formal conservation designation (additional output).

In February 2001 the Minister of the Environment and Forests, with a delegation from MINEF visited RBG, Kew for a presentation of our work in Cameroon followed by a meeting of the UK Tropical Forest Forum. This topic was the subject of our press release for the year.

*Progress over the last year (April 2001-March 2002):*

*Databasing, geocoding and bar-coding of the project target of 9,000 historic herbarium specimens from western Cameroon at R.B.G., Kew was completed by Suzanne White by the end of her Darwin funded contract in February 2002. The decision was taken not to expand the work to the British Museum of Natural History after a pilot study of several families there showed that almost no specimens additional to those already databased at K were present at BM for the provinces of Cameroon that are the subject of this study. The figure of 9,000 historic specimens from the area at Kew has proven to be an underestimate. Most of the herbarium has been covered, and we are currently investigating methods to include those groups not yet databased.*

*Repatriation to Cameroon of photographic prints of type specimens from the area from K continued, with the delivery to YA of the second tranche of these. A third and final tranche will be delivered in the next reporting year. As part of the process of gridreferencing specimens, Suzanne White developed a collections gazeteer which may have applications outside this project and may be published.*

*Nine papers were submitted during the reporting year in which new species were described, exceeding the target of four papers (see project schedule attached). These papers are listed later in this report. Only one paper was published although four were forecast. This is because four papers (and one book) were published earlier than expected, in the previous reporting year, so that the project is still ahead of its paper publishing target by one paper.*

*Ten new conservation posters were compiled and designed by Ben Pollard following the model developed and field-trialled for that featuring *Kniphofia reflexa* last year.*

*A third expedition with the National Herbarium of Cameroon to under- or uncollected parts of the project's area was executed successfully including rapid habitat assessments of new areas and training of technicians in basic specimen preparation, databasing and identification (see expedition report attached).*

*Much of the year was spent in identifying specimens and writing species accounts and Red data assessments for the next projected "Conservation Checklist" (one of the main project outputs), namely that for Mt Kupe and the Bakossi Mts. In the course of this work higher than expected numbers of new species were discovered, resulting in the larger than anticipated number of papers submitted describing new species. Preparation of these papers slowed down the rate of identifications but nonetheless the project is on schedule. Identifications and species accounts are being entered into a database from which a draft checklist account has already been produced.*

*Major additional outputs this year were the visits from Cameroon to the Kew Herbarium of four National Herbarium staff and associates funded by R.B.G. Kew grants to pursue collaborative studies with Kew scientists on the plant diversity of western Cameroon. These were:*

- 1. Jean-Michel Onana (funded by the Brenan Fund of the Bentham-Moxon Trust) who spent one month identifying specimens of the major groups Compositae (with Henk Beentje) and Pteridophytes (with Peter Edwards) for the Kupe-Bakossi checklist of which he will be co-author, and also on a paper describing a new species of *Dacryodes*.*
- 2. Dr Gaston Achoundong (funded by the Keeper's fund) spent a week identifying *Violaceae* e.g. from the Kupe-Bakossi area and discussing future collaborative possibilities, such as a joint Kew-National Herbarium herbarium techniques course at Yaounde.*
- 3. Jean-Paul Ghogue (funded by Bentham-Moxon Trust) spent several days working with Kaj Vollesen on a paper describing a new species of *Justicia*.*
- 4. Dr Bonaventure Sonké (funded by the Keepers fund) spent a week working on *Rubiaceae*, including checking a draft of his paper on *Tricalysia* with Martin Cheek, and identifying specimens of *Oxyanthus*, *Rothmannia* and *Aulacocalyx* for the Kupe-Bakossi checklist. He will be co-author of the *Rubiaceae* account for this book.*

*This is primarily a research project. The technical work completed is detailed above. The results, in terms of papers submitted for publication, are referred to above and identified in detail in table 2. The methodology and techniques followed are those elaborated in Cheek & Cable, 1998, of which an excerpt is included in the appendix to this report.*

*The training element was carried out in Cameroon 2001 in October and as part of the expedition following a system developed over several years on annual expeditions to Cameroon funded by the Earthwatch Institute. Three groups of people were trained;*

- A. *Junior National Herbarium staff (training in specimen databasing and basic plant family identification skills). These were selected by Dr Achoundong, Head of the National Herbarium.*
- B. *Local Cameroonian conservation project staff (training in botanical inventories for conservation management). These were selected by John DeMarco, co-manager of the Bamenda Highlands Forest Project (a local protected area project for which we are conducting botanical inventories).*
- C. *Ghanaian, Kenyan, Malagasy, Sudanese and Ugandan botanists sent to Cameroon for two weeks training with us by the Earthwatch Institute ("Earthwatch Fellows"). These were selected by a coordinator in each of these countries working with Robert Llewellyn-Smith, African Fellow Programme Manager at the Earthwatch Institute, Oxford.*

*A formal programme of lectures and practical demonstrations was given over two two week periods. For most topics, such as specimen databasing, a demonstration would be given, followed by a question session. Following this, trainees would have the opportunity for "hands-on" databasing, using real field-books to enter on our field lap-top computers under the supervision of our database people. This was followed by short tests. The programme was maintained as an addition to the botanical inventory work which remained the main purpose of the expedition.*

*No significant difficulties were encountered during the year.*

*There has been no change to the design of the project other than to seek and obtain more resources so as to increase capacity building for National Herbarium staff (see visits from National Herbarium staff above) and to speed up delivery of outputs, such as protected area "conservation checklists". The original design of the project is considered to be sound.*

*Timetable for the reporting period April 2001-March 2003*

<i>Quarter</i>	<i>Activity (initials of responsible team member: see schedule for list)</i>
<i>April-June 2002</i>	<i>Execution of final project expedition to Cameroon (BP). Top set of duplicates extracted and sent to HNC (BP and HNC staff). Subsets of duplicates extracted for local reference herbaria (BP) Conclude Red Data assessment of species of Mt Kupe-Bakossi area, and the compilation of these treatments of these Red Data species for publication (MC) Complete identification (so far as possible) of unidentified specimens from Mt Kupe-Bakossi area (BM, MC, BP, etc). Host GIS training session at Kew for National Herbarium staff, and transfer to them newly purchased GIS equipment so that on their return to Yaoundé, HNC has GIS capacity (JM).</i>
<i>July-Sept. 2002</i>	<i>Workshop at National Herbarium of Cameroon, Yaoundé to discuss and disseminate preliminary results of the project (MC, BP). Expedition report drafted (BP). Continue naming Bali Ngemba material. Prepare for herbarium techniques course in Cameroon (BM, TH, MC, GG, JM, DZ, EL, BS)</i>
<i>Oct.-Dec. 2002</i>	<i>Execute herbarium techniques course in Cameroon (BM, TH, MC, GG, JM, DZ, EL, BS). Completion of two papers describing new species from western Cameroon, with conservation assessments where appropriate (BM, MC, BP). Continue naming Bali-Ngemba material.</i>
<i>Jan.-March 2003</i>	<i>Sorting 2219 specimens from 2001 expedition ready for naming (TH, MC, BP and EW volunteers). Completion of two papers describing new species from western Cameroon, with conservation assessments where appropriate (BM, MC, TH). Conclusion of identifications for Bali-Ngemba specimens. Begin Red Data treatments for Bali-Ngemba species</i>

## 5. Partnerships

Collaboration between UK and our main host country partner, the National Herbarium of Cameroon at Yaoundé, was good. A major advantage this year was the availability of funds from R.B.G., Kew to facilitate visits of four National Herbarium (HNC) staff to R.B.G., Kew to support their research, build capacity and develop links, and also funds made available to HNC to contribute to mounting and incorporating their specimen backlog.

There are no similar projects to the “WCam” project that we know of in Cameroon. We have strengthened links with the network of projects that we are in contact with in Cameroon and also links with the IUCN office responsible for Red Data species. We have also established a new link with the Cameroon Wildlife Action Fund (CWAF) based in Yaoundé.

## 6. Impact and Sustainability

This has been the second full year of the project and we are still largely at the stage of gathering and analysing data. We will have more to promote in the last year of the project. The project (in 00/01) has been referred to in the National Press, and a radio interview has been given, so there is information in the public domain in Cameroon. We have heard in the last year from NGO project managers that our involvement of local government officials and NGO project workers on our expeditions really is helping to change attitudes and perceptions regarding conservation in western Cameroon.

The WCam project continues to have a high profile at the Ministerial level (we had another meeting with the Minister of the Environment and Forests in Cameroon in Oct. 01) and at the local, tribal level, through the local conservation projects with which we work. Thus we have had meetings and have supplied conservation data to the seven Chiefs of the northern Bakossi people in SW Province and to the Fon of Bali in NW Province, for example.

Publication of the “Plants of Mount Oku...” book has proved an excellent way of stimulating interest in Cameroon on plant diversity and the threats to it. Local MINEF officials (i.e. provincial delegates) have also been provided with data, e.g. conservation posters and copies of reprints and of the book. Increase in interest and capacity for biodiversity resulting from our work is indicated by the fact that our 01 expedition/training session received representatives from five Cameroonian conservation projects and numerous local communities (see appendix 3 to the expedition report). There is a satisfactory exit strategy in place.

## 7. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

**Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)**

Code No.	Quantity	Description
6A	32	21 local Cameroonian project staff (from five projects); 6 national herbarium staff; 6 botanists/technicians from Ghana, Uganda, Madagascar, Sudan and Kenya sponsored by Earthwatch Europe as Earthwatch Fellows. Details in 6B.
6B	2 weeks	Two fortnight-long training sessions were provided for the above in “botanical inventory for conservation management”. Details of lectures etc are included in the expedition report.
7	11	Conservation posters on threatened plant species: <i>Ancistrocladus grandiflorus</i> (Ancistrocladaceae) <i>Chassalia laikomensis</i> (Rubiaceae) <i>Coffea montekupensis</i> (Rubiaceae) <i>Diaphanathe polydactyla</i> (Orchidaceae) <i>Diopsyros kupensis</i> (Ebenaceae) <i>Eriocaulon asteroides</i> (Eriocaulaceae) <i>Eriocaulon parvulum</i> (Eriocaulaceae) <i>Impatiens frithii</i> (Balsaminaceae) <i>Ossiculum aurantiacum</i> (Orchidaceae) <i>Plectranthus cataractarum</i> (Labiatae) <i>Tetraberlinia korupensis</i> (Leguminosae – Caesalpinoideae)

All designed, produced and sent out to Cameroon in 01-02 by Darwin Officer Ben Pollard.

8	28 weeks	A total of 28 weeks were spent in Cameroon by Kew staff: Cheek (4 weeks), Bhandol (8 weeks), Salazar (2 weeks), Gosline (4 weeks) & Pollard (10 weeks) between Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup> and Nov. 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2001 (Only 8 weeks were proposed in total originally).
9	10 species plans	Individual IUCN species treatments, including details on habitat threats were given for most of the taxa described in the papers submitted for publication listed below.
11A	1 paper was published	For details see table 2
11B	9 papers	<p>9 papers were submitted for publication between April and March, of which one was also published (see table 2 below), as follows:</p> <p><b>Cribb, P.J. &amp; Pollard, B.J.</b> New Orchid discoveries in western Cameroon. Kew. Bull.</p> <p><b>Pollard, B.J.</b> A new rock-dwelling species of <i>Plectranthus</i> from western Cameroon and South East Nigeria. Kew. Bull.</p> <p><b>Pollard, B.J., Cheek, M. &amp; Bygrave P.</b> New <i>Dorstenia</i> (<i>Moraceae</i>) discoveries in western Cameroon. Kew. Bull.</p> <p><b>Cheek, M., Gosline, G. &amp; Csiba, L.</b> A new species of <i>Rhaptopetalum</i> (<i>Scytopetalaceae</i>) from Western Cameroon. Kew Bull. Subm. 4 June 01.</p> <p><b>Cheek, M. &amp; Csiba, L.</b> A new epiphytic species of <i>Impatiens</i> (<i>Balsaminaceae</i>) from Western Cameroon. Kew Bull. Subm. 9 June 01.</p> <p><b>Sonké, B., Cheek, M., Nambou, M. D. &amp; Robbrecht, E.</b> A new species of <i>Tricalysia</i> A Rich. ex DC. (<i>Rubiaceae</i>) from western Cameroon. Kew Bull. Subm. 16 July 01.</p> <p><b>Læssøe, T. &amp; Cheek, M.</b> A new species of <i>Xylaria</i> (<i>Xylariaceae</i>, <i>Ascomycota</i>) from Cameroon. Kew Bull. Subm. 4 Dec. 01.</p> <p><b>Cheek, M., Csiba, L. &amp; Bridson, D.</b> A new species of <i>Coffea</i> (<i>Rubiaceae</i>) in western Cameroon. Kew Bull. Subm. 19 Sept. 01</p> <p><b>Salazar, G. A., T. Franke, L. Zapfack, and L. Beenken.</b> A new species of <i>Manniella</i> (<i>Orchidaceae</i>, <i>Cranichideae</i>) from western tropical Africa, with notes on protandry in the genus. Lindleyana.</p>
	1 articles	<p>One article (in a non-peer reviewed journal) were submitted for publication:</p> <p><b>Pollard, B.J.</b> Books for Kings: data repatriation of a different kind. Earthwatch African Newsletter (in press).</p>
13A	1	A subset of duplicates, with labels, were handed over in December 2001 to a local conservation project interested in building up reference herbaria: The Bamenda Highlands Forest Project. The National Herbarium was enhanced by handing over, in Nov. 2001, the top set of 2219 herbarium specimens gathered on the Sept.-Nov. 2001 expedition. Cibachromes (full size colour photographic prints) of c. 100 historic type specimens housed at Kew were delivered to the National Herbarium in Oct. 2001.
13B	2219	
20	£5800	Computing hardware and software to enable Nat. Herb. Cameroon to have basic independent GIS facility.
23		<p>A. Field Grant from Earthwatch for 01 expedition.</p> <p>B. Grant from OFC (RBG, Kew) towards support for Parmjit Bhandol on 01 expedition.</p> <p>C. Rio Tinto grant through EW</p> <p>D. Private funds for George Gosline for expedition airticket.</p>

- E. value of Earthwatch labour calculated as “contribution in kind”
- F. Contribution in kind: 70% of salary cost for Martin Cheek (SSO).
- G. Ibid. 10% salary cost Barbara Mackinder (HSOpt)
- H. Ibid. 10% of salary cost of Justin Moat (SO)

£66,017

Total.

The above table does not include figure (under output 23) for the contribution made by RBG, Kew to the cost of bringing to Britain and food and accomodation for the four National Herbarium scientists who visited in 2001. This figure, currently unavailable, will be carried over to the next reporting year.

All outputs agreed in this period in the “Project Outputs” section of the Project Schedule were achieved in full. Several outputs scheduled for later years e.g. numbers of paper submitted for publication, were achieved ahead of schedule. Several additional project outputs were also achieved, or agreed project outputs were increased significantly (6A,B,7,8,9,11B,). Outputs made that are not coded for under the standard Darwin output measure system are as follows:

1. Repatriation of c. 100 images of type specimens from RBG, Kew to the National herbarium of Cameroon.
2. Five rapid conservation habitat assessments of natural areas for local conservation organizations as part of our expedition report.
3. Evidence given to the House of Lords select committee on Systematic Biology and Biodiversity which will appear in an appendix to the published report.

**Table 2: Publications**

Type	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
*	(title, author, year)	(name, city)	(e.g. contact address, website)	
Journal	Cheek, M. Cameroon’s Rainforest Checklists Earthwatch Fellowship Programme Newsletter 5: 1. (2001)*	Earthwatch Institute, Oxford, OX1 3RA	Earthwatch.org.uk	Free
	Cheek, M. Cameroon Checklists: The Plants of Mount Oku and the Ijim Ridge, Cameroon and Cameroonian Minister Visit. Kew Scientist 19, April 2001: 7(2001).*	R.B.G., Kew, TW9 3AE		Free
Journal	<b>Pollard, B.J.</b> & Paton, A.J. A new rheophytic species of <i>Plectranthus</i> (L’Hér.) from the Gulf of Guinea. Kew Bull. 56: 975 – 982(2001)*.	The Stationery Office and Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, London.	kewscbooks@rbgkew.org.uk	45 (for the part in which this paper, and numerous others, appear)

The subject of dissemination is largely covered under item 6 above (impact & sustainability). At this early stage of the project we are mainly gathering and analysing data. Dissemination will increase in the last stage of the project.



## 8. Project Expenditure

**Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period**

**The figures in the budget column are taken from the project schedule.**

Item	Budget	Expenditure
<i>Salaries (specify)</i>		
Full-time Darwin Officer (B. Pollard)		
Part-time Darwin Assistant (S. White)		
<i>Rent, rates heating lighting etc</i>		
<i>Office administration costs</i>		
<i>Capital items/equipment</i>		
<i>Others</i>		
<i>Printing</i>		
<i>Travel &amp; Subsistence (HNC)</i>		
<i>Monitoring (Keeper's visit)</i>		
<i>Total</i>		

## 9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

*The Keeper of the Herbarium, R.B.G., Kew is responsible for monitoring the project at this institute. He receives copies of e.g. expedition reports and the annual project reports and has attended internal presentations on the Cameroon project at R.B.G., Kew.*

*The project has already made two major, achievements that ensure concrete conservation action in western Cameroon, as documented in the 00/01 report. It was not envisaged that this would happen so early in the project. The achievements are:*

- 1. Government gazetment of two new protected areas on the basis of a 12 page report that we provided to WWF Cameroon.*
- 2. A grant of \$1 million dollars to the project that supports the local communities protecting the Kilum-Ijim (Mt Oku and the Ijim Ridge) area from UNDP-GEF on the basis of the data we supplied on the threatened and endemic plant species of the area.*

*Other achievements that meet the project objectives have been detailed under 4. (Progress).*

*With reference to this paragraph (taken from the schedule):*

***Developing the National Herbarium as a national centre for plant diversity has been achieved in part through:***

- a) receipt by HNC of the top set of herbarium specimens from the expeditions.*
- b) experience and training of HNC staff achieved on these expeditions and on their training visits to Kew.*
- c) our involvement with local conservation projects has already enhanced communication between them and HNC.*

***A taxonomically up-to-date checklist of species in western Cameroon: this will only be achieved at the end of the project, but the publications of new taxa and the book, "The Plants of Mount Oku....." are measurable steps towards this goal. Moreover, they are peer-reviewed: an indication of quality.***

***Three individual "protected area" checklists. One of the three has been completed and published, significantly ahead of schedule.***

***Using information from the checklists to enhance conservation by identifying, locating and mapping conservation priority species, proposing key areas for conservation and producing conservation posters. In the Mount Oku .... checklist, 52 Red Data species were identified and their locations given. Three of these species have been mapped. 14 conservation posters have been produced. Advice has been given, through the Red Data chapter in the book, to the Kilum-Ijim Forest Project, which manages the area, and to forestry governmental officials in the area, and to the Minister of the Environment. The fact that our data is taken seriously, and acted upon is evident from the fact that significant new funding for one conservation project has been given, and that two new areas have***

*received governmental gazettelement as protected areas on the basis of the data that we have provided as part of this project.*

**10. Author(s) / Date**

*Martin Cheek 29<sup>th</sup> April '02*