

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

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 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HY2
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).

During the last 6 months major two training courses were given. The first one, a week Tropical Plant Identification Course in Sandakan, Sabah for 35 people from the Project and other conservation organisations (WWF, Sabah Herbarium and Danum valley). This course was given by four Kew staff members. This course was extended for four intensive training weeks in plant identification at Kew UK, for the 5 core project people. This course was given by numerous specialists at Kew. Both courses were highly successful and greatly over subscribed.

Plant collecting has continued both in Danum and Maliau, while again due to infrastructure problems, collecting in Imbak Canyon had to be postponed with another 6 months. Data basing of specimens in the Sandakan Herbarium, from the three targeted areas is continuing as planned.

The Habitat assessment and Forest Certification part of the project has now been finished ahead of planning (as explained in the first year report) and the final report from ProForest as been submitted to Yayasan Sabah.

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 has again 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 turn help him at Imbak as soon as the infrastructure is ready.

Furthermore, the target number of specimens collected has not been reached in the last 6 months; a staff member from Kew is being sent to Danum and Maliau for 4 weeks to solve the problems.

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

However, the fact that habitat assessment part of the project has been finished much early than planned, may have some impact on the rest of the project. I will contact the Darwin Secretariat as soon as I know more.

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.**