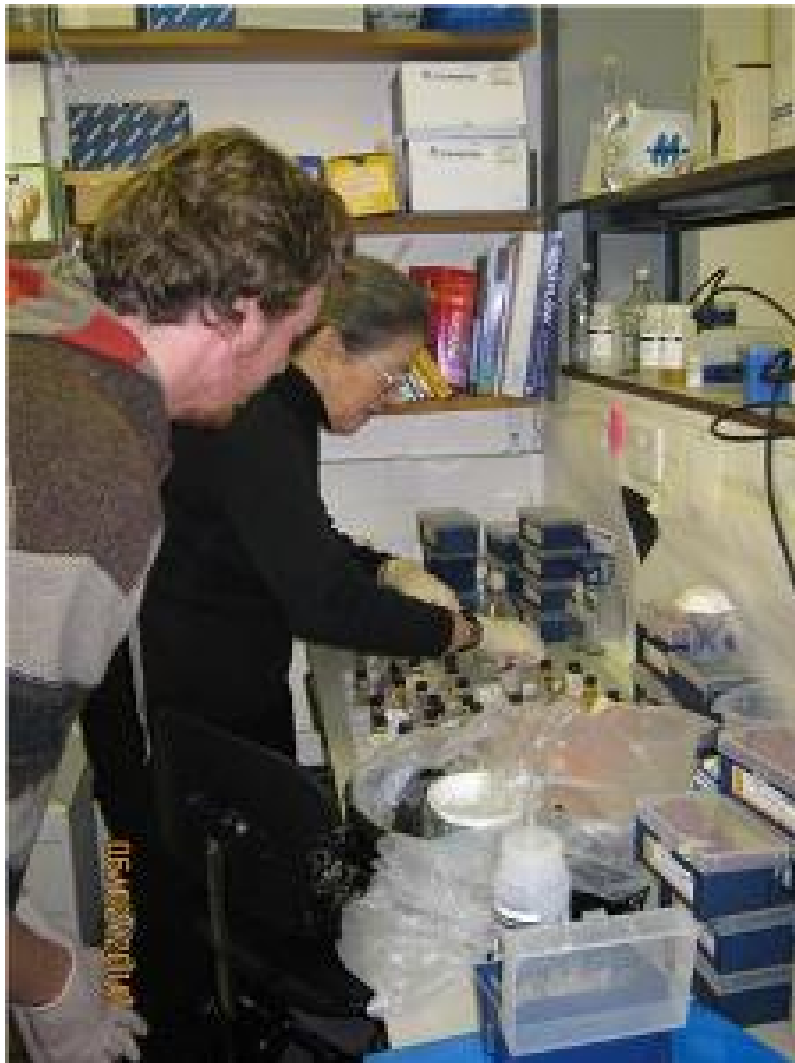


## **Project Update: January 2010**

It was the aim of the project to have samples from unidentified stranded cetaceans for genetic analyses back in the UK over a year ago. However, the progress of the analytical side of the project has been slow, mainly due to numerous problems in Pakistan that have in turn made visiting difficult and exporting the samples back to the UK difficult. Nevertheless, the Pakistani team has been working very hard under the circumstances and has gathered even more data and samples. It is really satisfying and rewarding to see the project continuing, and indeed moving forward.

As a result, we managed to bring back over 30 genetic samples in January 2010, more than we had predicted, and the samples are now at Durham University and the DNA extraction process has already begun. We would like to thank Rufford for their patience, as the work has taken significantly longer to complete than was forecast, without their help this work would not be possible. We hope that these preliminary genetic results can give us an insight into the species that strand along the Pakistani coast – and could perhaps even identify a species that is yet to be recorded in Pakistani waters.



Dr Mauvis Gore and Howard Gray sorting the samples for genetic analyses at Durham University