

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Annual Report

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Ref. Number	13/021
Project Title	Strengthening Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in West Africa
Country(is)	Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone
UK Contractor	BirdLife International
Partner Organisation(s)	Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL), Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), Guinée Ecologie (GE), Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL) and SOS-FORETS in Côte d'Ivoire
Darwin Grant Value	GBP 189435
Start/End dates	30 June 2004 to 31 March 2007
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and report number (1, 2,3..)	1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 Annual Report 2
Project website	
Author(s), date	Paulinus Ngeh, Lincoln Fishpool, June 2006

2. Project Background

- Briefly describe the location and circumstances of the project and the problem that the project aims to address.

The project is located in the Upper Guinea Forest (UGF) region of West Africa, which extends from Guinea to Togo. These forests have among the highest diversity of mammals in the world and are recognised to be one of the 25 global hotspots for biodiversity conservation. It has also been recognised by BirdLife International as an Endemic Bird Area, to which 15 restricted range species are entirely confined, 11 of them globally threatened. Approximately 80% of the original forest cover has been lost and the remaining forest is highly fragmented. Only 3% of remaining forest in areas of highest importance for biodiversity is protected.

In 2001, BirdLife International published a book entitled Important Bird Areas of Africa and Associated Islands. The compilation of this book resulted in a fuller appreciation of just how scanty and out-of-date the biodiversity information on the Upper Guinea Forest region was. Several factors contributed to this but one of the fundamental reasons was the lack of indigenous capacity.

Lack of capacity has also been identified as one of the key gaps in biodiversity conservation in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) of all countries in the UGF zone. Moreover, these countries have yet to begin implementation of these plans.

This project is aimed at addressing the lack of capacity needs in the region through the training of 150 nationals from the UGF countries in biodiversity identification and survey techniques.

3. Project Purpose and Outputs

- State the purpose and outputs of the project. Please include your project logical framework as an appendix and report achievements and progress against it (or, if applicable, against the latest version of the logframe).

The project aims to improve capacity of government staff, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other relevant conservation institutions in tropical biodiversity survey and identification techniques, with a focus on birds, mammals and plants.

The project has four outputs, namely:

- *Regional/national training programmes for biodiversity survey and monitoring are established and functional*
 - *BirdLife's World Bird Database (WBDB) is installed and regularly updated by NGOs*
 - *National IBA inventories are completed and/or updated*
 - *Biodiversity information is published and disseminated*
- Have the outputs or proposed operational plan been modified over the last year, for what reason, and have these changes been approved by the Darwin Secretariat? (Please note that any intended modifications should be discussed with the Secretariat directly rather than making suggestions in this report).

No.

4. Progress

- Please provide a brief history of the project to the beginning of this reporting period. (1 para)

The project started effectively on the 24th of June, 2004, approximately three months after the official April 1st start date of Darwin projects. This delay was due to concerns about security in the sub-region. After consultations with staff of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the different countries in the sub-region, it was agreed that UK staff would initially travel to Ghana only and that travel to other countries should take place only after consultation and authorisation by Darwin. As a result of the delay, modifications were made to the delivery dates of some key milestones and GBP 10,000 was transferred from FY 2004/2005 to 2005/2006. A sub-regional training course was organised in Ghana, from October 3-24, 2004 where 15 nationals (3 from each of the five countries implementing the project) were trained as trainers by UK experts. These trainers have, in turn, organised a total of fourteen training courses, at the national level (3 per country, except for Ghana where there have been two only). The national training courses have resulted in the training of 151 nationals, bringing the total number of persons trained to 166 (which exceeds the total of 150 envisaged by the project).

- Summarise progress over the last year against the agreed baseline timetable for the period and the logical framework (complete Annex 1). Explain differences including any slippage or additional outputs and activities.

The first annual report of the project was prepared and submitted in May 2005. The six month report for 2005/2006 was produced and submitted in November 2005.

The second and third round of national training courses have been organised in all countries with the exception of Ghana which postponed the third training course to May 2006. A total of 86 nationals were trained during the period covered by this report; Liberia 27 (in three training courses), Côte d'Ivoire, 21; Sierra Leone 28; Ghana 10. This brings the total number of nationals trained or undergoing training, since the beginning of the project to 166. Reports of the training courses have been prepared and submitted to the project manager and also distributed to the organizations from which candidates were selected.

Information about the training courses and results of the findings was disseminated using a variety of means (radio discussions, television, electronic and print media etc). One thousand two hundred posters showing the threatened birds of the Upper Guinea forest have been produced and are being distributed along with the project brochure, produced last year.

Data and information from sites have used to update the BirdLife's World Bird Database (WBDB).

Most NGOs have completed their communication plans and initiated implementation. Since the plans are not restricted to the project their effective implementation will require more resources than are available through the project.

Production of the poster of threatened birds is an additional achievement (not in original project document). However, it was included in the plan of activities for last year, in view of its importance. Another additional achievement is the opportunity that the project has provided for students to undertake field work, gain experience and pursue studies for higher degrees (as is the case in Côte d'Ivoire). Agreements for long term collaboration have been established between Guinée Ecologie and one academic institution as a result of the contribution the project has made to student training.

Some trainees have obtained employment as a result of improvements in their capacity and exposure acquired through the training courses provided by the project.

The main slippage has been the lack of effective follow-up and reporting by non-student trainees. This is partly due to the fact that their organisations lack resources and equipment for trainees to continue to apply what they have learned after the training courses.

See logframe in Annex 1 for more information on progress over the year.

- Provide an account of the project's achievements during the last year. This should include concise discussion on methodologies and approaches by the project (e.g. research, training, planning, assessment, monitoring) and their consequences and impacts as well as results. Please **summarise** content on methodologies and approaches, and, if necessary, provide more detailed information in appendices (this may include cross-references to attached publications).

In the last year, nine national field training courses have been organised (2 per country with the exception of Ghana which organised only one). This has resulted in the training of 86 nationals in field survey techniques and, at the same time, collection of data from ten Protected Areas. This brings the total number of nationals trained to 166 and sites surveyed to 17. The reports from the training courses indicate a general decline in numbers of threatened species as well as numerous threats to the sites. The reports make recommendations for more detailed surveys and for actions to mitigate threats. Most of the reports recommend that a second phase of the project be envisaged to train more trainers (including the upgrading of trainees that have excelled to become trainers).

Guinea has adopted a continuous training programme for its 32 nationals, in view of the very low levels of knowledge and experience. This programme is implemented in collaboration with 3 academic institutions; Département de Biologie de l'Université de Conakry; Institut de Faranah and also Faculté de Science et de l'Environnement du Centre universitaire de N'Zérékoré with whom Guinée Ecologie has signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The agreement permits the centre to use the offices and field facilities of Guinée Ecologie and Guinée Ecologie to contribute to the review and strengthening of the programmes of the centre. Both parties have agreed to exchange information and expertise where and when necessary. Guinée Ecologie, in collaboration with the Department of Biology of the University of Conakry, has established a Technical Education Committee, to monitor and provide advice on the Darwin project.

The 3 trainers from Guinea and Liberia participated in a Rapid Appraisal Program organized by Conservation International. This has helped to further strengthen the capacity of the trainers.

Dissemination of project results and information continued throughout the reporting period. NGOs continued to distribute the bilingual project brochure in addition to the poster of threatened birds of Upper Guinea, produced during the reporting period. Press releases, television, radio discussions and talk shows, publication in newspapers and newsletters were also used to disseminate project information and results. An article was published in the BirdLife Africa newsletter on the probable sighting of the globally threatened Ibadan Malimbe in the Kakum National Park in Ghana. The national coordinators made presentations on their organizations and their activities, including those of the project, at BirdLife International's Council of African Partnership meeting in Kribi, Cameroon, which brought together nationals from 32 countries. Most of the national coordinators participated at a workshop organised by Conservation International to help develop its programme for West Africa.

In Côte d'Ivoire, SOS-FORETS organized a workshop in collaboration with the University of Cocody in Abidjan and a CEPF-funded project, on biodiversity survey, the threats facing biodiversity and the development of strategies for its conservation in-country. The workshop was initiated as a result of threats recorded during the Darwin project training courses at some of the protected areas.

Sierra Leone has completed and published its national IBA directory and trained three nationals in the use of the WBDB.

Additional books (50 field guides to Birds of West Africa, by Borrow and Demey and 60 copies of Field Guide to Forest Trees of Ghana by Hawthorne) were acquired and distributed to NGOs. Liberia acquired 4 binoculars and 2 telescopes from NABU (BirdLife Partner in Germany).

A total of GBP 78,000 was secured by NGOs from external sources during this period, with an additional GBP 55,000 in contributions from NGOs. In Sierra Leone, USD 3000 was obtained from the Gola project for the second training course. Guinée Ecologie secured GBP 7000 from the British High Commission in Conakry for the rehabilitation of 3 glasshouses in the botanic garden, Camayenne, Conakry;. SCNL in Liberia secured USD 15,000 from the FAO's Telefood Program to undertake a project aimed at creating income-generation opportunities for communities, and to create a forum for raising awareness and training of local people for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. GWS in Ghana secured Euro 30,000 from TMF and Euro 42,570 from Vogelbescherming (BirdLife Partner in The Netherlands) to undertake work on income generating activities and water bird surveys respectively.

Guinée Ecologie is rehabilitating a field ecological centre at Kindia near the Grande Chute IBA to be named the "Darwin Centre".

Guidance notes for training in field identification techniques, with a focus on birds, mammals and plants, developed during the regional training in October 2004, are continuously being updated and adapted to national situations as more experienced is gained from the field work.

The initial approach adopted for the training has been maintained, with slight modifications based on national conditions. This has included the selection of candidates, sites and logistic arrangements as well as the field training itself. Candidates are selected based upon agreed criteria including age (<40 years), commitment to biodiversity conservation, active involvement in conservation related activities, level of knowledge in biodiversity identification and survey and willingness to work long hours. Candidate selection also takes into account as many stakeholder categories as possible, in order to help ensure sustainability. Site selection takes into consideration accessibility, biodiversity richness, distance and security. The field training itself is based on agreed approaches and guidelines

developed during the sub-regional training. Details of approach and methods are available in the various training reports (available on request)

Project monitoring was undertaken by:

- *the project manager, through review of progress and training reports, discussions via email and visits to countries/ field sites,*
- *the project team leader, through review of progress reports and email correspondence.*
- *UK experts during field training courses.*
- *Discuss any significant difficulties encountered during the year and steps taken to overcome them.*
 - *Trainees (non-students) have found it difficult to continue developing their capacity and/or undertaking surveys after the training courses because their organisations often lack resources to complement the little support provided by the project which is usually insufficient to meet the needs for effective survey and monitoring required. The project is making efforts to acquire additional resources to meet these needs. However, the project will target only the committed trainees to ensure the effective use of any materials and equipment provided.*
 - *There are still communication difficulties with some of the NGOs, especially Guinée Ecologie and Conservation Society of Sierra Leone. This is partly due to technical problems, such as power outages and frequent break down of communication equipment. This has resulted in delays in reporting and transfer of funds. This was partially resolved through the use of wireless communication (cellular phone) but which has financial implications, due to high charges this type of communication in Africa.*
 - *The increase in the cost of crude oil led to significant increases in the price of fuel (150% in the case of Ghana) and consequently the cost of goods and services. This has had budgetary consequences on the project. This was partly resolved by reducing the length of field training courses and requesting for reallocation of funds from underspent budget lines.*
- *Has the design of the project been enhanced over the last year, e.g. refining methods, indicators for measuring achievements, exit strategy?*

No overall change in project design was enacted in the last year. However, in Guinea, the same group of nationals (thirty two) have benefited from the three training courses. This approach was adopted in consultation with three academic institutions at which most of the participants were studying and as a result of the very low level of knowledge and lack of field experience of the participants.

- Present a timetable (workplan) for the next reporting period.

<i>May/June</i>	<i>Second Annual Project report produced</i>
<i>May/June</i>	<i>Third national training workshop of 15 nationals on biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring undertaken in Ghana.</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>Introduction to the new web-enabled version of the WBDB</i>
<i>June</i>	<i>Second Project Steering Committee Meeting organised</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>Report of third national training workshop of 15 nationals on biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring undertaken in Ghana.</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>National inventories completed in Liberia, Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire</i>
<i>August</i>	<i>Reports from trainees of activities undertaken which are of relevance to the project or as a result of training received in the project.</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>Half year report produced</i>
<i>November</i>	<i>IBA directory for Ghana completed</i>
<i>January</i>	<i>Regional communication plan completed</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>Five press releases on key outcomes of the project</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>Report on status of project trainees.</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>IBA directory for Ghana published</i>
<i>March</i>	<i>Poster of key findings of project produced</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Final National Project reports</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>Final project report</i>

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

- Have you responded to issues raised in the review of your last year's annual report? Have you discussed the review with your collaborators? Briefly describe what actions have been taken as a result of recommendations from last year's review.

Not applicable

6. Partnerships

- Describe collaboration between UK and host country partner(s) over the last year. Are there difficulties or unforeseen problems or advantages of these relationships?

Collaboration between UK and Partners in host countries continues to be good. The additional books for the project were bought from the UK with assistance from the global secretariat of BirdLife International. The secretariat also provided technical support in the design and production of the project poster on threatened birds of the Upper Guinea Forest region. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife Partner in the UK) continues to provide technical and financial support to two of the NGOs with which they had established long term relationship. The national botanical

trainer in Guinea has been awarded a six months sponsorship, by Kew Gardens, to travel to the UK and improve his knowledge in Botany.

- Has the project been able to collaborate with similar projects (Darwin or other) in the host country or other regions, or establish new links with / between local or international organisations involved in biodiversity conservation?

Collaboration has been strengthened and/or initiated with other biodiversity conservation projects and organisations in all countries. In Liberia, the project is collaborating with another Darwin project on communal forests, implemented by Fauna and Flora International (FFI) at the Sapo National Park. Data and information collected during the training course at this site will be shared with FFI. Liberia was supported (technically and materially) by NABU (BirdLife International Partner in Germany) during the second training course. The trainers in Guinea and Liberia were selected by Conservation International to participate in the Rapid Assessment Programme which was organised in these countries. Kew Gardens-UK has provided sponsorship for the botanical trainer from Guinea to travel to the UK to study for six months. Funds have been secured from Rio Tinto by BirdLife International to support environmental programmes in Guinea Ecologie. In Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana the project is collaborating with another project, funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund of Conservation International, on biodiversity survey of some key biodiversity areas.

Relationships have been established and/or strengthened with relevant government departments and universities in all the countries. These relationships have been formalised in some countries, such as Guinea.

7. Impact and Sustainability

- Discuss the profile of the project within the country and what efforts have been made during the year to promote the work. What evidence is there for increasing interest and capacity for biodiversity resulting from the project? Is there a satisfactory exit strategy for the project in place?

The impact of the project is generally positive in all the countries to varying degrees and at different levels. At the individual level, some trainees have been employed by other biodiversity conservation projects as a result of improvement in their capacity and exposure acquired through the project. Many students have gained experience and field exposure and others are pursuing further studies as a result of the project. The collaboration agreements signed between Guinée Ecologie and three academic institutions in Guinea is clear testimony of the growing interest in the project. The University of Côte d'Ivoire is providing support (vehicle for transportation) to the project as appreciation of the support the project is offering to students to pursue higher education. The project has contributed significantly in raising the image of the NGOs at the national level and strengthened collaboration with many other projects and institutions as indicated above.

There is general consensus, among the implementing NGOs, that a second phase of the project should be requested to upgrade and fully equip the trainees that have excelled in this phase as trainers. This will constitute the building block for the sustainability of the project since it would increase the number of trainers in each country to continue with the training of nationals, when and where the need arises. The availability of a pool of experienced conservationists will reduce the necessity for the recruitment of foreign experts to undertake biodiversity surveys and assessment in the sub-region.

8. Post-Project Follow up Activities (max 300 words)

This section should be completed ONLY if your project is nearing completion (penultimate or final year) and you wish to be considered to be invited to apply for Post Project Funding. *Each year, a small number of Darwin projects will be invited to apply for funding. Selection of these projects will be based on promising project*

work, reviews to date, and your suggestions within this section. Further information on this scheme introduced in 2003 is available from the Darwin website.

- From project progress so far, what follow-up activities would help to embed or consolidate the results of your project, and why would you consider these as suitable for Darwin Post Project Funding?

Reports of trainees, trainers and the UK experts indicate that the project has gone a very long way in developing general and basic knowledge of beneficiaries in the identification and survey of tropical biodiversity. However, as one of the experts said: "...it would be an illusion to expect the trainees to be able to conduct proper ornithological surveys independently at present or in the immediate future. To enable them eventually to reach that stage, their request for more practice and assistance should be agreed to, in order for them not to lose the knowledge and skills they have just acquired." There is general consensus that a second phase of the project which would focus on upgrading the knowledge of trainees who showed commitment and have the ability to become trainers, would be extremely useful. Such a second phase should ensure all trainees are adequately trained and equipped (based on the experience derived during the current phase) to be able to function as trainers independently after the project.

- What evidence is there of strong commitment and capacity by host country partners to enable them to play a major role in follow-up activities?

All the academic institutions whose students are benefiting from the training courses have indicated their willingness to include ornithological training in their curriculum, if resource persons were available to facilitate the course. One of these institutions already has established a collaboration agreement with one of the implementing Partners.

The high demand by individuals and institutions for participation in the current project indicate the need and value of the project to them and/or the institution.

Biodiversity survey and monitoring form an integral part of the programme of all the Partner organisations in the host countries. This was one of the criteria for their selection to join in the project in the first place.

9. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

- Explain differences in actual outputs against those agreed in the initial 'Project Implementation Timetable' and the 'Project Outputs Schedule', i.e. what outputs were not or only partly achieved? Were additional outputs achieved?

Project Implementation timetable

<i>First Annual Project report produced</i>	<i>Done</i>
<i>Candidates and sites identified for the second national field training in biodiversity identification and survey techniques</i>	<i>Done</i>
<i>Reports from candidates who participate in the first national training courses on sites they have surveyed and/or activities they have undertaken which are of relevance to the project</i>	<i>Not done</i>
<i>Reports from Trainers of activities undertaken which are of relevance to the project or as a result of training received in the project.</i>	<i>Not done</i>
<i>Second Project Steering Committee Meeting organised</i>	<i>Not done</i>
<i>Second set of five national training workshops to train 45 nationals on biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring undertaken.</i>	<i>Done</i>

<i>Second set of five national training reports produced with updates of biodiversity information on those sites used for the training</i>	<i>Done</i>
<i>Press release on significant findings during the second field training course</i>	<i>Partially done</i>
<i>World Bird Database updated with data from sites used for the second national training course</i>	<i>Done</i>
<i>Candidates and sites identified for the third national field training in biodiversity identification and survey techniques.</i>	<i>Done</i>
<i>Half year report produced</i>	<i>Done</i>
<i>Third set of five national training workshops of 45 nationals biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring undertaken.</i>	<i>Partially done</i>
<i>Third set of five national training reports produced with updates of biodiversity information on those sites used for the training.</i>	<i>Partially done</i>
<i>Press release on significant findings from the third field training course.</i>	<i>Partially done</i>
<i>World Bird Database updated with data from sites used for the third national training course.</i>	<i>Done</i>
<i>Reports from candidates who participate in the second national training on sites they have surveyed and/or activities they have undertaken which are of relevance to the project</i>	<i>Not done</i>
<i>Poster of threatened birds and mammals of the UGF produced and disseminated</i>	<i>Partially done</i>
<i>National IBA inventory of Sierra Leone published.</i>	<i>Done</i>
<i>Second draft national IBA inventory of Ghana completed</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>First draft of national IBA inventory of Guinea completed</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>First draft of national IBA inventory of Cote d'Ivoire 50% drafted</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Draft Communication plans completed</i>	<i>Partilly done</i>

Implementation and monitoring of activities of trainees who are not students has proved to be problematic since their organisations lack the resources to enable them undertake surveys after the training courses.

Ghana had to postpone the third training course to May 2006 because of the unavailability of one of the trainers.

Additional outputs achieved:

Long term collaboration agreement signed between Guinée Ecologie and one academic institution in Guinea.

The trainers in Guinea and Liberia enhanced their knowledge through their involvement in Rapid Appraisal program of Conservation International.

Recruitment of some trainees by other conservation projects as a direct result of improvement in capacity acquired from the training courses offered by the project.

Five trainees, in Côte d'Ivoire, are studying for higher degrees with support from the project.

- Provide details of dissemination activities in the host country during the year, including information on target audiences. Will dissemination activities be continued by the host country when the project finishes, and how will this be funded and implemented?

1200 posters of threatened birds of Upper Guinea Forest) were produced and are being disseminated. The project was officially launched in Liberia with all relevant stakeholders in attendance. Information on the project and findings were published in the print media in all countries. In Côte d'Ivoire alone 7 articles were published in different news papers « Conservation de la biodiversité : SOS – Forêts forme des techniciens » Auteur : Moussa Touré 14-02-2005. *Fraternité Matin - Quotidien national à grand tirage*. Tel : +225 20 37 06 66 - Fax : +225 20 37 25 45 Site : www.fratmat.net; « Des experts proposent des solutions » Auteur : Didier KORE 17-02-2005. *Le Courrier D'Abidjan*. Tel : +225 22 43 38 22 / +225 22 43 38 25 Fax : +225 22 43 30 46 - E-mail : lecourrier@yahoo.fr Site web : www.lecourrierdabidjan.info « Biodiversité : SOS-Forêts veut apporter un plus à la conservation » Auteur : Moussa Touré - 21-02-2005 - *Fraternité Matin - Quotidien national à grand tirage*. Tel : +225 20 37 06 66 - Fax : +225 20 37 25 45 Site : www.fratmat.net « Diversité biologique : 14 ZICO en Côte d'Ivoire pour la protection des oiseaux » Auteur : Moussa Touré 21-02-2005 - . *Fraternité Matin - Quotidien national à grand tirage*. Tel : +225 20 37 06 66 - Fax : +225 20 37 25 45 Site : www.fratmat.net « Des ONG condamnent » Auteur : Moussa Touré 25-07-2005 - . *Fraternité Matin - Quotidien national à grand tirage*. Tel : +225 20 37 06 66 - Fax : +225 20 37 25 45 Site : www.fratmat.net; « Protection de la biodiversité : il faut sauver les forêts classées de Monogaga et de Dassioko » Auteur : Moussa Touré 12-09-2005 - . *Fraternité Matin - Quotidien national à grand tirage*. Tel : +225 20 37 06 66 - Fax : +225 20 37 25 45 Site : www.fratmat.net; « la forêt classée de Monogaga est en danger » Auteur : Moussa Touré 12-09-2005 - . *Fraternité Matin - Quotidien national à grand tirage*. Tel : +225 20 37 06 66 - Fax : +225 20 37 25 45 Site : www.fratmat.net. In addition SOS-FORETS had three radio and a television discussions about the project. In Liberia, a press release was produced, two radio discussions held and one publication made in the local news paper. Sierra Leone held a couple of radio discussions and interviews as well as publications in national newspapers. The participation of national project coordinators at conferences offered an opportunity to disseminate project results either directly through presentations, or indirectly through interactions with participants. The process of selecting candidates from the different organizations also presented an opportunity to disseminate information and raise awareness about the project. The trainees also serve as avenues for dissemination and awareness raising at the project, at least, at the level of their organizations. The increasing number of demands from individuals and organizations to participate in the training courses is testimony the amount of publicity the project has received.

- Please expand and complete Table 1. **Quantify** project outputs over the last year using the coding and format from the Darwin Initiative Standard Output Measures (see website for details) and give a brief description. Please list and report on appropriate Code Nos. only. The level of detail required is specified in the Guidance notes on Output Definitions, which accompanies the List of Standard Output Measures

Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)

Code No.	Quantity	Description
4C	86	Eighty six nationals trained during this reporting period in the five countries by the trainers with support from 2 UK experts (in Côte d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone). This brings the total number of nationals trained to 166.
4D	30	A total of 30 training weeks have been provided during the nine training courses (average of 3 weeks per training course). This brings the number of training weeks to 41 since the beginning of the project.
7	2	One thousand two hundred (1200) copies of a poster of threatened birds of the Upper Guinea Forest were produced. Guidance notes prepared during the sub-regional training were modified to suite local conditions as more experienced was gained from the field work.
10	1	The national IBA inventory for Sierra Leone has been published.
12B	3	The World Bird Database (WBDB) has been improved by BirdLife International to accommodate non-avian taxa and to be used via the internet. Plans are underway to train national coordinators in the use of the modified WBDB. Three nationals were trained in Sierra Leone in the use of the database.
13B	5	All countries have used data and information collected to update information in the WBDB.
14B	15	National coordinators have participated in a number of regional and national conferences at which project information was disseminated. Some of the regional conferences in which almost all national coordinators were present are; BirdLife's Council of Africa Partnership Meeting in Cameroon; Conservation International Planning workshop for West Africa held in Liberia; Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Assessment Workshop in Sierra Leone. In addition to the regional conferences, national coordinators attended a number of national conferences some of which were organised and/or facilitated by their organisations.
15	13	Twelve articles were published in national newspapers about the project. One press release was produced in Liberia. This brings the total press releases to 19 since the project started.
19	10	A total of nine radio interviews and features and one television broadcast were done at national level with focus on the findings of the project and impressions of trainees. The project has now made a total of 20 radio and television broadcast.
20		Additional books worth GBP 3300 were purchased and

	distributed. Liberia was provided with 2 telescopes and 4 binoculars by NABU (BirdLife Partner in Germany).
23	GBP 78,000 was leveraged from external sources and GBP 55,000 from NGO contribution. This brings the total amount leveraged to GBP 174,000

- In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Details will be recorded on the Darwin Monitoring Website Publications Database. Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2: Publications

Type * (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
Book	<i>Important Bird Areas in Sierra Leone: Priorities for Biodiversity Conservation</i> , Arnold A Okoni-Williams, Hazell S. Thompson, Allie P. Koroma and Peter Wood, 2005	Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL), and Forestry Division, GoSL. Freetown, Sierra Leone	CSSL 2 Pyke Street PO Box 1292 Freetown Sierra Leone cssl_03@yahoo.com	-

10. Project Expenditure

- Please expand and complete Table 3.

Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project schedule)	Expenditure	Balance

- Highlight any recently agreed changes to the budget and explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget.

11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

- Discuss methods employed to monitor and evaluate the project this year. How can you demonstrate that the outputs and outcomes of the project actually contribute to the project purpose? I.e. what are the indicators of achievements (both qualitative and quantitative) and how are you measuring these?

The project was monitored and evaluated through the review of project progress and training reports; reports by consultants and field visits.

The information provided in the log frame (Annex 1) indicates how the outputs are actually contributing to the project purpose. The indicators of achievement and how they are measured are presented below

Indicators	Means of verification
<i>Number of nationals trained</i>	<i>-Lists and addresses of trainees -Training reports (trainees and consultants), -Field visits during training</i>
<i>National IBA inventories</i>	<i>-Inventories available for inspection</i>
<i>Updated databases</i>	<i>-Review of NGO databases</i>
<i>Training materials and tools</i>	<i>-List of materials and tools -materials and tools available for inspection</i>
<i>Number of organisations aware of database</i>	<i>-List of organisations -Interviews of members of other organisations -Citations of database by other organisations</i>
<i>Number of Sites</i>	<i>-Site survey reports -Field visits</i>
<i>Communication plans</i>	<i>-Plans available for inspection</i>
<i>Publicity materials produced and disseminated</i>	<i>-Copies of materials available for inspection. -Level of public awareness raised about the project through for example public response to radio interviews and features on project. -Number of individuals and organisations collaborating with the project. -Number of requests to participate in the project.</i>

- What lessons have you learned from this year's work, and can you build this learning into future plans?

There was more enthusiasm and commitment from student participants, mainly because the training was linked to their academic programme and thereby had academic implications. In addition to the desire to improve capacity, there should be additional motivation to encourage effective participation by participants.

12. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum)

■ I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project over the year that you consider worth highlighting to ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat. This could relate to achievements already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention e.g. in terms of best practice. The idea is to use this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including e.g. publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin promotion material, or on the Darwin website. As we will not be able to ask projects on an individual basis for their consent to publish the content of this section, please note the above agreement clause.

The project has offered hope to many students, especially in Guinea and Côte d'Ivoire, to complete and/or further their academic education. The general lack of resources in many academic institutions in the sub-region, has restricted tuition of students mainly to theoretical aspects with little or no practical work. Secondly, there is little or no expertise, academic or otherwise, in the field of ornithology in the sub-region. The project has therefore provided an opportunity for these institutions not only to improve the capacity of students in their various fields but has also raised awareness and interest in ornithology. All the academic institutions benefiting from project support have indicated their intention to include ornithology in their curriculum once resource persons to undertake the course are identified and available.

In Guinea, thirty two undergraduate students from three academic institutions; Département de Biologie de l'Université de Conakry; Faculté de science de l'Environnement du Centre universitaire de N'Zérékoré and Institut de Faranah, are benefiting from the training courses provided by the project and material support from the implementing NGO in Guinea, Guinée Ecologie. The relationship between Guinée Ecologie and one of the institutions (Faculté de Science et de l'Environnement du Centre Universitaire de N'Zérékoré) has been formalised to ensure long-term collaboration. In Cote d'Ivoire, five post graduate students of the Université d'Abidjan, Cocody, are undertaking field research within the framework of the project for their Master degrees. By combining the little resources of the institutions with project resources and support, a total of thirty seven students are now able to undertake field work to complete their course and prepare their dissertations for higher degrees. The importance of the project to the academic future and carriers of these students cannot be over emphasised.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2003/2004

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2005-Mar 2006	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation of biological diversity, • The sustainable use of its components, and • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
<p>Purpose <i>To improve capacity for biodiversity surveys and monitoring in Important Bird Areas in the Upper Guinea Forest of West Africa.</i></p>	<p>At least 150 nationals trained in biodiversity survey and monitoring in the sub-region</p> <p>National Inventories of IBA established and/or updated</p> <p>Updated database of biodiversity in the Upper Guinea forest zone</p>	<p><i>86 nationals trained which brings the total trained over the two years to 166. Fifteen were trained as trainers.</i></p> <p><i>Sierra Leone has published its National IBA directory</i></p> <p><i>Database updated with data from 9 sites surveyed during the training courses</i></p>	<p><i>Ghana to train at least 10 nationals in the last training course.</i></p> <p><i>National inventories completed in Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. IBA directory for Ghana published.</i></p> <p><i>NGOs trained in the new, web enabled version of the WBDB.</i></p> <p><i>One site surveyed in Ghana during the last training course</i></p>
<p>Outputs</p>			
<p>Regional/national training programme for biodiversity survey and monitoring established and functional</p>	<p>150 nationals trained by end of year 2 of the project</p> <p>Training materials and tools</p>	<p><i>86 nationals trained (Ghana, 10; Sierra Leone, 28; Côte d'Ivoire, 21; Liberia, 27). Guinea continued training the 32 nationals from last year.</i></p> <p><i>Additional books (50 field guides to</i></p>	<p><i>Organise training for 10 additional nationals</i></p> <p><i>Acquire and distribute additional materials and equipment.</i></p>

	produced	<i>birds of West Africa, Borrow and Demey and 60 copies of Field guide to forest trees, Hawthorne) were acquired and distributed to NGOs.</i> <i>Liberia acquired 4 binoculars and 2 telescopes from NABU (BirdLife Partner in Germany).</i>	
World bird database installed and regularly updated by NGOs	Number of organisations aware of the existence and using the database WBDB populated and regularly updated	<i>WBDB has been improved and can now be used via the web.</i> <i>Data and information from 9 sites used for the training courses was incorporated into WBDB</i>	<i>Organise training in the use of the new and web-enabled WBDB (not budgeted for by the project)</i>
National IBA inventories established and/or updated	5 National IBA inventories produced At least 35 IBAs survey/ monitored by the end of the project	<i>Sierra Leone has published national IBA Inventory.</i> <i>Ghana has agreed on timetable to update data on 10 sites as a result of recent surveys before publishing its national IBA Inventory.</i> <i>Nine additional IBAs surveyed bringing the total number of sites surveyed to 16</i>	<i>Ghana to complete and publish National IBA directory.</i> <i>Guinea, Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire to complete inventory of IBAs</i>
<i>Biodiversity information published and disseminated</i>	Sub-regional and national communication and publicity plans developed Publicity materials produced and disseminated	<i>Most NGOs have completed their communication plans. A consultant will be hired to prepare a more exhaustive communication plan for the sub-region with funding from another project.</i> <i>1200 posters of threatened birds of</i>	<i>Finalise the development the regional communication plan.</i> <i>Produce poster of key project results.</i> <i>Continue distribution of poster of threatened birds</i>

		<p><i>the Upper Guinea Forest have been produced and are being distributed alongside the project brochure produced last year</i></p> <p><i>13 press releases produced which brings total to 19 since the project began.</i></p> <p><i>Seven radio interviews and features done (which brings the total for the project to 17).</i></p> <p><i>Six month project report produced.</i></p>	<p><i>At least 5 radio discussions on key project outcomes organised.</i></p> <p><i>At least 5 articles published in various newsletters at national and regional level.</i></p> <p><i>At least 10 press releases on project findings produced.</i></p> <p><i>Six month report of project produced</i></p> <p><i>Final project report produced</i></p>
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Note: Please do NOT expand rows to include activities since their completion and outcomes should be reported under the column on progress and achievements at output and purpose levels.