

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162-13-002
Project Title	Conservation Management Training and Capacity-building in Sub-Saharan Africa
Country(ies)	Partners: UK and South Africa; Target region sub-Saharan Africa
UK Organisation	International Centre for Protected Landscapes
Collaborator(s)	Centre for Environment and Development, University of KwaZulu-Natal
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Project website	http://www.protected-landscapes.org/Darwin.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 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 15th. 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 22-25th 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

