

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

<b>Project Ref.</b>	15/009
Project Title	Investing in island biodiversity: restoring the Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher
Country	Seychelles
UK Organisation	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent.
Collaborator(s)	Nature Seychelles, Government of Seychelles, Denis Island Limited, RARE, Royal Society for the Conservation of Birds (RSPB), Kent Business School (KBS), Wildlife Vets International (WVI)
Project Leader	<i>Dr Jim Groombridge</i>
Report date	<i>October 2007</i>
Report No.	1
Project website	<a href="http://www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/dice/research/seychelles.html">http://www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/dice/research/seychelles.html</a>

## 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September 2007)

As our project had only been running for 6 months at the time of submission of our first annual report, the reviewer requested this ½ year report be more detailed than normal regarding reporting of progress on project activities in order to constitute a more robust measuring tool for progress because the project as now been running for 1 year. Please refer to appendix 1 for a detailed summary of progress and achievements April-September 2007 against our project Logical Framework.

## 2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months.

We have not encountered any problems or unexpected difficulties over the project period except the re-election of the La Digue Development Board in July 2007. A number of members on the Board changed following elections in July 2007. This, combined with our 3 month delay in project commencement (approved by DI secretariat at the time), delayed our progress in gaining formal support for a flycatcher translocation to Denis by end September 2007 (see project implementation timetable). In addition we had originally planned to do the flycatcher translocation in January- February 2008 (refer to project implementation timetable). However, further research as revealed that the best time to undertake the flycatcher translocation in order to give it the highest chance of success is directly prior to the main flycatcher breeding season (December – March) i.e. November. If we do not gain all the relevant approvals in time for a translocation of flycatchers in November 2007, we may need to delay to November 2008.

Although all signs are positive that final approval by the La Digue Development Board for translocation may be soon, if we do have to delay the translocation until November 2008 it will affect the project timeline and budget, as the costs for the helicopter flights to transfer the birds from La Digue to Denis will fall into next financial year rather than this current one. Apart from this budgetary effect, the timeline change will not affect the project as we will still have plenty of

