

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	12-025
Project Title	Building constituencies for site-based conservation in Myanmar
Country(ies)	Union of Myanmar
UK Organisation	BirdLife International
Collaborator(s)	Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA)
Report date	30 October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
Project website	WWW.BirdLifeindochina.org

- 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).**

Conservation assessment of Eastern Himalayas EBA undertaken

GIS analysis of forest cover in Eastern Himalayas undertaken in conjunction with Smithsonian Institution

Again this work has not proven possible to organize, and having already been rescheduled several times now seems unlikely that it can occur within the time remaining. Smithsonian interest in collaboration appears to have waned in this area and we have no internal GIS capacity to undertake the analysis.

Journal paper drafted

The completion of this work is contingent on the analysis mentioned above having been done. So again, unlikely that this will now be done.

Permission for export of bird specimens obtained

Permission but this was not forthcoming during the reporting period. A visit was made to The Natural History Museum in September and possibility of using another route for specimen export was explored.

Diagnosis of bird specimens at The Natural History Museum

Journal paper drafted

These two activities are contingent on the export of the specimens. These two activities have now been rescheduled for the next reporting period.

Ornithological surveys of representative habitats in Eastern Himalayas EBA undertaken and IBAs identified

Singu-Mandalay area/Rakhine State/Kachin wetlands

A two week survey will go ahead at Indawgyi Lake and along the Chindwin River in December (1-13th) as originally timetabled.

Kakaorazi NP or India border areas

A one month survey will begin on 7 January 2007 as timetabled. The survey will be undertaken in Kachin State.

Kachin Vulture survey

This was scheduled for October and November 2006 but key BANCA project staff were diverted to assist with an Environmental Impact Assessment for a proposed hydro-electric dam project planned for the Chindwin River. Also, permission to conduct the vulture survey in Shan State was rejected.

Scientific information fed into national conservation strategies, plans and programmes

Continued lobbying of Myanmar government to endorse proposals for an expanded Lenya NP
This has continued and we are now engineering an opportunity to meet directly with a person close ties to the senior leadership.

Publication of an advocacy leaflet for Lenya NP

Postponed indefinitely until we obtain a clear steer on the above mentioned meeting. Otherwise publishing such a document could be counter productive at this stage.

Participation in inception workshop for National Biodiversity Action Plan

U Uga (BANCA Chairman) was engaged as a senior consultant to assist the organization and facilitation of the inception workshop for National Biodiversity Action Plan, which was held in Yangon in June. Jonathan Eames (Project Leader) was the only international conservationist to attend this meeting.

Darwin Initiative and British Embassy featured in national and international press BANCA newsletter published

A newsletter was produced by BANCA during the reporting period. A BirdLife new release on people's changing attitudes towards wildlife in Chin State was featured on the Darwin homepage.

Marco Polo film project

Jonathan Eames met with Annette Scheurich from Marco Polo Film and Frank Steinheimer (Berlin Museum) at The Natural History Museum during September to discuss and plan this project. It is now planned that filming will occur in January and February 2007 in Kachin and Chin States, subject to government of Myanmar approval being obtained.

One national TV feature

The broadcast rights in Myanmar for the film to be produced by Marco Polo Film will granted to Myanmar Television.

SSGs in the Eastern Himalayas EBA report conservation outcomes

IBA SSG network developed to share information

This activity has been built into the new TMF funded project.

Publish a glossy lessons learnt document

Proposals to do this in the time remaining are under review.

Hold national workshop in Mindat or Kampelet

This activity has been built into the new TMF funded project

Hold cross visits between SSGs

This activity has been built into the new TMF funded project.

International conference attend to present scientific findings

On 10 June Jonathan Eames attended an international Symposium on the Fairy Pitta in Taiwan as the guest of the Wildbird Federation of Taiwan and the Wildbird Federation of Yunlin County, and made a key note presentation, in which he reported the results of work undertaken as part of the Darwin funded project in relation to the rediscovery of Gurney's Pitta in Myanmar.

Medium-sized grant proposals developed to expand IBA programme initiatives

Proposal developed to EU Tropical Forests budget-line

At the invitation of the European Union a project concept was developed. However, the failure of FAO staff to provide comments before the imposed deadline has meant that the proposal development was postponed for a further twelve months.

Proposal developed and funding approved for Natmataung National Park Site Support Group Network

During July BANCA project staff participated in a project development process for the above named project, The project will build a coalition of partners from the community level up that work together effectively for conservation and development activities in Natmataung National Park and Buffer Zone. A budget of Euro 30,000 has been obtained from DGIS-TMF of the Netherlands Government. Project partners will include UNDP and hopefully Care.

Evaluation of BANCA staff indicates significantly increased skills and knowledge base in biodiversity assessment, conservation planning and programme management
Timetabled for the next reporting period.

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.

There were no notable problems or unexpected developments.

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

No further changes proposed.

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?

No.

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.**