

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162/12/002
Project Title	Capacity Building for Managing and Monitoring the Bushmeat Trade in Gabon
Country(ies)	Gabon
UK Organisation	University of Stirling
Collaborator(s)	Ministry of Forest Economy, National Forestry School
Report date	27/10/04
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	2
Project website	

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

The activities planned for the past 6 months May-October 2004) were as below:

Courses taught in management at wildlife college.

Second meeting of monitoring committee to look at and interpret last 6 months data and compare with 2003 data trends. Recommendations to DFC (and to Darwin) in form of a 1st working paper. Update of database for consultation in DFC.

Training of DFC staff and project coordinator (KN) in PC publishing of printed publicity materials. 1st year of BSc Student projects underway supervised by technical advisor, research assistant and DFC staff.

Training

Subsequent to the training sessions in April 2004, further contact has once more been made with USTM university to organise a one-week training course on computer use in managing and monitoring of conservation issues including the bushmeat trade. This will include opportunities for students to undertake detailed studies on the issue during the summer break and is proposed to happen in January 2005. As the last six months has been exam periods and academic holidays (June-October), no institutional training has occurred during this reporting period .

Further training has however been given to more senior DFC staff including the Wildlife Director, covering both simple use of computers, and also the use and creation of the database. At this level, DFC staff are unlikely to want to use the database themselves, but need to be aware of what is available and confident in the information they can access through the database manager.

To help out in getting information out to the wider public one of the project staff researchers, who has shown flare for publicity has been encouraged to produce posters, calendars and has undergone training in graphic design. It will be through him that monthly reports will be produced with the collaboration of the database manager and the teams in the field. These will take the format of a technical pamphlet available to anyone working on the issue (local authorities, police, wildlife department, conservation NGO's etc) and a public awareness poster distributed in schools, public places.

Our collaborator in the DFC (ERNESTINE Ntsame Effa) was given the opportunity to participate in a conference on bushmeat in Cameroon, in which she showed some of the data collected. The preparation for this international meeting (CITES bushmeat working group) provided an opportunity for intensive in-service training in MS Powerpoint presentation of data and messages which will add to our overall

aim to train an 'ambassador' for the bushmeat issue within Ministry staff.

Production of a database resource for Management Authorities and Public information

The database has been highly modified allowing any user to automatically produce a summary report for a particular market during a defined period. This will help the DFC to produce on-the-spot reports on any market showing market volume, species, trends. For more technical reports a statistical analysis section has been added that covers basic stats that local authorities and decision makers would be able to understand, and also the automatic production of graphs and posters. To help users work with the database a user manual has been produced, which will be followed by a technical manual on the creation of the database. Currently 2 members of DFC staff are trained to use the database, and a project staff member is on call to help others process their questions and take away paper output (tables, graphs) of the data.

The Monitoring committee meetings have been agreed and scheduled twice by the DFC, but failed to happen, due to government withdrawal of staff on the dates planned, or non-availability of invited participants. We propose to push for the meetings to be inaugurated until the end of the year, but if convening the committee still proves difficult, we will have to reluctantly consider changing the membership, or structure of this part of the project.

This will be addressed in full in the April report, when the decision to continue the committee objectives will have been taken with the DFC.

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.

Our key daily contacts with the DFC will soon be going to further studies in France and the USA, as yet we do not know who is to replace them. The change is a foreseen development and we will support 2 junior linked staff to replace our current contacts, however, the delay in identifying these candidates is a regrettable loss of training time.

During the past 6 months changes in the Gabonese law concerning the bushmeat trade have been proposed in the parliament. The changes would allow legal hunting of a wide range of species for bushmeat and would essentially open transport and trade of most meat. Meetings with the DFC over these changes were undertaken with the aim to use the data from the markets to illustrate our concerns and belief that open trade will increase wildlife loss and will not greatly benefit rural communities. We also wished to gather information about the mechanisms that have been put in place to adopt these changes. As a result of this, we discovered that the Government department staff was grossly misinformed of the legal framework currently governing hunting and trade.

The project has since made contact with a legal advisor to see how we can best inform members of the Wildlife Department, local authorities and police of the laws and their existing obligation for enforcement, and also inform the public and the of their rights and of the changes. We have located funding (US\$20,000 from the Helaine Lerner Foundation) to expedite the work of the steering committee formed under this grant, and produce public awareness leaflets about the legal situation and changes for both law enforcers and users of bushmeat.

Family sickness prevented Kate Abernethy participating as planned in the Darwin events organised in London in October and so there has been little exchange of project progress and news within the Darwin community, which project staff regret. The same family problems have resulted in late submission of this report. Malcolm Starkey has taken an increased supervisory role during the absence / unavailability of KA and besides reporting delays, practical work in Gabon has been largely unaffected.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?	
The family illness situation was briefly discussed over email in October 04. No changes were made.	
Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	no/yes, in..... (month/yr)
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**