

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

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

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162-13-002
<b>Project Title</b>	Conservation Management Training and Capacity-building in Sub-Saharan Africa
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Partners: UK and South Africa; Target region sub-Saharan Africa
<b>UK Organisation</b>	International Centre for Protected Landscapes
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Centre for Environment and Development, University of KwaZulu-Natal
<b>Report date</b>	November 20th 2006
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	6
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.protected-landscapes.org/Darwin.html">http://www.protected-landscapes.org/Darwin.html</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 logframe analysis has been improved as per the recommendations of the Mid-Term Reviewer; the baseline timetable for the remainder of the Project has also been amended (see Appendix 1 attached to this document).

Progress during the last six months has been good, although a recent development has again threatened the planned launch date of the distance learning programme. The distance learning programme was finally given approval by the SA Department of the Environment in July 06. Our partners (CEAD) understood this to represent final government approval for them to launch the programme in January 07. However, just two weeks ago (November) they were informed that the programme has also to go through approval by the Council for Higher Education (CHE). We are currently waiting for the outcome of this process and have urged senior University personnel to back the initiative at this level. See also under Section 2.

Meanwhile, the programme was advertised on-line and in African media during August / September. Despite the limited promotion period on this occasion (because of the delay in government approval), 61 expressions of interest were received from 15 countries (including several from outside of Africa). Applications for the first intake of students closed on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Selection took place during an ICPL visit to CEAD in September. The applicants were seen to be of a high calibre. Limiting student numbers for the first intake of the programme, 14 candidates have been selected from 6 countries to begin their studies in January 07 – pending approval by CHE. Those candidates approved by the partners are now in the process of being vetted by normal Institutional procedures. Confirmation is expected by the end of November. Mentors have been identified and will be engaged according to final Academic Board approval. A combined 'expert seminar' and workshop for mentors and students has been scheduled for April 22-25<sup>th</sup> 2007.

Two members of ICPL visited CEAD during September. During the visit, a number of issues relating to programme development were dealt with.

Professor Rob Fincham will be visiting ICPL in early December and a meeting with the Darwin Secretariat is to be requested, to discuss various matters relating to the project.

Course materials are now close to completion – scheduled for December (see timetable). NB only materials relating to the later part of the course (post-October 2007) remain to be

completed.

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.

Having succeeded in gaining approval at a number of levels, to run this important education programme from South Africa, it now seems that there is yet another hurdle to negotiate before the programme can finally run. This all reflects strict quality control procedures at both institutional and government levels in SA and, more importantly perhaps, a lack of clarity and understanding of the approval process at institutional level and beyond (it is by all accounts, a new system).

Senior personnel at UKZN have been impressed with the quality of our programme documentation for the various approval processes and have suggested that it should be a 'model' for other submissions - this does not appear to be an issue. However, there seems to have been an element of surprise at the number of stages the programme has been required to pass through before it can finally be delivered.

At this stage of the Darwin project, we appreciate that the implications are potentially serious – we have informed UKZN of this. While we are still hoping that the masters' programme will run from January, there may yet be a delay – we hope not beyond March.

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

I am asking for a meeting with DI when Professor Rob Fincham from CEAD is in the UK in early December.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	pending
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Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	yes, in July 06 (following Mid Term Review)
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3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

**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](mailto: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 e-mail message.**