

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Collection and Cataloguing of Algae for the Natural History Museum of Oman
Country	Sultanate of Oman
Organisation	HTS Development Limited/Oman Natural History Museum
Project Ref. No.	162/8/204
Report date	<i>November 30th 2002</i>

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

The project was extended to August 2003 in February 2003 and to end March 2003 in October 2003 in agreement with DEFRA. The 2001-2 annual report included a revised schedule to August 2003.

Web site – not completed: a draft web site was prepared in May but was not considered to be satisfactory. A replacement draft password protected web site was up and running in July. Comments on the web site were received from Oman Natural History Museum on 4th November and were incorporated. Final approval for the web site is awaited.

Museum Display – not completed: The Arabic translation of the Museum display was prepared during the reporting period but required revision. The display is still in preparation.

Labelling and archiving specimens – ongoing: The collection was packed and handed over to the Natural History Museum, UK in August 2002 and archiving continues.

Identification of algae – ongoing: Dr Mike Wynne continues to identify the algae in co-ordination with the Natural History Museum, UK and Oman Natural History Museum.

Booklet design and production – not completed: A complete draft of the booklet was presented to the Oman Natural History Museum in August 2002. Comments were received on 4th November but we were notified that additional comments were to be expected with approval of the handbook pending receipt and inclusion of these comments. These comments were not received during the reporting period.

Poster – not completed: Suggested as a poster of the Museum display with production pending production of the Museum display.

Handover of project outputs to host country and exit – not completed: The Oman Natural History Museum indicated in late September 2002 that a visit to discuss/handover products should be delayed pending incorporation of suggested review comments and subsequent agreement to products. Final comments were not forthcoming during the reporting period so the trip has had to be postponed.

Reporting: Annual report submitted on 29th April 2002

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?

There have been substantial delays in implementation due to slow communications with the project partners.

There are no budgetary implications.

The project was extended to August 2003 in February 2003 and to end March 2003 in October 2003 in consultation and agreement with DEFRA.

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

No but we have found Darwin Initiative DEFRA staff to be extremely understanding and helpful in our efforts to maximise project legacy.

Completed forms to: Rose Clarkson, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JK, Scotland. Email: R.Clarkson@ed.ac.uk