

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2008)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	15/009
<b>Project Title</b>	Investing in island biodiversity: restoring the Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Seychelles
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Nature Seychelles, Government of Seychelles, Denis Island Ltd., RARE, Royal Society for the Preservation of Birds (RSPB), Kent Business School (KBS), Wildlife Vets International (WVI)
<b>Project Leader</b>	<i>Dr. Jim Groombridge</i>
<b>Report date</b>	<i>22 October 2008</i>
<b>Report No.(HYR)</b>	<i>HYR 2</i>
<b>Project website</b>	<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) 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).**

Progress over the last 6 months is discussed under the relevant project outputs below.

### **Output 1. Stakeholders identified and engaged**

School educational materials have been finalised and are with the RSPB publishers. A workshop with Barrie Cooper, International Education Officer, RSPB, is organised for early December 2008 where the materials will be presented to the La Digue School and Seychelles Ministry of Education Officials.

A second questionnaire of over 300 La Digue citizens was completed in May 2008 to quantify the impact of our previous 'flycatcher' education and awareness campaign and has confirmed (i) that local knowledge of flycatchers has markedly improved and (ii) the majority of Digois now support the translocation as a necessary flycatcher conservation action. The integral RARE campaign was extremely successful, and community surveys showed an increase in local support for the proposed translocation from 30% of respondents (pre-campaign) to 58% (post-campaign).

### **Output 2. Socioeconomic studies identify clear benefits of conservation programme to Denis Island Ltd. and the La Digue community**

A survey of visitors to La Digue in order to determine (i) reasons for visiting La Digue, (ii) length of stay on La Digue, (iii) what activities would make them stay longer and (iv) if they have ever seen or heard of flycatchers, has been completed and resulting data are being analysed by Dr Iain Fraser (Kent Business School).

Additionally a catalogue of flycatcher-inspired ideas for the local tourism industry by local artisans has been produced by the project in partnership with the RARE Pride flycatcher campaign. The catalogue provides artisans with new ideas for designing and producing flycatcher souvenirs from local materials.

### **Output 3. Stakeholder support secured through increased awareness of flycatchers critical status and needs**

Flycatcher pin badges have been distributed amongst the La Digue community.

One article in the Seychelles national newspaper, and 1 full page article in ZWAZO, the widely distributed full colour bi-annual magazine produced by Nature Seychelles.

See also questionnaire result reported under Output 1 above.

**Output 4.** *Local capacity to deliver targeted conservation education, socio-economic research and to facilitate improved conflict resolution.*

Terence Vel (Nature Seychelles social marketing officer) successfully completed his Diploma in Environmental Education (with Distinction) and his RARE Pride flycatcher social marketing campaign in June.

Josianna Rose, Ministry of Environment Conservation Ranger on La Digue, is currently at the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trusts International Training Centre in Jersey, attending a 12 week Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate *on a scholarship obtained by this project*. Procurement of this scholarship is an example of the substantial over-achievement (i.e. beyond our stated objectives) produced by this project.

**Output 5.** *Translocation best practice researched, agreed by all stakeholders and translocation implemented*

Preparations for the flycatcher conservation introduction (translocation) in November 2008 are almost complete.

Intensive monitoring of 25 flycatcher pairs on La Digue to collect detailed information on breeding success is ongoing. This information will yield measures of productivity that will be used for comparison with subsequent productivity of the translocated population.

The IUCN Reintroduction Specialist Group and the Government of Seychelles have given their endorsement and support for our flycatcher conservation introduction plan and methods.

**Output 6.** *Additional habitat created on Denis Island*

Restoration work on Denis Island is ahead of schedule; 20 hectares of abandoned coconut plantation has been felled and c. 4,000 native trees grown and planted out in the area.

**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.**

Our project has not encountered any notable problems over the past 6 months, and is looking forward to implementing a successful introduction in late November 2008.

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

N/A

**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. We would, however, like to bring to Darwin's attention the lengths we are going to (beyond the approval we have already obtained for the translocation) to ensure there are no outstanding issues between the various interested parties regarding the forthcoming translocation. For example, we are currently pursuing additional MOU's relating to publicity and local tourism.

**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 email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at [Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk) . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**