

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	162/12/006
Project Title	Transnational conservation planning in the Maputaland ecoregion of southern Africa
Country(ies)	Mozambique, South Africa and Swaziland
UK Organisation	Durrell Institute of Conservation & Ecology, University of Kent
Collaborator(s)	Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife Department of Biology, University of Swaziland Fórum para Natureza em Perigo, Moçambique
Report date	31 st October 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
Project website	http://www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/dice/research/maputaland.html

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 Project Officer visited Maputaland for 6 weeks during May and June 2005. He had meetings with all of the project partners and helped supervise the 4 DICE MSc students who were undertaking their fieldwork in South Africa and Mozambique.

The Project Officer ran two workshops in South Africa on using the CLUZ software for conservation planning. One of the workshops was held at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and was attended by 14 staff members from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The second workshop was requested by conservation planning practitioners working throughout South Africa and was held at Groenvlei in the Eastern Cape. This was attended by 8 people from the South African National Biodiversity Institute, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the University of Grahamstown.

The Project Officer attended the Society for Conservation Biology annual meeting in Brasilia in July 2005. He was asked to teach on a 2 day short course entitled “Systematic Conservation Planning – Concepts & Case Studies”. This was attended by 60 students from Brazil and a range of other countries in Latin America, Africa and Europe. He also gave an oral paper at the conference entitled “Incorporating potential income from game ranching into a systematic conservation planning exercise for Maputaland, South Africa”.

The two MSc students who were funded through the project, Bruno Nhancale and Petros Ngwenya, returned home in September 2005, having completed their programme. Petros has returned to his position at Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and Bruno is collecting field data as part of the Maputaland project, in conjunction with Fórum para Natureza em Perigo. Bruno has also applied to the African Wildlife Foundation and the Ford Foundation for funding to undertake a PhD at DICE, which would build on our work in Maputaland.

The Mozambique Government has decided to provide funds for one of their staff members to undertake the MSc in Conservation Biology at DICE. The student’s research will focus on the Limpopo

Transfrontier Conservation Area and will build on the approach we have developed for Maputaland. This is an excellent illustration of how our project is providing added value for our national partners.

The CLUZ software was updated in August 2005, based on feedback from users, and three new modules were added. The software has been downloaded by 345 people from 62 countries since its launch in July 2004.

The CLUZ extension acts as an interface for the conservation planning software MARXAN and we continue to have good links with the creators of MARXAN at the University of Queensland. Based on this, the Project Officer has been asked to provide advice to the programmers involved in producing a new version of MARXAN.

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.

The ground-truthing of the Mozambican section of the landcover map was delayed by a month because we were reliant on our project partner's vehicle, which needed to be repaired. These repairs have now been undertaken, so Bruno Nhancale is currently collecting the relevant data and so the landcover map will be completed in time for the final target-setting workshop.

The species mapping process is taking longer than planned but we have identified the relevant experts and the maps will also be completed in time for the final workshop.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Not applicable

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?

Not applicable

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.**