

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref. No.	EIDPO026
Project Title	A Forest Restoration Research Unit Facilitating Biodiversity Recovery in Cambodia.
Country(ies)	Cambodia and Thailand
UK Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Collaborator(s)	Forestry Administration Cambodia and FORRU, Chiang Mai, Thailand
Project Leader	Kate Hardwick and David Blakesley
Report date	31/10/10
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	www.kew.org and www.forru.org

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

The main aim of this project is to implement the FORRU-Cambodia Plan which was produced under the Main Project (14-010) and to begin research to develop effective techniques to restore Cambodia's unique forest ecosystems.

Seed collection and germination trials continued in the first six months of the second year, with the number of species undergoing germination trials increasing to 41. The nursery team also hardened tree saplings and prepared them for planting in the trial plots.

Following on from the workshop on seed technology run by RBG Kew last March, seed batches of 13 species have been sent to Kew MSB for testing.

Monthly nursery reports continue to be submitted by FORRU-Cambodia.

A workshop on planting methods and post-planting monitoring of trees was run by Dr. Steve Elliott on site on 25-26th June. During the workshop, a small trial plot of 0.1 ha was planted in a demonstration area near to the nursery, in an event co-ordinated by FORRU-Cambodia staff, with help from the local Cantonment Office and about 40 villagers. Subsequently, in mid-July, FA staff and villagers planted further trees in field trial plots on a 3 ha site closer to the forest, applying training received during the workshop.

A training workshop on information handling and data analysis was held at Siem Reap for the FORRU- Cambodia team, and other Forestry Administration officials between September 14th and 16th, run by Dr Steve Elliott and Dr Greuk Pakaad (FORRU-CMU Information Officer).

The September workshop was immediately followed by a roundtable meeting at the Forestry Administration HQ, Phnom Penh to discuss the future of FORRU-Cambodia, following the end of Darwin funding in March 2011, responding to comments raised by the reviewer of the Annual Report concerning project continuance and legacy.

The meeting sought to i) involve a wider range of potential stakeholders in FORRU-Cambodia and ii) to establish mechanisms to spread the outputs of FORRU-Cambodia to other parts of the country. New potential partners represented at the meeting included the Royal University of Agriculture, the Royal University of Phnom Penh, WWF-Cambodia and Non-Timber Forest Products-Cambodia. Comments from the UK project leaders and the Darwin reviewer were also

presented for discussion.

The scope of future work was discussed, together with plans for the preparation of funding proposals to support the extension of the Darwin programme. Several potential funding sources were identified. Shortly thereafter, at a regional workshop in Chiang Mai (run by FAO on linking communities with the voluntary carbon market) FORRU-CMU initiated discussions with further potential partners, mostly from REDD projects, which could put to good use the forestry techniques developed by a FORRU. The Forestry Administration Cambodia has called a further meeting on 5 November 2010 to discuss joint proposals with a wider range of potential partners.

In addition (and in response to the Darwin reviewer) Dr. Steve Elliott held discussions with representatives from another Darwin post project active in Cambodia (EIDPO028) at the Royal University of Phnom Penh also in September 2010. Scholarships to support graduate students who work on forest restoration for the research theses and support for a curator for the university herbarium (previously established with Darwin funds) were discussed as potential components of future project proposals.

Discussions on the progress of the project were held at Kew in May 2010, between the UK project leaders and Dr Steve Elliott from FORRU-CMU. These meetings were not scheduled in the original work programme, but were able to take place alongside meetings which were part of the output of our other Darwin project, entitled 'Restoring tropical forests: a practical guide'. Regular Skype conferences have been held between the project leaders in the UK and Thailand since the formal editorial meetings in May.

In summary, following the logical framework:

Output 1 Physical and human capacity built to effective levels in Year 1 of project

Output 2 Research protocols have been developed and agreed, Year 1

Output 3 Research programme underway to identify candidate framework species, and field trials established, Year 2

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 affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Managing this project continues to be challenging, but the staff remain enthusiastic and the partners are working closely together to address any problems as they occur.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

No.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

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

No

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 the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.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: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**