

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Kenyan Important Biodiversity Areas: Improving monitoring, management and conservation action
Country	Kenya
Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Project Ref. No.	162/11/003
Report date	October 2002

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

The project has begun well and is on track. All staff are in place, the Advisory Committee has been constituted and has met by telephone and in part in Kenya. The Kenya IBA monitoring committee has also been constituted and a Kenyan based project team has met regularly. RSPB staff have visited Kenya twice and a meeting of key stakeholders in August undertook a training needs assessment and finalised the training programme.

A baseline status report on IBAs has been prepared. Seven priority IBAs for additional project input have been provisionally agreed. The protocols for monitoring continue to develop based on field experience. GPS's, binoculars and books have been purchased though purchase of a computer has been postponed (see below). Two survey and monitoring workshops have been arranged for mid November and a further advisory committee will be held at that time. The project has appeared in two RSPB/BirdLife publications and more media coverage will be sought in November. We have met with WWT to discuss potential collaboration in our respective Darwin projects.

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?

A few minor changes have occurred, none of major significance. One of the Field Officers has gained alternative employment at Lake Bogoria IBA. He will be replaced.

We have expanded the Advisory Committee to incorporate an additional member from National Museums of Kenya. This may result in one additional airfare in Year two. Following the training assessment, we agreed to expand the number of people attending longer 5 day survey and monitoring workshops. This has some budget implications in Year two especially, although we are confident that adjustments can be made to accommodate this.

We sourced funds for a good quality computer from another budget which can be used on this project. We will hold the money intended for computer purchase to see whether another computer is still needed, or if this can be used to purchase additional much needed equipment to help with site based activities.

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

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