

DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES

ANNUAL MONITORING FORM

Project Details

DoE Project Ref No _____

Project Title Gorilla conservation genetics

Institution University of Cardiff, Wales

Round 1 (please tick)

2 Round 7

3

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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.

The UK training period was completed successfully with many of the important techniques required for the project being established, both in the UK and at the collaborating institution (CIRMF) in Gabon. Training of both personnel at CIRMF and two student interns from the national science university was also successfully carried out between March–August, 2000. Both students completed independent projects in the lab either at CIRMF or in the field at SEGC. Protocols for the extraction and amplification of faecal DNA from captive and wild gorilla populations were also successfully established over the summer in Gabon. However, genetic analysis of gorilla hairs at CIRMF is yet to begin.

- 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).

Training has been successful over the past year and key laboratory skills have been established. A six-week course in conservation biology was held at the national science university in Franceville. This course was designed for second year biology undergraduates and according to their evaluations, was considered a success among students. Open lectures were followed by either an invited speaker or directed practical work within the classroom. Up to 90 students participated in classroom sessions and up to 60 in a one day field course in, held at CIRMF. 27 students sat a final exam. A number of faculty from the university also participated in the field course. Some difficulties with scheduling were encountered because of industrial action by university academics in Gabon. Although currently ongoing, timing of the gorilla hair/faecal collections from around Gabon has been delayed by illness.

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

Training was appreciated by the Gabonese technician on the project and by other trainees at CIRMF. The UK postdoc has learnt that in Africa some elements of the work plan will be inevitably delayed by unforeseen circumstances (strikes, delivery problems). The student body was far more enthusiastic about conservation than was anticipated.

- 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.*

Timetable: the revised timetable (with commencement October 1, 1999) is on track.

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

October 1, 2002

- 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
3A	9 university diplomas; 27 attestations (certificates of participation).
3B	University course in conservation biology. 6 week course for up to 90 students. 5 weeks intensive lab and field work training program for 2 university student interns.
4A	Numbers varied from 16-90 depending on attendance.
5	One person. Mireille Johnson-Bawe: research technician. Employed on Darwin grant.

Output Ref. No.	Description/Commentary
6A	1 person (Simon Ossari). Research technician at CIRMF.
8	26 weeks UK postdoc in the Gabon.
15C	British Council website.
18A	Small feature regarding course at the university.

- 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.

See output 15C. Several official visits by a variety of officials (French ambassador, University of Lille, students from the Department of Eaux et Forets etc.) to CIRMF increased the general awareness of this project within the country.

- 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.

N/A

- 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).*

N/A

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. Mike Bruford Dr. Jean Wickings Dr. Kate Abernethy Dr. Lee White Dr. Caroline Tutin Dr. Stephen Clifford Dr. Nicola Anthony (UWC postdoc) Mireille Bawe-Johnson	Cardiff University CIRMF SEGC, CIRMF WCS SEGC, CIRMF CIRMF Cardiff University CIRMF	20% 30% 20% 15% 10% 5% 100% 100%	

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. Dr. Jean Wickings actively participated in course instruction/logistics at the university in Franceville.