

Building Capacity for Plant Biodiversity Inventory and Conservation in Nepal

The purpose of the project is to provide advanced training for Nepalese botanists and strengthen the main herbaria of Nepal (KATH & TUCH). This will ensure that Nepal has in-country reference collections of its rich flora and the necessary taxonomic expertise to meet its needs under the Convention on Biological Diversity and to publish a comprehensive Flora of Nepal. Eighteen botanists will be trained in modern techniques of data recording, plant collections, identification, and herbarium management. It is also aimed to provide fundamental skills to enable Nepali scientists to generate taxonomic database, and to undertake conservation status assessments. All participants will attend three training workshops in Nepal, participate in one of the three field trips to less explored areas of Nepal, and also visit RBGE/UK on a short study visit for training on herbarium management and identification of new and unidentified specimens collected during the fieldwork.

Project Synopsis

Sponsor: Darwin Initiative, UK

Project Coordination Centre: Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (RBGE)

Project Leader: Prof. Steve Blackmore

Associate Project Leader: Dr. Mark Watson

Collaborating Institution: RONAST

Project Coordinator (Nepal): Prof. D. Bajracharya

Associate Collaborating Institutions:

Department of Plant Resources, MFSC

Central Department of Botany, TU

Associate Coordinators:

Dr. KR Rajbhandari (DPR)

Prof. KK Shrestha (CDB-TU)

Project Duration: June 2003-May 2006

Total Project Cost: £ 288,750

Darwin Initiative Grant: £ 112,150

Total costs contributed by RBGE and collaborating institutes: £ 176,600

Highlights of Major Events

July 2003	Launching of the project
September 2003	Planning workshop in RBGE
January 2004	Selection of Darwin scholars
March 2004	Training Workshop I in Nepal
May 2004	Field Trip I - Eastern Nepal (Mid hills)
October 2004	Training Workshop II in Nepal
October 2004	Start data entry for specimens at TUCH and KATH
November 2004	Field Trip II -Central Nepal (Lowland Terai)
January 2005	Study Visit I Darwin scholars & Associate Coordinator to UK
August 2005	Field Trip III - West Nepal (High hills/Mountain)
November 2005	Training Workshop III in Nepal Project Seminar in Kathmandu
January 2006	Study Visit II Darwin scholars & Associate Coordinator to UK
March 2006	Hand over of database sets Release of Training Manual

Program Schedule: First Training Workshop

18th March 2004 Opening Ceremony - RONAST

Keynote Address (SB),
Introductory Lecture (MW)

19th March 2004 Theory Sessions: British Embassy

21st March 2004 Theory Sessions: British Embassy

22nd March 2004 Theory Sessions: British Embassy

23-26 March 2004: 4th National Conference on
Science & Technology (Organizer: RONAST)

29th March 2004 Practical Class - CDB & KATH

30th March 2004 Practical Class - CDB & KATH

31st March 2004 Field Trip to Chandragiri
or Phulchoki Hill

1st April 2004 Practical Sessions - KATH

2nd April 2004 Assessments and evaluations
Closing ceremony - RONAST

Organizing Committee

Prof. D. Bajracharya (RONAST)	Chairperson
Prof. S. Blackmore (RBGE)	Co-chairperson
Prof. P.K. Jha (CDB-TU)	Member
Dr. U.R. Sharma (DPR)	Member
Prof. K. Manandhar (RONAST)	Member
Dr. M. Watson (RBGE)	Member
Dr. K.R. Rajbhandari (DPR)	Member
Dr. K.D. Yami (RONAST)	Member
Prof. K.K. Shrestha (CDB-TU)	Member

Resource Persons

Dr. Mark Watson	Prof. R.P. Chaudhary
+ 1-2 experts (U.K.)	Dr. M.K. Adhikary
Dr. K.R. Rajbhandari	Dr. T.B. Shrestha
Prof. K.K. Shrestha	Dr. P.R. Shakya

Participants: TU (4), DPR (4), RONAST (2)
From Open Competition (6)