

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

“Annual” Progress Report 2005 (due to the delayed start of the project it was agreed in April 2005 to submit only a 2 page progress report instead of the usual annual report)

Project Ref. No.	162/13/030
Project Title	Gurneys Pitta Research and Conservation in Thailand and Myanmar
Country(ies)	Thailand, Myanmar
UK Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Collaborator(s)	Bird Conservation Society of Thailand, Department of National Parks (Thailand), FORRU (University of Chiang Mai), Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (Myanmar), BirdLife Indochina Project.
Report date	26 th April 2005
Report No.	1 st Progress Report, covering initial 3 months – 1 Jan to 31 Mar 2005
Project website	TBC

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months 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 started on 1st January 2005 after a delayed start (the project was on a reserve list carried over from the previous round). Despite the short lead in period, much has been achieved in this first quarter:

- Planning and advocacy workshop held in Yangon, Myanmar, attended by senior Government officials, representatives of major national and international conservation NGOs and the British Ambassador. This workshop presented results of the ongoing Darwin project “Building constituencies for site-based conservation in Myanmar” and introduced the current project.
- Discussions held with project partners on project management and staffing in Myanmar.
- Visit by RSPB staff to Thailand and Myanmar to discuss project and monitor progress. Meetings held with senior Thai government staff and all project partners.
- Training workshop delivered to ten NGO and Government conservation staff in Thailand on advanced ornithological fieldwork methods.
- Fieldwork methods tested in the field in Thailand and radio-tracking equipment transferred to Thai partners.
- Contracts signed with partners
- Visit by FORRU staff to project site in southern Thailand to discuss with local officials and assess staffing needs
- Close coordination maintained between all project partners and with others working in

Thailand and Myanmar

The next steps will involve setting up a tree nursery in southern Thailand, appointing a project manager in Myanmar, the start of the annual census in Thailand and further fieldwork in Myanmar. The project is currently on schedule.

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 only problem remains the issue of permission to work in southern Thailand. Despite the Government agreeing to provide all necessary permissions, and signing a letter of support for the project, there are still some issues to be resolved, particularly relating to the involvement of FORRU. We are optimistic that these can be resolved. The political situation in Myanmar appears relatively stable, and we do not anticipate problems working there.

Because of the short lead-in, a number of activities we hoped to complete in the first quarter have had to be postponed. We asked Darwin to carry the allocated funds forward, and are awaiting a reply.

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

Request sent to Darwin to carry some funds forward, reply awaited.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in...Feb 2005..... (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