

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	15/022
Project Title	Government-civil society partnerships for protected areas in Timor-Leste
Country(ies)	Timor-Leste (East Timor)
UK Organisation	BirdLife International
Collaborator(s)	Government of Timor-Leste, National University of Timor-Leste, National NGOs <i>Santalum</i> and <i>Halarae</i>
Report date	20 October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	none specific to project (news, where appropriate, will be on www.birdlife.org)

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).

See question 2 below for more detail on the disturbances that led to evacuation of the manager and prevented visits by other specialists.

May-June (one milestone only)

1. establishment of planning, management and accounting systems. This is complete, subject to some additional exchanges with colleagues in Timor to ensure transparency.

Jul-Sep

1. Consultation groups established (steering committee, working group, local advisory group) - not possible under current circumstances, as this requires strong in-country presence.
2. Site directory drafted and circulated - a complete draft has been prepared. It is not possible to circulate this in Timor, as the manager is not present to coordinate. There has been Timorese participation in the early stages of drafting, and we are committed to ensuring strong participation in the review process up to publication in 2007.
3. Gaps in information identified for surveys. Work to identify gaps has taken place, and formal proposals can be made in the next quarter. Input and validation from Timorese colleagues is needed before these can be used for planning joint surveys; not possible because of the absence of the project manager.

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 project began on 1 May, but activities on the ground in Timor-Leste were suspended in mid May following severe political disturbances, which led to the evacuation of foreigners including project manager Cathy Molnar. In addition, visits from overseas specialists were not possible for security reasons. However, it was agreed with the Darwin secretariat that we should continue with as many activities as possible, and report on the period to 30 September (the present report).

We are keeping matters under close observation through email contact with colleagues in Timor-Leste. The most significant development is that Cathy Molnar is expected to resume her role as Project Manager on 6 November. Immediate needs will be to review the work-programme and budget, aiming to complete the project in the remaining available time. Despite the difficulties, we remain confident that

<p>we will be able to implement this project, because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the initiative to create a protected areas network is longstanding and still has full national support and ownership, which was unaffected by the disturbances; the new Prime Minister is equally or more strongly supportive of the programme than his predecessor. • the international commitment to restoring normality in Timor is strong, giving good reason to expect that resumption of a full programme of activity in-country will be possible. • the government team working on Protected Areas before the disturbances remains intact. <p>However, some activities may need to be rescheduled or adjusted.</p>	
<p>Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p> <p>Yes: following messages from BirdLife in June and July, it was agreed that the claim normally due 3 months from project commencement could be omitted, and our first report/claim would cover 1 May to 30 September. No other changes to the original agreement were made; it was accepted that some early milestones would be missed, but as explained above we expect to reschedule these.</p>	
<p>Discussed with the DI Secretariat:</p>	<p>yes, in June and July 2006 (month/yr)</p>
<p>Changes to the project schedule/workplan:</p>	<p>no (delays expected, but specific changes to await review of progress)</p>

<p>3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p>	<p>No</p>
---	-----------

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 by 31 October each year per email** to Eilidh Young, 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.**