

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	16-010
Project Title	Wildlife Wood Project
Country(ies)	Ghana, Cameroon
UK Organisation	Zoological Society of London
Collaborator(s)	
Project Leader	<i>Noelle Kumpel</i>
Report date	31/10/07
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website	<i>www.zsl.org</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).

Ghana. The progress of the WWP-Ghana has gone well and is primarily on schedule despite certain constraints. In mid-April the project manager, Paul Buzzard was recruited and commenced work in Ghana. The first proposed activity was to conduct field surveys in forest areas with varying hunting and logging impact to find wildlife indicators of sustainable forest use. Three field sites have been identified and agreed upon after discussion with Timber company officials, an assessment of logistics and some pilot field work. The sites agreed upon are the Suhuma, Krokosua Hills and Sui River Concessions. Three sub-sites have been identified in each site according to logging schedules (un-logged, logged 5-10 years ago and currently being logged) to assess logging impacts. Assessing the effect of hunting has been more difficult, however, because hunting is prevalent everywhere and does not seem to vary enough to analyze its impacts. A possible solution may be to make comparisons with Bia and Ankassa protected areas in collaboration with West African Primate Conservation Action-Ghana (WAPCAG) and the Wildlife Division. Hunting is more controlled in these areas and part of Bia has been logged.

By September 2007 wildlife survey methods were to be determined and permanent transects established. Survey methods will involve day and night walks along old roads and hunter trails and day surveys off-trail to find sign of wildlife and hunting activity. By September, field camps and transect sites had been established only in Suhuma. Field camps and transects have since been established in Krokosua Hills and Sui River during October.

By August 2007, community field assistants were to be hired to facilitate field work and establish future monitoring teams. This has been done only for Suhuma and Krokosua Hills, but will be completed for Sui River by the end of October 2007.

The second proposed activity was to conduct hunter, household and market surveys to assess off-take and local trade impact. By September 2007, community field assistants for socio-economic surveys were to have been hired and trained. This has been done by a collaborating Ph.D. student (Bjorn Schulte-Herbrüggen) for his project on the socio-economics of villages in the farmland-forest mosaic. Additionally, a Ghanaian M.Phil. student will record off-take from hunter camps within the Suhuma and Krokosua Hills forests.

The next proposed activity on the schedule involved capacity building through training of wildlife monitoring techniques. By August 2007, survey teams were to be set up consisting of timber company and government officials. Survey teams have been set up involving government

officials: Charles Haizel of the Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC), Koffi Faso of the Wildlife Division as well as Yaw Boafo and James Oppong of the Bio-Monitoring unit. No timber company have participated in field work, however, but plans have been made with the JCM Timber company Certification Manager to participate in November 2007 fieldwork.

By September 2008, Ghanaian students are to have graduated and this is on schedule. Research plans have been discussed with two M.Phil. students and their advisors. Furthermore, the students have been trained in survey methods and they have completed a pilot study in Suhuma forest; field work will begin in the Suhuma forest in November.

The final proposed activity involves raising awareness of wildlife management in timber production forests. By August 2007, information sheets for the project were to be completed. Unfortunately these sheets have not been produced but will be produced by November.

Cameroon. Progress in Cameroon is behind that in Ghana due to no pilot study being carried out before the award of the Darwin Initiative grant but it is expected to rapidly move forward following the employment of a Project Manager. The project manager for WWP-Cameroon, Eric Arnhem, was recruited in July 2007 as planned and started in his new position on a part-time basis from the 15th of August 2007 to October 2007 whilst finishing up a PhD. In this initial phase, three logging companies have been approached and proposed to collaborate with WWP-Cameroon. Two of these logging companies responded positively and discussions are ongoing to establish MoUs with WWP-Cameroon. The third company has not made a decision yet. A pre-selection of field sites has also been carried out based on the information available from timber companies and our proposed study design. MINFOF has also been contacted to identify the appropriate department(s) and contact person(s) for future collaborative work.

In order to complete the work conducted under the auspices of the Darwin Initiative grant, a funding request through the Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) will soon be submitted to the British High Commission in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Funding from GOF will enable WWP-Cameroon to carry out a fundamental socio-economic study, focusing on the livelihoods and poverty implications of wildlife management in timber concessions.

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.

Ghana. As mentioned above, officials from the timber companies have not been adequately involved up until now. In addition, hunting pressure does not seem to vary enough in the case study forests for analysis of its effects there. These problems are not expected to significantly delay the proposed activities.

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

No. We hope to be able to resolve these issues in country without altering the agreement, but if necessary we will contact the Darwin Secretariat in due course.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	no
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no

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

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**