

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.	162/13/019
Project Title	The Greater Masai Mara Community Scout Programme
Country(ies)	Kenya
UK Organisation	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent
Collaborator(s)	Friends of Conservation-Kenya (FOC)
Report date	1 st April - 31 st October 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR2
Project website	www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/staff/linkie.html www.foc-uk.com/kenya_wild.asp

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 project has continued to made good progress. In April and May, the Project Officer (PO) and Principal Investigator spent four weeks and one week in Kenya, respectively. During this time, DICE and FOC hosted a meeting with the project partner tour operators (TOs) who are working in the Mara. The meeting was used to present the history of the Darwin Initiative in the Mara and the current scout programme and also to discuss TO involvement in the newly developed sponsor-a-scout scheme, which seeks to provide long-term funding for the scouts. The TOs expressed their concern about the wildlife-related threats in the Mara and perceived the scout programme as a necessary conservation strategy. The TOs also expressed their commitment and willingness to promote the sponsorship scheme to their clients.

In the field, the six scout coordinators spent four weeks between May and June training the 74 Darwin scouts, and also other NGO scouts, in wildlife survey techniques, law enforcement, community outreach, first aid and other key components of the scouts' patrols. A scout training manual was produced and edited by the Darwin scholar Stephen Kisotu and the PO.

In August, the PO gave a well received talk on the Darwin Project at the 2005 Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) meeting in Brazil. There has been subsequent interest in the scout programme, notably by Dr David Johns (SCB board member) who has requested information so he can feature the programme in a forthcoming book. The Darwin project was further promoted in an FOC newsletter article, written by the PO, which was sent out to 6000 readers in September.

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.

Three project activities planned for HY2 were delayed, but these have not affected overall project progress. A planned radio interview was not conducted, but has been discussed with the University of Kent's Communications & Development Office who has agreed to arrange regional and national interviews to coincide with the launch of the sponsor-a-scout website (see below). A delay in producing

the educational poster, was considered necessary in order to wait for the preferred graphic designer who works for The Times newspaper. The PO sent the designer a poster outline, project photographs, key conservation messages to include and the poster is now being developed and should be finished by mid November. The scout association has not yet been registered because all field staff have been busy training the scouts and marking out their areas of operation, a prerequisite for the association.

There have been three significant additional activities to this project since April 2005. A sponsor-a-scout website is being developed with a US web firm, which will allow a wider audience to be targeted, allow on-line sponsorship, and maintain an important feedback from the scouts to their sponsors. This should be completed by early December. Since August, three Geographic Information System (GIS) volunteers, post MSc level, are currently in the Mara providing further GIS training and support for the six scout coordinators. This has greatly helped with the mapping of all the scouts' patrol areas. Two more volunteers have been arranged for January 2006. In September, a DICE student completed an MSc dissertation on elephant conservation in the Mara study site. Another DICE MSc student will work with the scout programme next year to investigate the response of wildlife populations to scout patrols.

The scouts are continuing to prove successful in their communities. For example, in Maji Moto group ranch, the scouts mobilized their community members to completely eradicate the illegal timber cutting in Ilkorroyin forest (which translated means *forest of black and white colobus monkey*). Subsequent anti-threat patrols have not recorded further illegal logging. Whilst conducting a wildlife survey patrol in September, the scouts encountered a very sick elephant that posed a considerable threat to the surrounding communities. In cooperation with the Kenya Wildlife Service, the scouts helped to remove this problem animal from the wild. Also, the scouts have been recording the return the wild dogs back into the Mara. From Maji Moto group ranch, a total of 31 wild dogs were sighted by the scouts on five separate occasions in August and similar sightings have been reported from Olderkesi and Naikarra group ranches.

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?

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.**