## **Darwin Initiative**

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

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

**Project Ref. No** 162/12/007

Project Title Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary Conservation Programme

Country(ies) Nigeria

**UK Organisation** ResourceAfrica, P.O. Box 198, Cambridge CB3 0TF

**Collaborator(s)** Cross River State Forestry Commission, Nigeria Conservation Foundation,

Pandrillus, Wildlife Conservation Society, Fauna & Flora International

Report date: October 2005 (April –September 2005)

Report No. (HYR

Year 3

1/2/3/4)

Project website N/A

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 following progress was made against each project output during the period under review in accordance with the workplan for the third and final year of Darwin funding.

Capacity Building – as part of the strategy to enhance the effectiveness of the protection and monitoring team and to involve the local communities further in the protection of the Sanctuary, 10 community scouts were hired to work alongside the Forestry Commission Rangers. These scouts were trained in various aspects of the protection and management of the Sanctuary including how to use of the Geographical Positioning System (GPS) technology to track and document monitoring data. Community delegates from the 16 communities around the Sanctuary were also trained on how to organise meetings with the entire communities, how to communicate messages related to the protection of the Sanctuary, how to record minutes of the meetings, and on how to assist the communities in identifying appropriate support for the protection of the Sanctuary.

Support to field team/sanctuary protection and monitoring – new patrol equipment and uniform were acquired for the rangers and scout team during the period under consideration. Intensive patrols were also organised during this period. Several hunting sheds were destroyed and dozens of snares and shot gun shells collected and disposed of. A hunter who killed a drill monkey was reported to the police and investigation is still in progress as the suspect absconded. The police has declared him wanted and has also requested members of the public to pass on information on his where about. The Sanctuary management opened up new patrol trails which allowed the core area of the Sanctuary to be easily patrolled.

Sanctuary infrastructure, headquarters and office equipment – Activities under this section revolved around enhancing the ecological integrity of the sanctuary through maintaining its boundaries and clearing out pillars particularly in areas where encroachment is highest. The section of the boundary cleared during this period has been marked with over 800 bush mango seedlings collected from Pandrillus nursery. With the dry season approaching, planting of indigenous seedlings as markers will be suspended to reduce the mortality rate. During this period, 5 signposts were erected at strategic locations around the Sanctuary. The facilities of

the research camp in the southern axis of the Sanctuary are currently being upgraded. The local government council chairman has approved the request made by the Sanctuary management for new office accommodation. Funding to build a ranger's outpost at the northern section of the Sanctuary was actively sought during this period with a strong application launched to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The decision is pending.

Community outreach, consultations and mobilisation -

The meeting of community delegates to discuss on matters related to the protection of the Sanctuary has become a routine and during the period under review, two of such meetings were held. All the delegates held meetings with their own communities to explore the best strategies of garnering assistance in the protection of the Sanctuary. This strategy included the enactment of by-laws and fines for infringements on forestry and wildlife laws.

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.

Unlike during the second year of the project when a series of unpleasant events nearly disrupted the project, the third year is rather exciting and all the activities planned were executed within the timeframe and resources agreed. However, the request by the Forestry Commission to explore ways of habituating the Afi gorillas to friendly human presence in prelude for a possible gorilla viewing and ecotourism is a likely source of friction amongst the Afi partners. Only a detailed feasibility study will be able to provide coherent guidelines and funding decision to commission that study is eagerly awaited.

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

This is not a serious matter to be brought to the attention of the Darwin Secretariat. It is believed that a consensus will be rapidly reached amongst the Afi partners as soon as the feasibility study report is released.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in...... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: <u>no/yes, in......</u>(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?

None

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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> 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, <u>stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.</u>