

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

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| Project Title | Conservation and Management of Malagasy Microchiroptera and their Habitats |
| Country | Madagascar |
| Organisation | School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen |
| Project Ref. No. | 162/10/024 |
| Report date | October 2003 |

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

Fieldwork

Microchiroptera have been studied in five sites (Sarodrano, Bemaraha, Ambohitantely, Isalo and Analamazaotra) as planned. Protected Area staff continue to be involved in the work, Simon Randriamrimala has just completed one year's monitoring of bat activity (using bat detectors) in Analamazaotra. Following our work at Bemaraha National Park, bats are now included in the monthly ecological monitoring protocol. A large amount of data on diet, morphology, habitat use, distribution and behavior has been collected from these sites.

Darwin Trainees

There are six Malagasy DEA students, from three different education institutions currently engaged in field research or thesis write-ups. There are a further four full-time Malagasy assistants conducting research projects, contributing to student training and gaining other types of experience (e.g. logistics, budgets and reporting).

New Host Partners

In addition to our long-term relationship with the Department of Animal Biology (University of Antananarivo), protocols of collaboration (a pre-requisite to working with students) have been agreed with Faculty of Science, University of Tulear and Department of Water and Forests, School of Agronomics (University of Antananarivo).

Outputs

1. Final report to the Wildlife Conservation Society on our survey of bats in Makira Forest (January-February 2003) was submitted on 15 June 2003.
2. Colour poster, with Malagasy text, on the beneficial role of Microchiroptera (100 copies).
3. Six brief progress reports submitted to the relevant agencies.
4. Malagasy team members gave a power-point presentation in Bemaraha NP HQ to conservation staff, leading to a request for us to survey the northern part of the park in 2004.
5. The project was profiled on national media (radio and newspaper) in September 2003.

Other

1. Various activities to strengthen the capacity of a Malagasy bat NGO, including field training in bat research methods, a public display on bat conservation for World Environment Day and advice on the establishment of a bat-roost monitoring programme.
2. We have been invited to contribute to ecological monographs on Bemaraha National Park and the littoral forests in Fort Dauphin.
3. We have secured additional funding from the Rufford Foundation (£5k) and Bat Conservation International (\$1k) and British Ecological Society (£1.5k) to survey Bemaraha National Park.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months? Nothing to report

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No