

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(October 2010)

Project Ref No	EIDPO025
Project Title	Capacity building to enhance Marine Protected Area effectiveness
Country(ies)	Malaysia (Sabah)
UK Organisation	Marine Conservation Society
Collaborator(s)	Sabah Parks
Project Leader	Dr Elizabeth Wood
Report date	October 2010
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	www.sempornaislandsproject.com

1. Progress over the last 6 months (April – September)

Output 1: Increased public understanding and support for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use strategies within the TSMP

Further meetings and discussions were carried out as planned during the first half of Yr 2. The aim of these discussions was to expand the education and outreach programme after mainly concentrating on schools during yr 1. Target audiences were identified and outreach activities undertaken in the Park with a) the Bajau Laut community on Pulau Sibuan b) the community on Pulau Selakan, and c) the Army and Police (also see next page – replies in response to the Annual Review).

Establishment of a TSMP 'Supporters Group' was scheduled for the first half of year 2 and progress has been made with this initiative. The project facilitated the formation of a 'Pulau Selakan Community Committee' in May 2010 and options for the Supporters Group were considered and discussed with this Committee and Sabah Parks. A scheme called 'Friends of Tun Sakaran Marine Park' is now being developed, the aim of which is to enhance people's understanding and awareness of the Park and its aims and to encourage people to become engaged and back conservation initiatives.

Output 2: Sabah Parks staff with increased understanding of marine biodiversity and ecosystem functioning within the Park, and with resources and ability to teach and inform others.

Through the Darwin project, a Masters student from Newcastle University (Jennifer Miller) visited Sabah (June 2010) and undertook a 3-week research and training programme with Sabah Parks Marine Unit. The aim of the project was to a) train Sabah Parks field staff to recognise and survey for coral diseases and b) to carry out field research with them in three of the Marine Parks (including Tun Sakaran Marine Park) to investigate links between coral disease, environmental stress and water quality. This was an important capacity- building exercise and means that Sabah Parks now have baseline data and the ability to monitor reef health more effectively.

In addition, the PL was requested by Sabah Parks to act as team leader for a 4-day study to assess the status of the coral reef at Pulau Sipadan. This provided further capacity building within Sabah Parks, including an introduction to some of the methodologies for assessing reef resilience. It is particularly important to have a better understanding of the ability of reefs to recover from events such as warm water / coral bleaching episodes (a severe episode occurred locally in June – August 2010).

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/yes in.....(month/yr)

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

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

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**