

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2008)

Project Ref. No.	15-030
Project Title	Strengthening scientific capacity of conservation NGOs working with the CBD
Country(ies)	Bolivia, Botswana, Lebanon, Nepal, Palau, Russia (and other BirdLife Partners in the Americas, Europe, Middle East, Africa, Asia and Pacific)
UK Organisation	BirdLife International
Collaborator(s)	n/a
Project Leader	Leon Bennun
Report date	31 st October 2008
Report No.	HYR 3
Project website	www.birdlife.org/sowb , www.birdlifenepal.org

Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

19th – 23rd May: COP9 of the Convention on Biological Diversity was attended by a BirdLife delegation including UK team members, Alison Stattersfield and Muhtari Amino-Kanu. Of particular interest were the items on Monitoring, Assessment and Indicators, specifically those relating to the fourth National Report and GBO3. As a result of follow up with staff at the CBD Secretariat, all National Focal Points have been requested to seek input to National Reports from BirdLife Partners (including the six partners we have been working with through this Darwin Project).

9th – 22nd June: the sixth (and final) internship was undertaken by Natalia Nikolaeva (Russian Bird Conservation Union) at the BirdLife International Global Office in Cambridge. For this we organised a training programme relevant to RBCU's Demonstration Project, including technical assistance with functionality, administration and data transfer for the database supporting the 'World of Birds of Russia' Project.

7th – 12th September: a regional workshop / meeting (the 12th Pan-African Ornithological Congress) was attended in Rawsonville, South Africa, by Project Leader, Leon Bennun, and host country coordinator, Kabelo Senyatso (BirdLife Botswana); both made presentations on Important Bird Areas, species conservation and monitoring.

21st – 27th September: a global workshop / meeting (the BirdLife World Conference) was attended in Buenos Aires, Argentina, by representatives from all six Darwin partners (Bennett Hennesey/Armonia, Kabelo Senyatso/BirdLife Botswana, Nada Farah/Society for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources in Lebanon, Shree Ram/Bird Conservation Nepal, Tiare Holm/Palau Conservation Society, Natalia Nikolaeva/Russian Bird Conservation Union) and UK team members, Leon Bennun, Alison Stattersfield, Stu Butchart, Lincoln Fishpool and Muhtari Amino-Kanu. This meeting was attended by over 350 people from over 100 national conservation organisations (at this meeting a new BirdLife programme 2008–2012 was adopted covering further development of the work currently being undertaken through the Demonstration Projects). Presentations based on the Demonstration Projects were made by all the Darwin representatives. The global report and website 'State of the world's birds' was launched, and associated press information released. Discussions were held to agree final outputs and a dedicated workshop was facilitated with team members from the Darwin Project Ref 14-042 'Supporting southern conservation NGOs to work with the CBD' to scope possible follow up science-policy work with a focus on input to 2010 CBD processes. At the conference the book on 'Important Bird Areas' in Palau was launched.

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.

In the original project proposal, our intention was to attend regional meetings in each of the six regions. However, as mentioned in HYR2, in 2007 we used project funds to support attendance at two regional meetings in the Pacific, and, in 2007/2008, we used project funds to support attendance at two regional meetings in Africa (as well as attendance of regional meetings in the Middle East in 2006 and in the Americas in 2007). The total number of regional meetings attended is thus still six, but without attendance at meetings in Asia or Europe. There are no significant budgetary or timetable implications. We have been opportunistic to select what we consider to be the best regional meetings in the context of the project objectives and timings.

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

No – we assume that this course of action is acceptable.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: none anticipated

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No, thank you

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 . 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**