

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	A National Strategy for Sustainable Wildlife Use, Commonwealth of Dominica
Country	Dominica
Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Project Ref. No.	162/10/010
Report date	31 st October 2001

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

The funding for this project was only forthcoming in June 2001, and so activities only started in that month. So far the following project elements have been completed:

- A project planning meeting was held in Dominica in June 2001, to discuss in further detail how the project would be implemented and to agree a Memorandum of Understanding for the project. The MoU was formally signed in October 2001.
- A review of literature pertaining to Dominica and the project has been conducted, and a draft copy submitted to FWD to enable them to identify priorities for repatriation (i.e. which articles need to be sourced for FWD).
- Training courses for FWD personnel have been held on use of GPS and mapping, and on field survey/monitoring procedures. These workshops involved 30 personnel (twice that initially envisaged). On the basis of these workshops, a participatory process was used to design the field procedures most appropriate to this project.
- Field research has been initiated by UK personnel to determine the distribution and relative abundance of key resource species (including land crabs, red necked pigeon and agouti). Permanent monitoring transects have been established, and the survey will be extended by FWD staff on the basis of the initial training received.
- An initial field survey manual has been provided for FWD staff, developed by the FFI team to meet the specific needs of this project.
- A first set of equipment was delivered, based on an initial needs assessment in June 2001. A computer and basic field gear has been provided (including rainwear, rucksacks, altimeters and compasses). A further assessment of field equipment will allow a further delivery to be made in the new year.

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 effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

- *The hunting ban in Dominica has been lifted. This meant it was imperative for biological data collection to start as quickly as possible. For this reason the timing of the biodiversity workshops was swapped with those of the socio-economic hunting assessment, which has now been delayed until early the new year, at the request of our project partners.*
- *The additional workshop of data analysis skills has been delayed until a later input. Due to the low level of skills among the FWD staff it was felt that holding three workshops in one trip would lead to the presentation of too much information at one time.*
- *Difficulties in hiring appropriate transportation on the island, and the poor state of vehicles available to our in-country partners has resulted in problems in transportation in-country. It has been suggested that the best way in which to spend the in-country travel budget would be to buy a project vehicle to undertake fieldwork, and which would be provided to our partners at the end of the project to ensure sustainability of the project. This has been discussed unofficially with the department, and an official request to allocate this budget to purchase a vehicle has been made.*

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures.

Unfortunately I was unaware of the deadline of this report until I checked the website this morning. How are project leaders normally informed of the reporting dates? (I was unable to attend the Darwin workshop this year, as the date changed)

Completed forms to: Rose Clarkson, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, John Muir Building, Kings Buildings, University of Edinburgh, Mayfield Rd., Edinburgh EH9 3JK, Scotland. Email: R.Clarkson@ed.ac.uk