

## ***Darwin Initiative Annual Report***

### **Important note:**

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders – it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes

**Submission deadline 30 April 2008**

### **Darwin Project Information**

Project Ref Number	162/13/030
Project Title	Gurney's Pitta Research and Conservation in Thailand and Myanmar
Country(ies)	Thailand, Myanmar
UK Contract Holder Institution	RSPB
UK Partner Institution(s)	RSPB, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Host country Partner Institution(s)	Bird Conservation Society of Thailand (BCST), Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA, Myanmar), BirdLife Indochina Programme, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNPWPC, Thailand), Forest Restoration Research Unit (FORRU; University of Chiang Mai, Thailand)
Darwin Grant Value	£109,992
Start/End dates of Project	Jan 2005 to September 2008 (including 6-month no-cost extension)
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)	<b>1 Apr 2007 to 31 Mar 2008. Annual Report No. 3</b>
Project Leader Name	<b><i>Paul Donald</i></b>
Project website	<a href="http://www.bcst.or.th/eng/project/gp_info1.htm">http://www.bcst.or.th/eng/project/gp_info1.htm</a>
Author(s), date	<b><i>Paul Donald, 22/5/08</i></b>

### **1. Project Background**

Gurney's Pitta *Pitta gurneyi* is a lowland forest bird species confined to peninsular Thailand and extreme southern Myanmar. It is currently listed by IUCN as Endangered, because of its very small and rapidly declining population at the only known site in Thailand. This represents a slight improvement on its previous status of Critically Endangered, resulting from the discovery

of large populations in Myanmar and the project's success in stemming the decline in Thailand. The production and agreement of a Species Recovery Plan in Thailand in 2002, quickly followed by the species' rediscovery in Tanintharyi Division, southern Myanmar, in 2003, renewed hopes that the species could be saved from extinction, after two decades in which successive conservation attempts had failed to do more than slow the seemingly unstoppable decline. The current project aims to fulfil these hopes by supporting key actions from the recovery plan in Thailand (particularly those relating to research, reforestation and community development) and by undertaking research on the newly discovered population in Myanmar and feeding the results of this research into ongoing efforts to secure protected area status for lowland forests in southern Myanmar. At the same time, the project aims to use the opportunity of working with conservationists in Thailand and Myanmar to build their capacity, particularly in terms of scientific research.

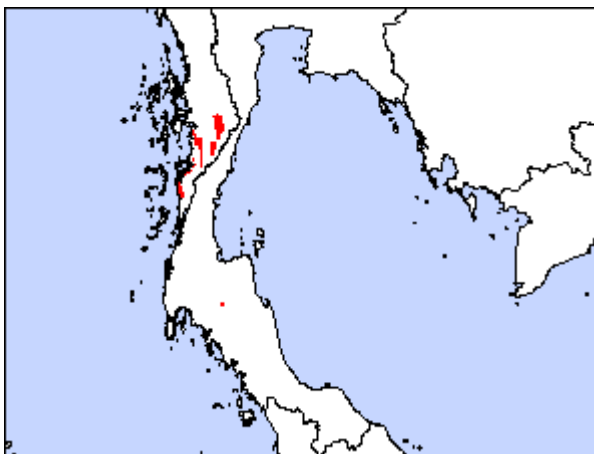


Fig. 1 Current estimated range of Gurney's Pitta (BirdLife International)



Fig. 2 Male Gurney's Pitta *Pitta gurneyi* (BirdLife International)

## 2. Project Partnerships

Relationships between all project partners have continued to develop well over the last year, and for the first time the political situation has allowed partner organisations in Thailand and Myanmar to work together. In February 2008, the lead Burmese researcher spent some time at the Gurney's Pitta site in southern Thailand working with Thai researchers. A further boost to the project has been the very strong cooperation between project staff and the new Head of the Wildlife Sanctuary in Thailand, who has proved to be extremely sympathetic to the aims of the project and very proactive in supporting it. The BirdLife Partner in Thailand, BCST, has grown in stature and confidence as a result of their involvement in this project and is now starting a

number of other conservation initiatives with support from RSPB. Indeed, BCST was in February 2008 awarded a large sum of money by the Thai Government to initiate a new conservation project near Bangkok. As a direct result of the current project and the support it has received through it from RSPB, BCST has developed from a small group of volunteers with no executive staff to a growing organisation with eight permanent staff. Furthermore, BCST is now regarded by the statutory Thai conservation authorities as an important contact, and it is very encouraging to see BCST being increasingly consulted by the Department of National Parks on a growing range of issues. Indeed, BCST now financially support some of DNP's research on Gurney's Pitta. Aside from the immediate benefits to Gurney's Pitta conservation, this growth in the stature of BCST is likely to be one of the most important legacies of the project. Also as a direct result of collaboration in this project, RSPB is now working with the Forest Restoration Research Unit (FORRU) of Chiang Mai university on other forest restoration projects in SE Asia, particularly in Sumatra. This is a new and important relationship, given RSPB's recent involvement in managing large areas of forest, and one would not have evolved were it not for the current project. The presence of a FORRU stand at the Bangkok Bird Fair was a welcome development. Another welcome development has been the recent involvement of Walailuk University (Nakron Sri Thammarat) in reforestation work in southern Thailand. As this is considerable closer to the site than Chiang Mai University, this provides welcome extra support at the site and it is hoped this collaboration develops further. Development of the Burmese partner has been more difficult, largely because of rapid staff turnover and a general lack of capacity in the country to undertake research work. Furthermore, political difficulties and the recent humanitarian disaster in the country caused by Cyclone Nargis have made recent progress very difficult and mean that the project is unlikely to fulfil all its aims in that country. Despite this, a very successful field season in early 2008 has led to the collection of sufficient data to be able to achieve the research objectives. The project has further strengthened links between BANCA, the Burmese partner, and the BirdLife Indochina Programme, which is now working to support sustainable development in areas affected by the cyclone. Continuing strong links between RSPB and the Oriental Bird Club led to the very welcome development that OBC will provide financial support to the tree nursery established by the project in Thailand during the current financial year. The stronger links brought about directly by the project, in particular between RSPB and FORRU, between BCST and the Department of National Parks and between BANCA and the BirdLife Indochina Project, but more generally between all project partners, has been an extremely important outcome and one that will bring major benefits in the future.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities**

*Output 1: Knowledge of Gurney's Pitta numbers, distribution and ecological needs across its range is provided to stakeholders*

The data collection phase of the project is now complete, although future monitoring will be carried out. Because of problems identified in previous reports, the dissemination phase is not yet complete, hence the recent successful application to Darwin for a 6-month, no-cost extension. The most significant achievement in 2007-8 was the completion of field surveys, under extremely difficult conditions, in southern Myanmar. Data were collected from 180 widely spaced points throughout the species' possible range in southern Myanmar, bringing the total number of points visited to nearly 400. These data are currently being used to produce maps of predicted range extent which will feed directly into ongoing initiatives to extend proposed National Park boundaries to include the major centres of Gurney's Pitta population. In addition, comparative measurements of habitat were collected in Thailand and Myanmar, yielding the very interesting result that the habitats used by the two populations differ greatly in structure, and therefore that the species might be able to use a wider range of habitats than previously supposed. This is encouraging, as it means that re-creation of suitable habitats for this species

might be easier than was suspected. Examples of the results, currently being prepared for publication in the scientific literature, are given in the Appendix. In Thailand, a major advance has been the development of a GIS-based system that overlays the distribution of Gurney's Pittas on recent satellite imagery to allow a more strategic approach to conserving the remaining forest and to underpin ongoing reforestation efforts. Particularly exciting was the discovery by this system of an area of surviving forest that has not previously been surveyed and which might hold previously unknown birds. The system is already being used to target reforestation to areas that link existing populations. All data collected by the project have been collated, translated and checked.

*Output 2: Measures to prevent the extinction of Gurney's Pitta in Thailand are in place*

This output was originally included to ensure that emergency measures were in place to prevent the extinction of the species in Thailand should the population drop below five pairs. As the population remains well above this level, and as the area of potentially suitable habitat has been stabilised, the emergency measures proposed, which included captive breeding and artificial food supplementation, have not been required. However, holding pens have been constructed should this become necessary (see photographs). These are currently being used to house captive pittas of other species for radio-tracking purposes. As last year, the system of nature trails will be closed to local people and visitors during the breeding season to reduce disturbance to nesting birds.

*Output 3: A strategy for Gurney's Pitta habitat restoration across the species' former range in southern Thailand is developed and agreed*

The capacity for forest restoration in the species' Thai range continues to grow. The tree nursery established by the project continues to employ two full-time and one part-time staff (since the end of Darwin project funding in April 2008, this is being funded by the Oriental Bird Club but further funds will be required to sustain this work beyond 2008). A new employee of the nursery has a diploma in horticulture and is member of the local community. He has developed very well as a nursery technician and has displayed a remarkable teaching ability, clearly enjoying sharing his new knowledge and skills with visiting students and school children. The involvement and interest of local people is essential to the aims of this project. In addition, a PhD student from Walailuk University (Nakron Sri Thammarat), Ms. Panitnard is having a major input into this project. A former field officer from FORRU-CMU, Ms Panitnard has excellent experience in forest restoration. She has started making monthly visits to the site to help with management of staff, set work schedules and check on data collection. In addition, she will be establishing experiments on direct seeding at the site (comparing performance of trees established by direct seeding with conventional nursery-raised trees) as part of her PhD program. This will generate useful additional information for the forest restoration strategy for the area. Through this link with Walailuk University (WU), we have also been able to involve the WU Conservation Club in this project. About 13 students joined a field training program at the site in March 2008, helping to collect phenology data for that month and organizing (labelling and hardening off) trees ready for planting in May. The students subsequently joined the planting event in May 2008. Developing this link with WU will make the project easier to manage (compared with FORRU-CMU staff flying down from the north), as well as developing highly qualified and motivated students as potential future staff for the project. The tree nursery built at the local community centre at the entrance to the WS HQ in Y1 continues to function well. It serves 4 main purposes i) production of trees for experimental plantings; ii) production of trees for planting by other organizations; iii) generation of data on germination and seedling growth and iv) acting as an education facility for local people to build capacity for tree planting in the local community and raise awareness of the benefits of forest restoration. At the nursery, germination experiments have been carried out on 97 local forest tree species and completed on 44. Seedling growth experiments have been carried out on 36 species. The nursery has produced approximately 12,000 seedlings over the past growing season. Trees in excess of

those required for project field trials are being donated to various local tree-planting events. Specimens of young seedlings are now also being collected from the nursery to act as a reference collection for support of surveys of natural forest regeneration in the future. A study of the phenology of 68 local forest tree species (1 to 8 individuals each, depending on availability) is continuing, with data collection having proceeded for more than two years for most species. The primary objective of this work is to determine when each species flowers and fruits to optimize seed collection times.

Khun Cherdasak Kuaraksa and Dr. Steve Elliott (FORRU) worked on-site in November 2007 to monitor the trees planted in the 2006 and 2007 plots, review nursery data and tree voucher specimens collected and continue capacity building of the Krabi staff. In March 2008 Dr. Steve Elliott worked on-site with Ms Panitnard Tunjai to develop a monthly checklist for quality control of data collection and management, which Ms Panitnard will manage from now on. Nursery experiments were reviewed. Progress with tree performance in the 2006 and 2007 plots was inspected and FORRU staff worked with the Wildlife Sanctuary Office to select an area for planting in May 2008. They inspected the site with officers from the Wildlife Sanctuary and project staff. They also initiated discussions with the local village headman concerning the involvement of villagers in planting and care of the site, and also ran a two-day field course for WU students on phenology data collection and seed collection and prepared 1,000 trees for the planting event. In May 2008, Mr. Cherdasak Kuaraksa and 3 members of the FORRU-CMU team travelled to Krabi to join Ms Panitnard and the Krabi team in the site preparation, planting and initial monitoring of 1,000 trees. Taxonomic botanist, Mr. J. F. Maxwell, continued working at CMU herbarium to i) ensure all trees being studied in this project are correctly identified and ii) to identify as many tree species as possible that comprise the forest habitat of Gurney's Pitta. About 100 specimens were transported from the Krabi nursery to FORRU-CMU during 2007/8, where they are currently undergoing identification and mounting for storage at the CMU herbarium. In addition to voucher specimens of adult trees, FORRU are now also collecting seedling specimens of known ages from the nursery germination experiments in order to eventually compiling a seedling identification handbook, similar to the one already printed for northern Thailand. This will help with future survey work to determine the extent of natural forest regeneration in degraded forest sites.

Maintenance and monitoring of tree performance continued in the plots planted in 2006 and 2007. An additional 1,000 trees were planted in 2 rai to expand the trial plot system in the reserved forest area in May 2008. The most remarkable result was with the Accelerated Natural Regeneration (ANR) plots planted in May 2007. In this site (in the reserved forest area), we tested the effects of clearing weeds, applying cardboard mulch and fertilizer on tree seedlings and sapling already growing on-site. In addition, we inter-planted the natural regeneration with shade-tolerant climax tree species from the nursery. The photographs in the Appendix show the remarkable recovery of these sites, raising hopes that degraded land can rapidly be returned to habitat suitable for Gurney's Pitta.

The wealth of research and experience gained during the project, from field trials and from research in the tree nursery, will be collated into a printed strategy for the restoration of habitat within the range of the Gurney's Pitta in southern Thailand before the end of the project in September 2008. The expertise generated within local communities and forestry staff will ensure that sufficient capacity exists to implement this strategy, though further funding will be necessary.

#### *Output 4: Conservation strategy for key sites in Myanmar is produced*

Data collection in Myanmar was completed in March 2008, and data on bird distribution and habitat use are now available for nearly 400 points spread across the likely range of the species. These data are currently being analysed to assess the likely range and population size of the species. These results will feed directly into other conservation initiatives that aim to

extend proposed national park boundaries to encompass important centres of population for Gurney's Pitta. However, the original aim of producing a stakeholder-agreed conservation strategy is unlikely to be achieved within the life of the current project because of political instability in the country and because of the humanitarian crisis caused by Cyclone Nargis. Both are likely to preclude the involvement of sufficiently senior Government staff to make such an effort worthwhile. However, conservation recommendations will be published in the scientific literature, and the long-term involvement of the BirdLife Indochina Programme in Myanmar will ensure that the results continue to be used.

*Output 5: Capacity of Thai and Myanmar conservationists to undertake further conservation is increased*

Further training of the staff of the tree nursery and associated forestry staff continues, and was given a boost by the recent involvement of research staff from Walailuk University. RSPB and the BirdLife Indochina Programme continue to provide scientific and institutional support to BCST and BANCA respectively, and the Oriental Bird Club have stepped in to cover the costs of running reforestation efforts in southern Thailand after the end of Darwin funding in April 2008. Capacity for Thai conservationists to undertake further conservation work on Gurney's Pitta in Thailand is therefore high. In Myanmar, recent political unrest and humanitarian disaster has not allowed the development of capacity of conservation workers, though long-term support to BANCA from the BirdLife Indochina Project will overcome this in time.

## **3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs**

*Output 1: Knowledge of Gurney's Pitta numbers, distribution and ecological needs across its range is provided to stakeholders*

This output has already been largely met in Thailand, although the production of scientific papers has been delayed for reasons explained above. The results from research in Thailand are already being used in the conservation of the species there. For example, a new GIS-based conservation tool developed by the local Wildlife Sanctuary, a major stakeholder, incorporates the results of the project and is being used to guide forest protection activities. Results of research on habitat use are being used to guide forest regeneration strategies. In Myanmar, sufficient data have now been collected to meet data requirements and this will be distributed to key stakeholders before the end of the project.

*Output 2: Measures to prevent the extinction of Gurney's Pitta in Thailand are in place*

These measures remain in place but it is hoped they will not need to be deployed. The population in southern Thailand remains well above the level at which actions under this output are necessary, though captive breeding is being considered by DNPWPC as a possible method to boost the wild population and so compensate for low productivity. Should this be required, a holding pen has now been constructed.

*Output 3: A strategy for Gurney's Pitta habitat restoration across the species' former range in southern Thailand is developed and agreed*

This output will be fully completed before the end of the project. A major benefit of the 6-month no-cost extension is that a longer run of data on the success of different forest regeneration

methods will be available. The growing capacity generated by the project and the recent involvement of a local university mean that not only will the strategy be prepared, but also that sufficient experience and capacity will exist to implement and monitor the strategy.

*Output 4: Conservation strategy for key sites in Myanmar is produced*

A significant assumption in the original logframe was that the political situation in Myanmar would permit the production of such a strategy. Unfortunately recent political unrest, and the humanitarian disaster of Cyclone Nargis mean that the original multi-stakeholder strategy is unlikely to be achieved during the project. However, sufficient data have been collected to feed into other ongoing conservation strategies, such as BirdLife's efforts to guide the designation of the Lenya National Park, though this again has been severely affected by political instability. While the production of stakeholder-agreed strategy lies beyond the end of the life of this project, the data collected will be used to develop conservation recommendations that will form the basis of further conservation efforts for this species.

*Output 5: Capacity of Thai and Myanmar conservationists to undertake further conservation is increased*

In Thailand, this has already been achieved, as evidence by the growth of work by BCST into other areas. For example, BCST were recently awarded a large grant by the Thai Government to continue work on the Inner Gulf of Thailand. At the start of the project, BCST would not have had the capacity or confidence to apply for such funding. This is a major and significant output of the current project. In Myanmar, BANCA have become involved in other projects, such as surveys of vultures, using the experience and equipment provided by the current project.

### 3.3 Standard Measures

**Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures**

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Total planned from application
Established codes							
4C	12 Thai conservationists attended 3-day training workshop in advanced bird survey methods, followed by 1 week of field training	12				12	0
5	2 Thai forest staff receive 1 year of training in reforestation methods	2	2.5	2.5		7	6

5	2 Thai researchers receive 1 year of training in ornithological methods	2				2	2
5	Thai and Burmese researchers working in close scientific supervision with UK staff		4	4		8	6
6A	10 Thai forest staff attend training workshop in reforestation methods		10			10	2
6A	2 conservationists in Myanmar received 1 week of field training		2	2		4	2
8	Weeks spent by UK project staff in host countries	9	4.5	5		18.5	20
10	Annotated checklists of trees, birds and reptiles		1	1		2	2
12A	3 databases established	3		1		4	3
13A	1 seed and tree reference collection established (*and maintained) in Thailand	1	1*	1*		1	1
14B	3 presentations on BCST's work on Gurney's Pitta delivered at national birdfairs in UK, Thailand and Taiwan	3		1		4	3
15A	National press release in Thailand or Myanmar	1	1	1		3	6
17A	Website set up		1			1	1



18A/C	National television feature			1		1	2
20	Physical assets handed over to host countries	£12,200	£500	£1000		£13,700	£15,000
21	1 tree nursery established (*and maintained)	1	1*	1*		1	1
22	1 permanent forest study plot established (*and maintained)	1	1*	3*		4	1
23	Matched funding from RSPB and BirdLife Indochina programme	£22,000	£22,995	£30,041		£75,036	£82,000

**Table 2 Publications**

Type *	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
(eg journals, manual, CDs)	(title, author, year)	(name, city)	(eg contact address, website)	

### 3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

The project is well on course to meeting or exceeding all project outputs and so to meeting the overall project purpose. The measurable project purpose indicator, "All activities in Gurney's Pitta Species Recovery Plan in Thailand requiring external expertise initiated by end of project" has already been met or exceeded, in that a number of conservation outputs not listed in the Recovery Plan have also started. While the ultimate success of efforts to save the species and its lowland forest habitat in southern Thailand will depend largely on political will, the project has provided NGOs and Government authorities with all the technical expertise it needs to achieve this, and has further encouraged the will to do so. To this extent, the project has exceeded all original expectations. Unfortunately, the original assumption that "The political situation in Myanmar permits development of strategy" was not met. The measurable indicator for progress in Myanmar, "Project proposals developed and submitted for all activities in Species Recovery Plan in Myanmar" will no longer serve, as it is clear that because of political and humanitarian problems in the country, an agreed multi-level stakeholder Species Recovery Plan as originally envisaged will be impossible to complete within the life of the project. We therefore suggest a revised Purpose indicator of "Research results are being used in ongoing conservation assessments in Myanmar". To an extent, this has already been met, as the recent down-listing of Gurney's Pitta from Critically Endangered to Endangered was based largely on

the results of the project. However, the last few months of the project will aim to meet this indicator more fully by further analyses and publication of the full set of results.

### **3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits**

- a) a change in state of biodiversity; species, population or habitat loss reduced, etc.

This has already happened as a direct result of this project. The knowledge gained from this project has resulted in Gurney's Pitta being downlisted by IUCN in 2008 from Critically Endangered to Endangered. Also, habitat loss in the core area of the species has demonstrably declined during the life of the project, and new habitat is being created. The population of the species in Thailand has stabilised as a result, after years of decline. This work is likely to benefit a large number of other Sundaic forest species.

- b) unsustainable use moving to sustainable use

The spread of oil palm into forest has been checked, with subsequent benefits for local people using non-timber forest products.

- c) a human community living with biodiversity has the costs reduced or benefits increased stemming from the conservation or use of that biodiversity.

BCST's conservation work in southern Thailand has led to the opening up of new income potential for local people. A new Home Stay scheme opened in early 2008, where local people open their homes to visiting tourists. There is also a growing local market for crafts featuring a Gurney's Pitta motif.

## **4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons**

Internal monitoring and evaluation is undertaken at regular meetings of the project steering group (most recently in Thailand in February 2008). The indicators of achievement are discussed above; the indicators for the project need to be re-evaluated for Myanmar because of problems there (see above and below). The main lesson learned from last year was the importance of collecting data from fieldworkers immediately after the end of the fieldwork season, this has been done and all data are now collected, collated and shared.

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

The review of the last annual appraisal was extremely positive and we were pleased to note that the reviewer was impressed with our efforts to minimise the effect on the project of the loss of the first year's data from Myanmar. We were also pleased that the reviewer was satisfied with the level of detail provided. Communication with project partners is not always easy, for both logistical and cultural reasons, and it is often to get specific details from partners other than in face-to-face meetings. The reviewer raised a number of comments and queries. We agree with the reviewer that long-term monitoring and protection of nests is not likely to be sustainable, but at present the Research Department of the Department of National Parks, who were trained in nest protection by BCST researchers, seem happy to continue doing this at least in the short term. The greater liaison with the chief of the Wildlife Sanctuary has continued as suggested, and the new Chief is proving to be excellent. Further funding for forest restoration costs has been secured for the year 2008/9 from the Oriental Bird Club and we will develop further proposals to cover this after 2009. With respect to the loss of data and equipment in Myanmar,

we were able to recover some of this and to replace the remainder from the unclaimed salary costs of the researcher who absconded with the data. The reviewer made some good points about the concentration of effort on a single small NGO in Myanmar. However, there is no possibility for working with researchers outside the NGO sector – not only do sufficiently experienced researchers not exist within the Government, but all Government employees are prohibited from working on projects they are not assigned to. Despite repeated efforts, we have not been able to sign an MoU with the relevant authorities. Furthermore, there are no other NGOs in the country we could work with.

We shall present full details of all project outputs in the final project report later this year.

## 6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

We are extremely pleased with progress and appear to be on course to meet all our original objectives in Thailand, and indeed exceed several of them. The humanitarian crisis and heightened political instability in Myanmar is clearly a matter of huge concern which goes far beyond the scope and assumptions of the project; quite how this will affect the legacy of the project in Myanmar is currently unclear.

## 7. Sustainability

The project has attracted significant interest in Thailand in the last year, culminating in a 50-minute national TV film on the efforts to save Gurney's Pitta, one of a series of three on iconic Thai wildlife. European project partners were interviewed for this film. In addition, the Project Leader held talks with the staff of Associated Press in Bangkok in February 2008 to discuss another film on the species. Press releases are planned for the end of the project. There is ample evidence that the project has generated capacity and confidence in BCST to undertake more conservation work. The project is the mainstay of their display at the annual Bangkok Bird Fair which they now organise. All efforts to save Gurney's Pitta will also help a large number of other threatened Sundaic species.

Funding has already been secured to support the reforestation work in Thailand for a further year, and funds will be sought to continue the implementation of the reforestation strategy beyond this. Funding is already available for continued work in Myanmar (the designation of the Lenya National Park and an extension to include the core areas for Gurney's Pitta) though a large award from the British Birdfair to the BirdLife Indochina Programme, though work cannot start on this until an MoU can be signed. Political instability means that it is not clear when this will happen, but project staff shall continue to monitor forest condition in southern Myanmar through satellite imagery.

## 8. Dissemination

All project partners have been kept fully updated and the project reviewed through regular project steering group meetings, most recently in Thailand in February 2008. Project outputs are given on the project website and were used to reassess the conservation status of the species in the latest round of Red List revisions. A programme of press releases and printed outputs are planned for the end of the project.

## 9. Project Expenditure

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

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you	Expenditure	Balance
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	refer to if other than your project application)		
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs (eg postage, telephone, stationery)			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment			
Others			
Salaries (specify)			
TOTAL			

**10. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes**

Given that the project ends soon (September), and that we have planned a series of press releases to coincide with that, we would prefer to publicise our major achievements then.

## Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2007/08

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2007 - March 2008	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal:</b> <i>To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <p><i>The conservation of biological diversity,</i></p> <p><i>The sustainable use of its components, and</i></p> <p><i>The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></p>		<p>The conservation status of Gurney's Pitta has been downlisted by IUCN, forest loss in southern Thailand has been slowed and reforestation is taking place, and local communities are gaining financial benefits from the project</p>	<p><i>(do not fill not applicable)</i></p>
<p><b>Purpose</b> A framework for the conservation of Gurney's Pitta established and strategic conservation measures implemented in Thailand and Myanmar</p>	<p>All activities in Gurney's Pitta Species Recovery Plan in Thailand requiring external expertise initiated by end of project</p> <p>Project proposals developed and submitted for all activities in Species Recovery Plan in Myanmar</p>	<p>Achieved: all technical activities in the GPSRP requiring external expertise have been started</p> <p>Suggest change of this indicator to "Research results are being used in ongoing conservation assessments in Myanmar" – see section 3.4 above.</p>	<p>Revise the GPSRP and identify further technical activities that need to be addressed</p> <p>Further analyse and publish data and make available to all stakeholders</p>
<p><b>Output 1:</b> Knowledge of Gurney's Pitta numbers, distribution and ecological needs across its range is provided to stakeholders</p>	<p>Gurney's Pitta stakeholders have access to recent research results by end of Year 3</p>	<p>Stakeholders already have access to all results available to date, and this process of technology transfer will continue to the end of the project. The results will be made more widely available through papers and reports.</p>	
<p>Activity 1.1 Assess extent and types of lowland forest in Myanmar</p> <p><b><i>(NB Activities listed in this table follow those outlined in the Project Timeplan submitted as Annex 5 of the original proposal)</i></b></p>		<p>Extent of forest assessed from remote sensing. Data on habitat structure were collected in 2007 and 2008. Results suggest difference in forest structure between areas where Gurney's Pitta are present and those where they are absent. Data to be published in scientific literature.</p>	

		where they are absent. Data to be published in scientific literature.
Activity 1.2 Develop survey protocol for Myanmar		Completed in 2006/7
Activity 1.3 Surveys of Gurney's Pitta in Myanmar		Undertaken in Feb-Jul 2006, data lost, repeated in Feb-June 2007 and then in Feb-May 2008, data to be analysed and published
Activity 1.4 Comparison of habitat types in Myanmar and Thailand		Data collected in both countries in 2007 and 2008, will be analysed and published. Results suggest big differences in forest structure between the two populations.
Activity 1.5 Assessment and quantification of threats and opportunities in Myanmar		Data collected on forest loss in 2006 and 2007. Analyses of remote sensing data and field data will be undertaken in 2008
Activity 1.6 Surveys throughout KNC region		Full survey carried out in 2006 and 2008, surveys of core area in 2007
Activity 1.7 Assessment of biodiversity value of agricultural forest alternatives		Completed and published in 2006
Activity 1.8 Research into breeding success at KNC		Data collected 2006-2008, ongoing analyses and publication
Activity 1.9 Research into habitat use, movements and feeding ecology at KNC		Undertaken in 2005-2008, to be analysed and published
Activity 1.10 Design and implement GP and habitat monitoring protocol in both countries		Protocol designed and implemented
<b>Output 2.</b> Measures to prevent the extinction of Gurney's Pitta in Thailand are in place	Population in S Thailand does not fall below 5 males and 5 females	The population in Thailand remains stable at around 20 pairs

Activity 2.1 Establishment of worm farm at KNC		Established in 2006, but birds found not to respond to provided food, so discontinued. Will be restarted if captive breeding occurs
Activity 2.2 Intensive guarding of nests at KNC		Started in 2005, continued in 2006. Not continued in 2007-8 as efforts given over to a full survey
Activity 2.3 Provide advice to forest patrols to protect most important areas		Ongoing, and now aided by new GIS tool. Extremely successful at reducing loss of key forest.
Activity 2.4 Design and publish species management protocol		Action plan will be revised in August 2008
Activity 2.5 Workshop to update GP recovery lan in Thailand		Action plan will be revised in August 2008
<b>Output 3.</b> A strategy for Gurney's Pitta habitat restoration across the species' former range in southern Thailand is developed and agreed	Restoration projects that are part of the strategy are submitted to funders by end Yr 2	Research necessary to guide development of the strategy is ongoing, and funding to keep reforestation work going in 2008-9 has been secured.
Activity 3.1 Compile list of indigenous tree species in GP habitat		Largely completed in 2006-7, will be finalised by end of project
Activity 3.2 Recruit and train local field team		Completed, training for field team ongoing
Activity 3.3 Phenology, seed collection, ecological monitoring		Largely completed, will be finalised by end of project
Activity 3.4 Establish nursery		Completed, maintenance ongoing

Activity 3.5 Planting field plots and monitoring	Field plots planted, monitoring ongoing
Activity 3.6 Follow up on site training	Ongoing
Activity 3.7 Develop lowland forest restoration strategy	Will be developed and published in 2008 when research is further advanced
<b>Output 4.</b> Conservation strategy for key sites in Myanmar is produced	Species Recovery Plan for Myanmar produced, agreed and published by end Yr 3
	Due to political unrest and recent humanitarian disaster, it is unlikely the recovery plan will be produced. However, information to guide the species conservation will be produced.
Activity 4.1 Results of 1.1 and 1.3 used to identify key sites for GP in Myanmar	Ongoing, results will be analysed and written up in 2008
Activity 4.2 SAP workshop	Planned for 2008 but unlikely to happen because of political instability
Activity 4.3 SAP produced	Ditto
Activity 4.4 Site monitoring protocol developed	Will follow from 1.1 and 1.3
<b>Output 5.</b> Capacity of Thai and Myanmar conservationists to undertake further conservation is increased	New research and management projects developed and undertaken by end Yr 1 (in Thailand) or end Yr 3 (Myanmar)
	Objectives for Thailand met, and for Myanmar will follow from 1.3 and 4.4
Activity 5.1 Training of ornithologists in Myanmar in census and survey methods	Ongoing
Activity 5.2 Production of project proposals to ensure project sustainability	Will be completed by end of project



Activity 5.3 Review of remaining training needs	Will be undertaken by end of project
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## Annex 2: Project's full current logframe

<i>Project summary</i>	<i>Measurable indicators</i>	<i>Means of verification</i>	<i>Important assumptions</i>
<p><b>Goal:</b></p> <p><i>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</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>the conservation of biological diversity,</i></li> <li><i>the sustainable use of its components, and</i></li> <li><i>the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></li> </ul>			
<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p><i>A framework for the conservation of Gurney's Pitta established and strategic conservation measures implemented in Thailand and Myanmar</i></p>	<p><i>All activities in Gurney's Pitta Species Recovery Plan in Thailand requiring external expertise initiated by end of project</i></p> <p><i>Project proposals developed and submitted for all activities in Species Recovery Plan in Myanmar</i></p>	<p><i>Quarterly progress reports</i></p> <p><i>Recovery plan annual reviews</i></p>	<p><i>All stakeholders remain committed to saving the species</i></p>
<p><b>Outputs</b></p> <p>Knowledge of GP numbers, distribution and ecological needs across its range is provided to GP stakeholders</p> <p>Measures to prevent the extinction of Gurney's Pitta in Thailand are in place</p> <p>A strategy for Gurney's Pitta habitat restoration across the species' former range in southern Thailand is developed and agreed</p> <p>Conservation strategy for key sites in Myanmar is produced</p> <p>Capacity of Thai and Myanmar conservationists to undertake further conservation is increased</p>	<p>Gurney's Pitta stakeholders have access to recent research results by end of Year 3</p> <p>Population in S Thailand does not fall below 5 males and 5 females</p> <p>Restoration projects that are part of the strategy are submitted to funders by end Yr 2</p> <p>Species Recovery Plan for Myanmar produced, agreed and published by end Yr 3</p> <p>New research and management projects developed and undertaken by end Yr 1 (in Thailand) or end Yr 3 (Myanmar)</p>	<p>3 scientific papers published; reports and paper distribution lists</p> <p>Population monitoring reports</p> <p>Funding proposals</p> <p>Species Recovery Plan</p> <p>Project proposals and reports</p>	<p>No novel mortality incidents arise</p> <p>The political situation in Myanmar permits development of strategy</p> <p>Staff turnover in Thailand and Myanmar is low</p>

## Annex 3 – Photographs and results



Fig. 1. The remarkably fast recovery of illegally cleared forest in southern Thailand using Accelerated Natural Regeneration. (Left) before treatments started in April 2007 (Right) the same site just six months later, following mulching and fertiliser application and planting of shade-tolerant trees. The site rapidly became dominated by fast-growing pioneer trees e.g. *Trema orientalis* and *Anthocephalus chinensis* (large leaves in foreground). Planted shade-tolerant trees had high survival rates but grew more slowly.



Fig. 2. Tree nursery staff train local schoolchildren how to plant trees, southern Thailand



Fig. 3. FORRU and BCST present the project at the Bangkok Bird Fair, November 2007. Project funds supported travel costs of the Krabi project team and a large group of villagers to the event.



Fig. 4. Climax, shade tolerant trees from the project's nursery in southern Thailand inter-planted with accelerated natural regeneration. Left – *Hopea avellanea* Heirn and right - the nesting tree of Gurney's Pitta, *Salacca wallichiana* Mart. Planted May 2007, photographed April 2008.



Fig. 5. Burmese (left) and Thai researchers working together on vegetation measurements in southern Thailand, February 2008.



Fig. 6. Television crew interviewing project staff for a documentary on national television about Gurney's Pitta.



Fig. 7. Wildlife Sanctuary chief demonstrates new GIS-based forest protection management tool. This combines project data from field research on Gurney's Pitta with remote sensing imagery and is being used to plan forest protection and reforestation. Southern Thailand, 2008.



Fig. 8. Project leader Paul Donald talks to local students about the project while being filmed for national television. Southern Thailand, 2008.

Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 5MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk">Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
<b>Is your report more than 5MB?</b> If so, please advise <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk">Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk</a> that the report will be send by post on CD, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	No
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or communications for Defra with this report.	