

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

Project Ref. No.	17-010
Project Title	Chameleon trade and conservation in Madagascar
Country(ies)	Madagascar
UK Organisation	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology
Collaborator(s)	Madagasikara Voakajy
Project Leader	Professor Richard Griffiths
Report date	30 October 2009
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	None yet

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).

This project began on 1st May 2009. Personnel from the UK institution (DICE) have been based in the host country since 20th May 2009 and have engaged closely with Madagasikara Voakajy (MV) and other partners. Activities have conformed, and sometimes exceeded, the work plan set out in the proposal. Informal meetings were held with project partners (Conservation International, University of Antananarivo and Malagasy government) to discuss the main objectives of the forthcoming work. MV and DICE have already supported the Malagasy government by providing detailed sections on chameleons for the national report to CBD. MV and DICE personnel have also been invited by the Scientific Authority to assist Madagascar respond to the recommendations made by CITES in the 2009 Animals Committee meeting. The new Landover purchased by DICE for the project arrived in Madagascar in August and was formally presented to the President of MV by Katy Ransome (British Embassy) in September. Two visits by MV staff were made to survey the different chameleon species held at breeding/holding facilities. Five masters students have been recruited from two different Malagasy universities and all completed a 5-day certified GIS course at the national geographic institute and funded by the DI. Draft species assessments and maps of 74 chameleon species have been prepared for the IUCN Red List assessment. One scientific paper on chameleons is in press and three are being reviewed by journals. Presentations on the project were given to British Embassy staff and stakeholders (notably WWF). In addition to promoting the Darwin Initiative and disseminating the objectives of the project this was valuable experience for host country partner staff. The British Herpetological Society has granted the project £1,000 towards project work to evaluate trade and sustainable use of chameleons.

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.

Nothing to report

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

Nothing to report

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

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**