

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	15/036
Project Title	Monitoring and Managing Biodiversity Loss in South-East Africa's Montane Ecosystems
Country(ies)	Malawi, Mozambique
UK Organisation	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Collaborator(s)	Mount Mulanje Conservation Trust (MMCT); Mozambique National Institute of Agronomic Research (IIAM); BirdLife International; Forestry Research Institute of Malawi (FRIM)
Report date	25 th October 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 1</i>
Project website	<i>Project due to go up on Kew website in November 2006</i>

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).

The project started in July 2006 with the appointment of the Project Co-ordinator for Malawi/Mozambique, Dr Julian Bayliss. Dr Bayliss is affiliated to MMCT. The main project activity scheduled for this reporting period was the Inaugural planning workshop, which had the objectives of establishment of the management committee (RBG Kew, BirdLife, MMCT, IIAM, FRIM); assignment of responsibilities, development of a detailed timetable, and initial discussions on methodology. This workshop was held on 7-8 August 2006, and was hosted by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. A report on this workshop is attached to this document. In addition, plans are well advanced for the first Training workshop in plant identification techniques, followed by practical training on an expedition to Mount Chipirone. This will take place in late November/early December this year. Some relevant literature has been collected and a spreadsheet of previously collected plant specimens has been made, with particular reference to those with restricted distribution. Freely-available remotely sensed imagery has been obtained. Camping equipment has been purchased.

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 Inaugural planning workshop has suggested a number of timetable changes for carrying out activities on different mountains in Mozambique, all for logistical reasons. The following changes to the original activities and outputs timetables are proposed:

Date	Activity/output in project proposal	Activity/output proposed by planning workshop
November 06	Technical report and GIS database outputs for Namuli EMP	Technical report and GIS database outputs for Chipirone EMP

June 07	EMP established on Cucutea (2 weeks); 6 persons. Technical report and GIS database outputs.	EMP established on Namuli (2 weeks); 6 persons. Technical report and GIS database outputs.
November 08	EMP established on Chiperone (2 weeks); min. 6 persons. Outputs: technical report and GIS biodiversity database.	EMP established on Cucutea (2 weeks); min. 6 persons. Outputs: technical report and GIS biodiversity database.

Instead of going to Namuli mountain on the first expedition (Nov/Dec 2006) it was suggested that we go to Chiperone. This is because Chiperone is more accessible and better known than Namuli, and it was felt that we should start with a site that had fewer logistical challenges on our first expedition. In addition, Namuli, which is the largest site, and probably the most interesting biologically, has significant areas of montane grassland, which for phenological reasons are better surveyed in May/June. It is therefore proposed that we carry out the survey on this site in May/June 2007. This, in turn, means that Cucutea would be postponed until November 08.

These changes will not affect the budget or overall agreed outputs of the project.

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

These changes have not been brought to the Secretariat's attention other than in this document because:

- (i) It was felt that such logistical changes were a legitimate output of the Inaugural planning meeting;
- (ii) These changes will not affect the agreed budget or outcomes of this project.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: yes, see above.....(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, not at this stage.

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 Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**