

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	14-016
Project Title	Assessing and conserving plant diversity in commercially managed tropical rainforests
Country(ies)	Malaysia
UK Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Collaborator(s)	Yayasan Sabah and Sabah Forest Department
Report date	31 October 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
Project website	

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 project was initiated in July 2005 with a Plant Identification and Collecting Techniques Course. The course was given by two staff members of Kew and was attended by all people working within the project, plus additional students from Yayasan Sabah and Danum Valley Research Centre (total 20 students). Plant collecting has started in both the Danum valley and Maliau basin areas, while due to infrastructure problems, collecting in Imbak Canyon had to be postponed by at least 6 months.

Data basing of specimens in the Sandakan Herbarium, from the three targeted areas, has started in October 2005, with the appointment of one full time staff member.

Collecting equipment, digital cameras, computers and office equipment were acquired for the project and installed. A short course in how to use the equipment has been given during the Plant Identification and Collecting Techniques Course in July.

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.

Collecting in Imbak Canyon has not started due to infrastructure problems at the site. The building of the research and accommodation buildings have been delayed by least a half year. The person employed by the project to work at the site is momentarily based at Maliau Basin. He is helping his colleague there and his Maliau colleague will in tern will help him at Imbak as soon as the infrastructure is ready.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? None

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? None

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 by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**