

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Framework for monitoring invasive tree species in Ghana
Country	Ghana
Organisation	Centre for Natural Resources and Development, University of Oxford
Project Ref. No.	162/9/019
Report date	1 April 2001- 31 October 2001

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

Due to a period of maternity leave the project framework was altered, and largely all project activities were suspended between March and June 2001. A revised project framework was drafted and approved by the then DETR.

Timetable

June: Preliminary surveys with rural communities using PRA methods carried out.

July: Surveys with identified communities started to determine land management practices, land use change and perceptions surrounding invasive tree species. Non-formal training carried out on PRA methodologies over three weeks. Conduct research into the natural regeneration of invasive tree species and the biotic factors contributing to invasiveness.

Research activities completed

June: Baseline surveys were carried out by Samuel Adimado (GOAN) and staff of the NGO Suntaa-Nuntaa Agroforestry in the Accra Plains and Upper West Region respectively.

July: Felicity Harris (CNRD) was in Ghana between the 1-27 July to support GOAN and FORIG during a sensitisation workshop on the aims and goals of the project, and in the final selection of project sites (based both on social and environmental factors, and on the communities' interest in participating). Anna Lawrence (CNRD) was with all staff between the 15-27 July, to facilitate the testing and development of participatory methods. Bright Kankam (FORIG) visited both the Upper West Region and Accra Plains, and through discussions with communities identified during initial visits was able to focus research on the natural regeneration of invasive trees. Bright Kankam identified test plots within the Shai Hills Reserve, managed by the Wildlife Department, and has developed a research agenda with Joanne Chamberlain (CNRD).

During August and September, GOAN and Suntaa-Nuntaa continued with the testing of the PRA methods developed in July in the selected communities. FORIG continued with the research on natural regeneration that included tree enumeration, re-sprouting experiments, and PRA with Forest Department and Wildlife Department staff in the Shai Hills.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments, that the project has encountered over the last 6 months.

GOAN have subcontracted Suntaa-Nuntaa Agroforestry (an NGO lead by Mr Bob Loggah) to carry out project research in the Upper West Region, leaving GOAN to focus on work in the Accra Plains. GOAN have allocated a portion of their budget to Suntaa-Nuntaa, who will invoice CNRD directly for project funds. This should have a positive impact on the results of the project, and should not affect the timetable of activities. The timetable of activities was discussed between all project partners and finer detail agreed during the visit to Ghana in July. However, the project framework remains the same.

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

None.