



Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half-Year Report 2005: Ref 13/014

***Capacity building in mammal
management for Western Cape nature
reserves***

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Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	13/014
Project Title	Capacity building in mammal management for Western Cape nature reserves
Country(ies)	South Africa
UK Organisation	Durham University
Collaborator(s)	CapeNature, South Africa
Report date	£98306
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	Half Year Report 1
Project website	http://www.dur.ac.uk/r.a.hill/zebra_conservation.htm

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 primary objectives for the past 6-months that were laid out in the last annual report on the basis of the baseline timetable were:

- April – May 2005: Implement designed CyberTracker routines on updated software (CT v3.02). Initial training in CyberTracker for game rangers and chief conservator at DHNR led by Project Officer.
- June – September 2005: In-service training with field ranger feedback into CyberTracker routines. Update of 1999 CMZ photographic records to reflect 2005 population. Enhance database design and ensure flow of data from CyberTracker to CMZ database. Process to be monitored and evaluated by Project Officer with Project Leader site visit. Assessment of census techniques for De Hoop large mammal population. Project Leader to attend International Mammalogy Conference in August 2005 to present invited talk in equid symposium.

The Project Leader and Project Officer travelled to South Africa in April to initiate work at the study site and Dr Smith has remained at De Hoop to conduct the field ranger training. Since the release of the latest CyberTracker software (CT v3.02) for Palmtops was delayed until September 2005, the data collection routines have been implemented updated using the current version of the software (CT v2.79) and configured to operate on the Garmin handheld units. Dr Smith has subsequently conducted 6 months of successful field ranger training with the CyberTracker units. Now that this is complete, Dr Smith will be conducting an assessment of the value of upgrading to the updated CyberTracker software. Over the past 6 months the Project Officer has also updated the photographic records database of the De Hoop Cape mountain zebra population. This process is now virtually completed, with only a few higher quality images of specific individuals now required. The Project Leader is visiting South Africa in November 2005 to assess progress following the completion of the training and development phase.

Dr Hill and Dr Smith attended the Kruger National Park Networking Meeting at Skukuza, South Africa in April 2005. This meeting was a useful forum for establishing collaborations with other researchers in South Africa using the CyberTracker system. Dr Hill also attended the International Mammalogy Conference in Sapporo, Japan in August 2005 to present invited talk on the project within the equid symposium. Dr Hill was also invited to attend the IUCN Equid Specialist Group meeting at this same conference.

In summary, therefore, the project has made excellent progress over the last 6 months and is in line with the baseline timetable laid down in the original application.

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.

None.

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

Not applicable.

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?

None.

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.**