

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Development of a biodiversity strategy and action plan for Bermuda
Country	Bermuda
Organisation	Bermuda Zoological Society
Project Ref. No.	162/09/009
Report date	1 st October 2001

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

The project has continued to progress with the production and public launch of the finalised Bermuda Biodiversity Country Study in May 2001. National T.V. and print press covered the launch by the Minister of the Environment, Development and Opportunity. Although behind schedule, 500 copies of the document have now been printed in Florida and should be ready for distribution in the next week. Drs. Abigail Entwistle and Nigel Coulson from Fauna and Flora International spent just over a week in Bermuda in June during which time they facilitated the second 3 day planning workshop. 58 participants, including representatives from the churches and business community worked to develop a set of guiding principles for the BSAP. Action planning exercises were also tackled, and as a result of this, 12 working groups have been established to develop draft actions and activities addressing the 12 objectives defined at the previous workshop. Members of the Steering committee are helping the management team develop a P.R. campaign. It has been agreed that the theme of the next Agricultural Exhibition (one of Bermuda's largest cultural events) will be biodiversity awareness and action; this will also be the theme of the 2nd Bermuda Environmental Youth conference in March 2002. Articles in various local NGO newsletters will appear over the next 6 months. A Bermuda Biodiversity Photocontest was also organised, with over 400 hundred entries from 90 participants. Additionally, the project team liased with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to look at the issues Bermuda needs to address in order to conform to the requirements of the CBD; it is hoped ratification will be extended in April 2002. 9 students interned with the project this year.

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?

The only setback over the last six months has been the delay in printing and distributing the Biodiversity Country Study document. This was largely due to problems in securing a contractor, and the funds required to print it. This has been resolved and 500 copies are in the process of being shipped from the U.S. The cost of printing was significantly higher than anticipated, however funds for this have been secured through the Bermuda Government.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures. No