

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	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
Report date	October 29 th 2004
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
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).

ICPL did not receive final approval for this project until May. Nonetheless, key milestones for this first period have all been met and further progress has been made.

A visit by the ICPL Director and UK Project Leader, to the partners (CEAD) in South Africa, originally scheduled for May, took place in August. The delay was a result of commitments necessarily made during the period of uncertainty about the success of the project application. However, this intervening period was usefully occupied with preparatory work for the project.

The objectives of the first visit to South Africa were to: launch the project; refine and agree the MoU between the partners; review the project schedule; agree respective roles and responsibilities; and identify training needs. The visit was well received within CEAD and the University of KwaZulu Natal as a whole and all the objectives were met. While the MoU was not signed, a draft was left with the University's lawyers. Additional activities included: design of project letterhead; discussion of website and powerpoint presentations for the project; writing of joint articles for international and South African media, and familiarisation with CEAD and its staff.

A return visit of colleagues from CEAD to ICPL was made in September (for 2 weeks). Visitors included the three key members of academic staff who will be responsible for implementation of the distance learning programme at CEAD: Jan Korrubel (Project Leader), Professor Rob Fincham and Drummond Densham. The fourth member of staff previously targeted for this visit had recently left CEAD and has yet to be replaced. The visit addressed the issues identified in the Darwin application AND those established during the first visit to South Africa (especially training needs). Thus the objectives of this visit were: to sign the MoU; training in Distance Learning design, development and delivery; study and review of ICPL distance learning teaching materials; identification of new programme structure and content (modules / unit headings); identification of opportunities for further funding to widen the project, and for student scholarships to add to those places to be funded by Darwin; identification of potential partners / networks; training in: alternative protected area management philosophies, landscape approaches, environmental economics and ecological services, and training needs analysis.

All of these objectives were achieved. Critically, the MoU was signed by the partners but

remained to be finally ratified by the Registrar of UKZN. This process has subsequently been completed. Intensive training was given in the issues identified above and site visits were included; the ICPL materials were studied and reviewed; and the proposed programme structure and content was brainstormed and agreed. Writing of the first four modules was allocated according to staff expertise. An ongoing work programme was identified as follows: writing of first four modules as scheduled; development of promotional materials; identification of key people for network of in-country support of the programme around sub-Saharan Africa; applications for funding to support the proposed network of in-country co-ordinators; seminars / think tank to be developed at CEAD to generate local support for the project; IUCN / WCPA membership to be sought for CEAD; organisation of Seminar/workshop at CEAD on "landscape approaches" to be led in collaboration with ICPL partners; and development of joint conference paper, targetting the World Wilderness Congress 2005

A half page feature article on the project appeared in the *Guardian Weekly* Newspaper on October 29th, citing the Darwin Initiative. The article is entitled: "*Field Studies: A course for Africans by Africans aims to help protect some of the world's most significant parks*".

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.

The South African partners (CEAD) recently encountered an unexpected financial problem, when the University of KwaZulu-Natal announced the intention to top-slice the project funds by 20%. The project leader at CEAD subsequently argued against this very forcefully at senior level, and the Institution has agreed to defer such action for three years, until the proposed MSc programme is up and running and fee income will be generated. This means that none of the Darwin funds will be drawn off by the University.

The value of the South African Rand against Sterling has increased since the initial application for this project was made. Likewise, international travel costs have risen. This means that exchange visits, that are a key part of the project, have become more expensive than anticipated. To date, we remain within budget only because one less member of CEAD staff than was originally costed for, came to the UK in September. Should this emerge as a more serious problem we shall contact the Darwin Secretariat.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? **No**

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.**