

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Flamingo Conservation and Ramsar Site Management at Lake Bogoria, Kenya
Country	Kenya
Organisation	Earthwatch Europe and University of Leicester
Project Ref. No.	162/12/003
Report date	31 st October 2003

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months 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 project started in July against the inauspicious background of cancelled BA flights to Nairobi and cancelled Earthwatch teams in all Kenya due to the terrorist scares. The 1st Workshop, run as planned at Lake Bogoria on *Aquatic Ecosystem Health*, was highly successful with 31 Kenya participants. The costs of this were unexpectedly high because three of the tutor airfares had not been covered by a prior Earthwatch team as had been assumed in the application. The workshop was followed by the first-ever soda lake survey of flamingo numbers concurrent with water & phytoplankton quality parameters, which was led by the PI and achieved all its objectives. The equipment for the field work had been purchased and was introduced in the surveys without mishap in July. The flamingo satellite monitoring was successful with 4 new birds collared, but again more expensive than planned because the airfare was not met by Earthwatch due to its cancelled team. The training of Kenya students on an Earthwatch project was switched to an August team at Lake Naivasha, because of the timing of the M.Sc. fieldwork which made it necessary to include the best 3 of the 2002-3 cohort before dispersal.

The frequency of future Workshops may be reduced, but attendance at each increased, to absorb the higher start-up costs of the first one and the same pattern may have to be introduced for the lake monitoring – every 6 weeks instead of every month.

The second lake monitoring has already taken place and the second workshop is planned for April 2004.

Progress has not been as rapid on the laboratory shipment as expected a year ago but it is still planned that the lab will be in place in early 2004.

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?

Changes have been discussed and agreed with Sylvia Smith at DEFRA and her budget amended.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? None

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, Email: stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk