

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2009)

Project Ref. No.	EIDPO029
Project Title	Building on success- turning capacity building advances into conservation gains
Country(ies)	Kenya, Malaysia, Palau and Paraguay
UK Organisation	BirdLife International
Collaborator(s)	Nature Kenya, Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), Palau Conservation Society (PCS) and Guyra Paraguay
Project Leader	<i>Muhtari Aminu-Kano</i>
Report date	<i>30 October 2009</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 1</i>
Project website	<i>na</i>

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 four project host country partners have established close contacts with their respective Government CBD focal points and the project is progressing smoothly against the baseline timetable. An outline of progress against the outputs in the project logframe is presented below.

Output 1. National NGOs contribute to the identification, recognition, designation, improved management and monitoring of priority sites as part of implementation of CBD programme of work on protected areas.

Staff from the Science and Information Management Division of the Global Secretariat of BirdLife International based in Cambridge collaborated with the Project Coordinator to produce GIS maps of the four host project countries showing existing protected areas (taken from the UNEP-WCMC's World Database on Protected Areas 2008) overlaid with the boundaries of Important Bird Areas (IBAs). These maps highlighted the gaps in coverage of protected areas with respect to IBAs and are being used by host country partners to advocate for the use of IBAs for protected area gap analyses.

In addition, Guyra Paraguay has undertaken a scientific analysis to determine the proportion of threatened bird species that are not covered by the existing protected areas in Paraguay. Remarkably, 60% of critically endangered birds (CR) were found to be outside the PA system.

Nature Kenya has been using the results of IBA monitoring to identify priority IBAs for conservation action and promoting these to the Government and other stakeholders. A particular focus has been promoting the role of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Kenya's Protected Areas network. This advocacy has led to the recognition of CCAs in the texts of national CBD documents and also prominent recognition of IBAs in the 4th national Report submitted to the CBD by the Kenyan Government. It has also resulted in the branding of Lake Nakuru as an Important Bird Area.

Palau Conservation Society is catalyzing the development of management plans for all protected areas in two states- Ngaremlengui and Sonsorol by facilitating discussions between State Authorities, legislators and community traditional leaders.

Guyra Paraguay is also working on signing a couple of agreements with national and local authorities that will confer additional recognition and status to IBAs within the national and international PA systems in the country.

Output 2. National multi-stakeholder collaboration for CBD implementation strengthened

As a follow-up to the study undertaken by Nature Kenya on CBD coordination during the implementation of the original Darwin Initiative project (14-042 Supporting Southern NGOs to work with the CBD..), a Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEA) Task Force was established in Kenya which has since metamorphosed into an MEA Secretariat under the responsibility of a Deputy Director in the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). Nature Kenya has continued to provide vital support to the new unit and continues to be a valued member of the team in charge of CBD preparations.

Palau Conservation Society continues to work with national and regional partners for the success of the Micronesia Challenge.

Malaysian Nature Society continues to be the lead NGO in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention in Malaysia and is strongly advocating for the designation of wetland IBAs as Ramsar sites.

Output 3. Understanding of CBD increased and experiences shared with other national and international NGOs

The Project Coordinator produced an internal BirdLife analysis showing the various ways in which BirdLife tools, approaches and methodologies could support the national implementation of the CBD Programme of work on protected areas (POWPA). This document was shared with host country partners to give them an idea of the full range of ways that they could help CBD implementation in their countries.

Gap analysis maps have been produced for each host country showing overlays of IBAs and protected areas. A leaflet detailing the ways in which BirdLife contributes to the implementation of the CBD programme of work on protected areas was also produced. Both documents were distributed at CBD regional workshops on protected areas.

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.

None

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Not Applicable

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.