

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	13/001
Project Title	Conservation of wetlands and associated biodiversity in Northern Zambia
Country(ies)	Zambia
UK Organisation	University of Aberdeen
Collaborator(s)	Edmund Farmer – Kasanka Trust
Report date	20.10.04
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR1
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).

- Professor C. Soulsby (Professor of Hydrology, School of Geosciences, University of Aberdeen) and Dr. G.R. Iason, (Principal Ecologist, Macaulay Land Use Research Institute, Aberdeen) visited Kasanka National Park for a week in August to hold the project planning workshop with Edmund Farmer and his colleagues and stakeholders including ZAWA staff (a month ahead of schedule) and to plan the required programme of hydrological measurements, investigations of vegetation changes and observations of grazing and browsing pressure. As a result of their visit, it has been decided that instead of making two 18-month appointments of a hydrologist and a grazing ecologist, as detailed in our original application, it would be preferable if possible to make a single appointment. This would facilitate greater continuity in data gathering and training of park staff . A job description and project proposal has been prepared for a postdoctoral grazing ecologist with an interest in hydrology who would be trained on site in the hydrological techniques involved, by Professor Soulsby. This post has now been advertised in jobs.ac.uk and by circulation and several expressions of interest achieved. We plan to appoint the Darwin fellow early in 2005.
- It was fortuitous therefore that our nominated Darwin Fellow accepted a job offer a few days before we received the delayed notification of our award.
- A Landrover Defender has been purchased and shipped to Zambia and is presently in the customs pound in Lusaka while we attempt to obtain relief from import duty. The British High Commission has been of no help in this respect, and Kasanka Trust Zambia is in the process of registering as a charity as a mechanism for achieving relief of import duty.
- Patricia Chilufiya Mupeta, a well-qualified Zambian graduate with postgraduate experience of working for the Wildlife Conservation

Society in Zambia was identified by Edmund Farmer as a potential Darwin trainee. She successfully applied for the MSc course in Tourism and Conservation at the Durrell Institute for Conservation Ecology in the University of Kent and is now fully engaged in her first semester. Martin Stanley, as the representative of our funding partner, The Holly Hill Trust, has met with Patricia and Professor Racey will do so on December 14th.

- Edmund Farmer arranged for an experienced ornithologist and expert on the Birds of Zambia, Bob Stjernstedt, to train scouts in Kasanka National Park in bird guiding and vegetation identification so that they can pass on this information to tourists.

- Professor Racey and Martin Stanley will visit Kasanka National Park on 26th November - 5th December to meet stakeholders.

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 is a delay in appointing the Darwin Fellow and his/her Zambian research assistant

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

Yes – with Carrie Halhoun but no changes requested in the original agreement until Darwin fellow appointed

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: /yes, in...07/04..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/(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? Only to confirm £25K has been received from Holly Hill Trust

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.**