

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

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| <b>Project Ref. No.</b> | 162/11/003   |
| <b>Project Title</b>    | Kenyan Important Biodiversity Areas: Improving monitoring, management and conservation action  |
| <b>Country(ies)</b>     | Kenya  |
| <b>UK Organisation</b>  | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)   |
| <b>Collaborator(s)</b>  | Nature Kenya (NK) plus National Museums of Kenya (NMK) and other institutions  |
| <b>Report date</b>      | October 2004   |
| <b>Report No</b>        | HYR 3  |
| <b>Project website</b>  | <a href="http://www.naturekenya.org/conservationconstituency.htm">http://www.naturekenya.org/conservationconstituency.htm</a><br><a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk/international/conservation">http://www.rspb.org.uk/international/conservation</a> |

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

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|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <p>into these plans through the managing agency even if Nature Kenya is not directly involved.</p> <p>4. Effective feedback loops established between monitoring and national action and reporting<br/> The database training has been completed although the system still needs to be improved. The status report produced demonstrates that information is being compiled, collated and stored in an effective manner. NK intends to liaise with the database managers of the key managing agencies, especially KWS and FD to identify their data needs. The ultimate goal is to make the national monitoring scheme demand-driven – providing vital data and information that the agencies require for their management interventions.</p> <p>5. Conservation interventions made due to threats or opportunities identified by monitoring<br/> NK conservation interventions continue to be guided by monitoring outcomes. In Kinangop, they are working with two donors to purchase 90 acres of land following worrying trends in species population and grassland loss identified from the three years of monitoring. The Project Implementation Team is reviewing the report and has identified key recommendations from the status report targeted at the different managing agencies. NK will work with representatives of the NLC institutions to lobby for the adoption and implementation of these recommendations. FD through its NLC representative has specifically indicated its intention to adopt the IBA monitoring scheme as means of meeting their own reporting obligations, particularly within the Natural Forest Conservation Programme.</p> <p>6. Mechanisms identified and capacity built to sustain the collection and use of practical monitoring information in the longer term<br/> The progress towards institutionalisation is encouraging. NK now has strong fundraising skills. Preliminary ideas on the exit strategy and post-project follow-up activities have been documented and are currently being reviewed by NK and RSPB. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mainstreaming monitoring into all new and ongoing projects</li> <li>• developing site-specific proposals in collaboration with ongoing programmes</li> <li>• consolidating institutionalisation of the scheme (targeting government agencies)</li> <li>• filling gaps in IBA monitoring coverage</li> <li>• working with structures and institutions with long-term objectives at particular sites or ecosystems, such as universities and NGOs such as A Rocha Kenya.</li> </ul> |                                    |                            |   |                           |
| <p><b>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 affect the budget and timetable of project activities.</b></p> <p>The objectives were amended slightly at the beginning of the reporting period in the light of the mid-term review. We have sought to resolve the issues identified in the review, but some, such as institutional reorganisation, have continued to have a moderating effect. The databases are developing more slowly than anticipated (partly due to external factors relating to international conformity), and we have agreed that NK/NMK need to be more active in developing what they want at a national level and in talking to other agencies about possible interactions with their existing databases. Some of this work will only be achieved beyond the project period.</p>   |                                    |                            |   |                           |
| <p>Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p> <p>Not since the annual report. Some small changes were proposed to the budget at that time, and these are on track. In our covering letter, we raise a question about a slight refocusing of the planned final evaluation to ensure best value.</p>  |                                    |                            |   |                           |
| <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 2px;">Discussed with the DI Secretariat:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">no/yes, in..... (month/yr)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Changes to the project schedule/workplan:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">no/yes, in.....(month/yr)</td> </tr> </table>  | Discussed with the DI Secretariat: | no/yes, in..... (month/yr) | Changes to the project schedule/workplan: | no/yes, in.....(month/yr) |
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| Changes to the project schedule/workplan:   | no/yes, in.....(month/yr)          |                            |   |                           |
| <p><b>3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No.</b></p>   |                                    |                            |   |                           |