

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	14-027
Project Title	Enabling the people of Montserrat to conserve the Centre Hills
Country(ies)	UK, Montserrat
UK Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Collaborator(s)	Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and Environment, Montserrat National Trust, Montserrat Tourist Board, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Royal Botanical Gardens Kew
Report date	31 st October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	Half yearly report 2
Project website	http://www.malhe.gov.ms/centrehills

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).

1. Knowledge of forest ecology and socioeconomic use is available to guide management of the Centre Hills
 - Results of biological assessment report presented at workshop, written report currently being drafted
 - Draft vegetation and other species maps currently in circulation for feedback
 - Research on rat ecology began in April, pre-assessment completed and rat knockdown currently underway
 - Forest boundary and forest trails demarcated digitally
 - Farmer, hunter, livestock tender, tourist, and general public surveys completed
 - Results of socioeconomic assessment report presented at workshop, written report currently being drafted
2. Participatory plan is produced for the Centre Hills
 - Stakeholder identification workshop held, draft stakeholder analysis matrix produced
 - Forest boundary agreed upon for purposes of management plan development
 - Planning workshop held for all partners and major stakeholders in September
 - Draft vision, management objectives, and desired institutional framework developed to evolve into management plan
3. Technical and professional skills to conserve, manage and restore the Centre Hills are strengthened in Montserrat
 - Staff mentoring and training has continued
 - Several staff and partners involved in four relevant regional workshops (Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (held in Montserrat in May), BirdLife Caribbean (held in Puerto Rico in June), Participatory Forest Management (facilitated by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute and held in Dominica in July), and the UKOTCF conference (held in Jersey in October))
4. Significant progress is made towards establishing the Centre Hills as Montserrat's first Protected Area
 - Legal consultant hired, results of desk review presented at workshop, written report due in October
 - First round of public consultations held in August – aimed at sectors, groups, and general public
 - First informational memo to Executive Council circulated in July to inform of project and legal review
5. Appreciation of the Centre Hills forest and an awareness of its value is increased locally and internationally
 - Tourism surveys ongoing, updated version to go into use in October
 - Draft leaflet-poster combination in production
 - Extensive ongoing local media, newsletters, and promotion of new project website (June)
 - Numerous outreach presentations to groups; project slide show developed

