

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	EIDP 0032
Project Title	Strengthening capacity for botanical inventory in the Republic of Congo
Country(ies)	Republic of Congo
UK Organisation	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Collaborator(s)	Dr J. Mokoko, Dr J.-M. Moutsamboté, Dr E. Kami
Project Leader	Dr D. Harris
Report date	20 October 2010
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR2
Project website	http://dps.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/congo

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 achievement over the last six months was the completion of the MSc in The Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants by the Congolese student who was identified by Moutsambote and Harris in August 2006 on the first training course run as part of DI project 15-011. During the research project part of his MSc in July he travelled with Harris to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew to visit the herbarium, meet with colleagues and identify several new species records for Congo. His thesis was titled "A Preliminary checklist of the Vascular Plants and a key to Ficus of Goualougo Triangle, Nouabalé-Ndoki National Park, Republic of Congo". He has returned to Congo and taken up a new position as a botanist with his former employers and project partners WCS-Congo

A computer based multi-access key to support the identification manual Sangha Trees, a major product from DI project 15-011 is being finalised. Over 500 species in that identification manual have been treated by the key. This key will allow the identification of all trees from the Sangha tri-National area from voucher specimens and does not require the presence of flowers or fruit. Once finished it will be made available online and on a cd.

All specimens collected on the trip to Congo in March 2010 have been identified, mounted and databased. At present they are being considered for digitisation so that they will be available has high quality images (to be captured at 300-600 ppi).

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.

Due to the need for supervision and mentor ship during the research project period May-August less time was spent than planned on the photoguide. Progress was made on establishing work flows using an appropriate image processing package.

In late October D Harris was informed that he has to go for eye surgery in early November. This has meant that his trip to Congo will have to be postponed along with the production of the photoguide. It is hoped that this will only affect the timetable by extending the project by a few months and not the budget.

Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?	
Discussed with LTS:	no/yes, in..... (month/yr)
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?

Yes 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**