DARWIN INITIATIVE PROJECT SCHEDULE ref:162/08/064

Organisation name : Statistical Services Centre, The University of Reading with the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation and the University of Mauritius.

Name of project : Information System for biodiversity and conservation management in Mauritius.

Project purpose : to develop an information base for the future management of conservation and biodiversity in Mauritius.

Project objectives : to design and develop a computerised information system to serve as a tool for conservation management, research and education in Mauritius and to strengthen the capacity of local institutions in the management and use of conservation information.

Length of project : September 1999 for 3 years

Total project cost : £113,850 Darwin funding
£74,250 cost of local contributions in kind.

Darwin funding profile : 1999/2000 £32,458; 2000/2001 £36,992; 2001/2002 £31,183; 2002/03 £13,217

Other sources of funding : In kind contributions (see Table E).

Expenditure profile : see Table A

Target outputs : see Table B

Implementation timetable with milestones : see Table C

Key staff inputs : see Table D

Reporting requirements :

31 October 1999	First report (1.9.1999 to 30.9.1999)
30 April 2000	Annual report (1.9.1999 to 31.3.2000)
31 October 2000	Six month report (1.4.2000 to 30.9.2000)
30 April 2001	Annual report (1.4.2000 to 31.3.2001)
31 October 2001	Six month report (1.4.2001 to 30.9.2001)
30 April 2002	Annual report (1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002)
30 December 2002	Final report.

Arrangements for monitoring trainee outcomes : Assessed on a continual basis over the project.

Two key collaborators identified at the start of the project: these two will be working in close partnership with UK staff and their early progress will be monitored and reported on in the first half-yearly project report. Thereafter, they will themselves contribute to the training.

Other local trainees: will regularly be given practical assignments and required to submit mini-reports on these assignments; the quality of their work will be assessed and scored. Progress will be continuously monitored and special attention will be paid to any trainee who is having difficulties. In extreme cases, any early signs of unsuitability for the training could lead to replacement of the trainee.

Undergraduate projects: formal assessment of these will, of course, be the responsibility of the University of Mauritius, but it is customary to submit an assessment of the student's activities to the project supervisor.

Table A

PROJECT COST

Total Darwin Grant : £113,850

Annual Darwin Grant

- FY 1999/2000 £32,458
- FY 2000/2001 £36,992
- FY 2001/2002 £31,183
- FY 2002/2003 £13,217

DARWIN GRANT : EXPENDITURE DETAILS

	FY 1999/2000	**FY 2000/01**	**FY 2001/02**	**FY 2002/03**	**Total**
Rents, rates, heating, lighting, cleaning (included in staff costs)					
Postage, telephone, stationery (included in staff costs)					
Travel, subsistence					
Printing (included in staff costs)					
Conferences, seminars, training					
Capital items: computer hardware and software					
Other: shipping costs					
Salaries					

Table B

PROJECT OUTPUTS		
Year	**Output ref. no.**	**Details**
1999/2000	8	1 UK staff in Mauritius for 4 person-weeks (Nov-Dec 1999): establish local team, collect data for functional specification of system.
2000/2001	10	Data entry manual completed (by Jun 2000).
	20	£10,500 assets handed to Mauritian institutions (by Jul 2000).
	6A/B	5-6 trainees (drawn from the 2 main collaborators and personnel from MWF and the University each given 8 weeks training in basic computing, data coding, quality control, data entry and map digitising (Jul – Aug 2000).
	8	2 UK staff in Mauritius for a total of 10 person-weeks (Jul-Aug 2000): install hardware and software, initial training of key local staff.
	12B	1 multiple database system enhanced (by Mar 2001).
2001/2002	12A	10 databases integrated (by May 2001).
	8	3 UK staff in Mauritius for a total of 20 person-weeks (Jun-Aug 2001): training, supervision of student projects, system development, supervision of data capture and map digitising.
	4A/B	At least 4 undergraduate students to receive training of approx. 8 weeks duration in concepts of data management for conservation (Jul-Aug 2001).
	6A/B	8-10 trainees given 12 weeks training on further computer skills, data management and ecological sampling techniques (Jun-Aug 2001).
	12B	1 multiple database system enhanced by the addition of system components (by Feb 2002).
	15A, 18A, 19A	Press releases, radio and TV news features issued and made in Mauritius (see Note (1) below), from Sep 2001.

2002/2003	4A/B	At least 4 undergraduate students to receive training of approx. 8 weeks duration in concepts of data management for conservation (Jul-Aug 2002).
	6A/B	8-10 trainees given 8 weeks training on data management for conservation using the new information system (by Aug 2002).
	8	2 UK staff in Mauritius for a total of 14 person-weeks (during May-Aug 2002): final training, supervision of student projects, organise seminar, preparation of final report, work on research topics.
	14A	Seminar (3 days) at University of Mauritius. (Aug 2002). See Note (2) below.
	11B	At least 5 papers submitted for publication (by Aug 2002).
	15A, 18A, 19A	Press releases, radio and TV news features issued and made in Mauritius (see Note (1) below), until end of project.
	17A	Dissemination network established (by Jun 2002).
	21	A permanent research facility established (by end of project).

Notes for Table B

(1) Mauritius has very lively and diverse press, TV and radio. MWF already has regular features in the local press (at least once a month), and it will be very easy to use these regular spots to highlight the Darwin project. In addition to these, the "press release" is a part of the local culture, and it is intended to mark the local launch of the project in this way, as well as the closing seminar.

(2) The end of project seminar will have the following aims:

(b) present the information system with demonstrations;

(c) enable a full exchange of ideas by project collaborators and potential users of outputs;

(d) promote an integrated approach to data management for conservation;

(e) establish priorities for further development;

(f) consolidate working links among local collaborators.

The participants will include: MWF staff and volunteers, NPCS staff, UoM staff and students, project team members (max. 60 participants).

Table C

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE	
Date	**Key milestones**
1999/2000	UK team to review related work, investigate software systems and rework existing programs (Sep–Nov 1999). Bob Burn visits for 1 month to establish team of local collaborators (two key collaborators already identified) and collect information required for a full functional specification of the system (Nov 1999). Functional specification prepared (by Jan 2000). UK experts to design and begin programming components of the system (during Sep 1999 – Mar 2000). UK to purchase and test equipment (by Feb 2000).
2000/2001	Data entry manuals, one for each database in the system, to be prepared (Jun 2000). UK experts visit for 2 weeks to set up and test hardware and software and continue with software development (Jul 2000). 3 or 4 key staff identified by team for training programme. Training of these, plus the two key collaborators, takes place for 8 weeks (Jul – Aug 2000). Topics: computing skills, data management, data quality control, data entry and map digitising. The MWF and University of Mauritius to continue with data entry and digitising (from Sep 2000). Software development continues in UK (Sep 2000 – Mar 2001).

2001/2002	The MWF and University of Mauritius to continue with data entry and digitising (Apr-May 2001). Software development continues in UK (Apr-May 2001). Final system development and fine tuning takes place in Mauritius (Jun–Aug 2001). Training and project supervision during a two month period for 4 undergraduates from University of Mauritius (Jun–Aug 2001). The topics will be chosen in consultation with University and MWF staff; training will be on data management and data analysis for conservation. Further training of key collaborators and local staff (8-10 in all) for a period of 12 weeks (Jun-Aug 2001). Topics to include: data management skills, use of the system for conservation management, GIS skills, production of reports and maps, ecological sampling and census techniques. Planning of end-of-project seminar to begin (Aug 2001). Organisation of seminar to be continued by local team. Plans for local dissemination and publicity worked out during visit to Mauritius (Aug 2001). Dissemination activities to be continued by local team after the visit. Priority research themes identified (by Oct 2001). Work on these research areas to continue both in Mauritius and UK, with at least 4 papers submitted for publication by the end of the project. Complete user guides, on line documentation and manuals for the system (Feb 2002).
2002/2003	Preliminary work on final report (Apr 2002). Internet links established (Apr-May 2002). Final revisions of the software and documentation (Jul-Aug 2002). Final training period in Mauritius for 8-10 trainees over 8 weeks (Jul-Aug 2002). Topics to include: use of the system and its documentation for conservation management and research. Training and project supervision during a two month period for 4 undergraduates from University of Mauritius (Jul–Aug 2002). The topics will be chosen in consultation with University and MWF staff; training will be on data management and data analysis for conservation. 3 day end-of-project seminar takes place at University of Mauritius (Aug 2002). Comprehensive publication describing the system written (August 2002).

Table D

KEY STAFF INPUTS	
Name	**Grade/Position**
RW Burn	Principal statistician, Project leader
IC Dale	Computing officer, Database/GIS specialist
JE Fa	Conservation Biologist, Biodiversity advisor
<u>Mauritius</u>	
JR Mauremootoo	Conservation manager, Mauritian team leader
To be nominated	University of Mauritius Lecturer, research advisor
CG Jones	Project coordinator

STAFF TIME ALLOCATIONS (% of time spent on this work)

Name	**1999/2000**	**2000/2001**	**2001/2002**	**2002/2003**
RW Burn	20	26	23	10
IC Dale	15	28	24	8
JE Fa	3	8	7	2
JR Mauremootoo	15	28	27	10
To be nominated	3	8	10	4
CG Jones	12	23	25	10

Table E

APPROXIMATE COST OF LOCAL CONTRIBUTIONS					
	1999/2000	**2000/2001**	**2001/2002**	**2002/2003**	**Total**
Residential accommodation					
Local administrative costs (staff time, office, equipment, consumables, telephone/ fax/ e-mail, photocopying)					
Local transport					
Sub-total					
Staff costs - JR Mauremootoo - To be nominated - CG Jones					
Staff costs sub-total					
TOTAL COST of local contributions	**11,643**	**22,604**	**26,812**	**13,191**	**74,250**