

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Capacity Building for Monitoring and Managing the Bushmeat Trade in Gabon
Country	Gabon
Organisation	University of Stirling
Project Ref. No.	12/002
Report date	31 October 2003

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

As the project began on Sept 1st 2003, this report covers only the last 2 months. The objectives for that time have thus far been fully met. The Monitoring team are contracted (6 national surveyors, a national team leader). The two national counterparts within the Wildlife Department have been officially recognised as having duties within the project and we have been allocated some office space in the Ministry building in which to set up the databases. The database computers have been delivered and the database managers have begun basic training. The workplan for monitoring has been set for the next 14 months. The workplan for the first 2 months has been slightly modified to include development of new questionnaire surveys on public comprehension of the issues guiding the current management debate (human nutrition, animal population sizes, harvest sustainability, luxury commodities vs necessities, legal issues and international conservation pressures). Public support for management is key to its success, but relies on a wider understanding of the issues than we have found to currently exist amongst the Gabonese public. A series of public information leaflets is being prepared and the survey team are undergoing training in preparation for an initial 2-visit survey which will set a baseline for future assessment of public awareness and comprehension levels. This survey will take place in Jan-Feb of next year and thereafter planned market and consumption monitoring will begin.

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?

Thus far there are no significant problems or changes 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.

In 2 downloaded versions of this report form, the address for submission is different – I am submitting to both in case!

I am unsure of the DEFRA project code I should be using.