

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162/11/003
Project Title	Kenyan Important Biodiversity Areas: Improving monitoring, management and conservation action
Country(ies)	Kenya
UK Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Collaborator(s)	Nature Kenya (NK) plus National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and other institutions
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Project website	http://www.naturekenya.org/conservationconstituency.htm http://www.rspb.org.uk/international/conservation

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

1. Project systems in place

Regular Project Team meetings have been held. The UK Project Leader visited the project in late May and again in August, accompanied by an Advisory Group member. Two (partial) Advisory Group meetings have been held taking advantage of other travel, including a visit to the UK by the Director of NK in June. The National Liaison Committee (NLC) also met in June. The Project Team has met regularly, especially to discuss the exit strategy and post-project implementation.

2. National site monitoring system established and covering all IBAs

The difficulties faced in getting a regular collection of monitoring forms by managing agencies have largely been resolved; the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Forest Department (FD) in particular have shown growing appreciation of the programme, while the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has played an enhanced role in the project. The report from the monitoring programme, *Kenya's Important Bird Areas: Status and Trends 2004*, was produced in August and distributed at a national launch. The launch was presided over by the Director General of NEMA and received good publicity in the media. The report is a much more comprehensive document than the first one in 2003 and is already being actively incorporated into Kenya's national report to the CBD.

3. Detailed monitoring carried out at key IBAs feeds into improved management planning

Detailed monitoring continues to be carried out at six key IBAs in Kenya at different scales. In some of the IBAs, monitoring results are starting to feed into improved management planning and in guiding conservation interventions. Since April, additional follow-up training has been carried out at Kareita and Kakamega Forest, where detailed monitoring has now been officially launched. Although it is still too early to draw conclusions from the initial trends, we have begun to consider how best to analyse the data and to promote the kinds of findings which might arise from the work, once it has been running for a reasonable time period.

The management plan at Dunga requires a local stakeholders meeting, but in the mean time the Site Support Group there continues to strengthen links with the managing agencies. We intend to influence management plans of other agencies, especially KWS, by providing information generated from the National Monitoring Scheme. A number of plans are up for review in the near future (e.g. Tsavo and Amboseli) and information from the forms will feed

