

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Large Mammal Conservation and sustainable resource use in the Khan Khentii Special Protected Area
Country	Mongolia
Organisation	Raleigh International
Project Ref. No.	09/013
Report date	31 st October 2001

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

Due to an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in Mongolia in April, field-work was cancelled from April-June. In May, Mongolian field researchers were appointed based on proposals they submitted at the beginning of the year. During the July – September field season, these researchers worked alongside scientists working on the main project. All projects included the use of Raleigh International volunteers. Presentations about the work were given at the local information training centres. Due to the delay in field-work, there was no steering committee meeting or production of project newsletter in July as planned. In October, the steering committee met in Ulaan Baatar, Mongolia to review progress and plan for the following field-season. The next newsletter will be produced once the future of the project has been decided.

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?

Raleigh International, the grant holder, has decided to withdraw from Mongolia for safety reasons. This will obviously have a major impact on the project as the scientists worked very closely with Raleigh International and its volunteers in carrying out the scientific work. They were also heavily dependent on Raleigh International in terms of logistics. The Macaulay Institute and the other British and Mongolian scientists involved are very keen to continue the project without Raleigh International as it is going very well. The Department has been notified and has told us that they are willing to consider continuing the project. The Macaulay Institute is currently re-defining the project under the new conditions and will contact the Department with details once this has been done.

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

No