

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

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| Project Title | The Darwin Project in Coastal Vegetation Survey and Conservation for Lebanon |
| Country | Lebanon |
| Organisation | Royal Botanic Gardens Kew & American University of Beirut |
| Project Ref. No. | 8/196 |
| Report date | 31 October 2001 |

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

2 MSc awarded – Hala Zahreddine & Joanna Chatilla (2A-2). 2 MSc continuing (Hiba Rteil, Maya Abboud), fieldwork well advanced

Maya Abboud attended and successfully completed Plant Conservation Techniques course at Kew (4C-1; 4D-9). Hiba Rteil – 3 week research visit to Kew (4C-1; 4D-3). Curator of Post Herbarium at AUB, Nada Sinno Saoud, attended and successfully completed Herbarium Techniques course at Kew (4C-1; 4D-8)

Work continuing to write-up work for scientific publication (11B-2)

Work continuing on species verification and maintenance of species database (12B-1)

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments, that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

None that should affect the final period of the project through to June 2002. However, the take-up on the commercial side of the use of native species in landscaping and the horticulture sector in general has not been great, partly as a result of Lebanon's poor economy. This may have some impact on the success of this element of the project.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures.

No