

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	31st October 2003

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months 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).

Progress between April 1st and September 31st 2003 on the various project elements identified in the baseline timetable is outlined below in relation to the six main project output areas.

Output 1: Improved Baseline information on species use

- Completion of "Social Assessment Survey on Hunting of Wildlife in Dominica" by Sarah McIntyre, a re-analysis of the social survey questionnaire data to produce a clear and concise report.

Output 2: Wildlife Research to improve understanding of the biology and status of key species

- An extra six months of transect monitoring were completed for the four key species (Agouti, Red-necked Pigeon, Mountain Chicken and Black Crab).
- Completion of MSc dissertation for the University of East Anglia entitled: "The current status of the mountain chicken *Leptodactylus fallax* on Dominica, Eastern Caribbean: an amphibian in decline" by Sarah McIntyre, based on field work undertaken between March 28 and June 20th 2003 with support from FWD and FFI.
- Diagnosis of the fungal disease chytridiomycosis in the Mountain Chicken was made by Dr Andrew Cunningham of Zoological Society, London from samples brought back to the UK for analysis.
- Testing of DNA samples from Dominican and Montserratian Mountain Chickens by Professor Roger Thorpe's team at the University of Wales, Bangor, revealed that there are no genetic differences between the two populations. This implies that they were introduced to the islands - or at least moved between them - fairly recently by human agency, probably Carib or Arawak Indians.

Output 3: Conservation Strategies developed for key species

- These will be developed in the final six months of the project, following completion of data analysis, as outlined in recent correspondence with Sylvia Smith at DEFRA.

Output 4: Capacity Building within Forestry and Wildlife Division and other agencies

- Delivery of a two-day workshop on "Project Proposal Preparation" for 15 participants from different branches of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment in Roseau in

Dominica.

- A one-day public awareness "Workshop on Wildlife Management for Related Agencies" concentrating on law enforcement was organised by FWD personnel at Eggleston in Dominica on August 13th, and attended by 25 representatives of 13 different government agencies.
- Two days of one-on-one training in data analysis and interpretation with FWD personnel undertaken in June.
- Dominica's first Hunters' Association was formed to represent hunters' views generally and in the development of the Sustainable Use Strategy.

Output 5: Public Awareness activities to increase understanding of sustainable use issues

- Three billboards with messages pertaining to sustainable use of wildlife were designed, painted, constructed and installed in prominent positions on major roads around the capital, Roseau.
- Two national press releases within Dominica were made, on the diagnosis of chytridiomycosis in the Mountain Chicken in July 2003 and on the "Workshop on Wildlife Management for Related Agencies" on Monday 11th August 2003.
- A short article (350 words) on the discovery of chytridiomycosis was accepted for publication in the "Conservation News" section of the international scientific journal Oryx and is scheduled to appear in the October 2003 issue.

Output 6: National Strategy for Sustainable Wildlife Use developed

- The strategy will be developed during the next six months of the project in consultation with FWD, the Hunters' Association and a wide range of stakeholders, as outlined in recent correspondence with Sylvia Smith at DEFRA.

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?

Following the submission of the annual report for 2002-2003, Sylvia Smith of DEFRA relayed comments from the ECTF review team concerning delays in achieving certain project outputs in comparison with the baseline timetable and recommending that the FFI Project Leader spend more time in-country. These issues have been addressed and FFI inputs into the project will be increased over the remaining six months. A revised budget and work plan outlining these were sent to Sylvia on 22nd September 2003.

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

None.