

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	13/021
Project Title	Strengthening Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in West Africa
Country(ies)	Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone
UK Organisation	BirdLife International
Collaborator(s)	Botany Dept, University of Legon
Report date	31 October 2004 (Reporting period = 24 June-1 October 2004)
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 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).

The contract for the project was signed on June 24, 2004. Since then the following project targets have been achieved:

- Contractual agreement and terms of reference have been established and agreed with identified UK professionals to undertake the training of trainers and subsequent supervision.
- Trainees have been identified in the different countries in collaboration with the focal points based in the BirdLife contact NGOs. This was mainly through review of curricula vitae submitted by the focal points, based on the criteria outlined in the project document. Trainees were selected from NGOs, government and academic institutions.
- Project document has been translated into French to facilitate implementation by the French speaking countries.
- A bilingual (English and French) brochure of the project has been produced. Distribution will commence during the official launch of the project planned for October 5, 2004 in Accra Ghana.
- A project Steering Committee (PSC) has been constituted to oversee the implementation of the project. Draft terms of reference of the PSC have been established and distributed to members for comments. The PSC is made up of representatives of all the lead NGOs, project team leader, project manager (secretary), head of the African Partnership Secretariat of BirdLife, the country programme manager of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and a representative from Conservation International. The PSC will meet at least once a year making use of opportunities such as the Council of African Partnership meetings that are held yearly and which bring together most of the members of the PSC and other similar opportunities. In the absence of such opportunities and /or in addition business will be conducted via email.
- Equipment and materials (binoculars, telescopes, books etc) for the sub-regional training have been acquired. The government of Ghana has exempted from custom duties equipment worth GBP 2000 as support to the project.
- Plans and preparation for the official launch of the project and the sub-regional training of trainers have been finalized:
 1. Launch will take place on October 5, 2004.
 2. Press release has been prepared and embargoed till the launch date.
 3. The Acting British High Commissioner in Ghana (Robin Gwynn) has offered to host the launch.
 4. Two ministers have been invited to attend the launch. The Honourable Minister of Lands and Forestry and the Honourable Minister of Regional Cooperation and the New Partnership for African

Development (NEPAD).

5. Sixty persons from various institutions have been invited to the launch.
6. A detailed plan and budget for the launch and sub-regional training has been developed.
7. In collaboration with the implementing NGO in Ghana, two sites have been selected for the sub-regional training.
8. Letters of authorization have been obtained from the Wildlife Division of the Ministry of Lands and Forestry permitting the use of these sites for the sub-regional training.

Travel and other logistical arrangements for the launch and sub-regional training are being finalized.

Terms of Reference of Project Steering Committee, the project launch press release, details of trainees and list of invitees to launch can be supplied on request.

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.

Project agreement was delayed due to concerns about security in some of the implementing countries in the sub-region. This has led to a slight modification to the budget and timetable of activities. These issues have been discussed with the Department and it was agreed that GBP 10,000 should be transferred from f.y. 2004/2005 to f.y. 2005/2006, and that the UK experts will initially only travel to Ghana. Any travel to the other countries are subject to the approval of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and local embassies.

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

See above.

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.**