

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

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	29 October 2010
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR2
Project website	http://www.madagasikara-voakajy.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=34%3Aachameleons&catid=39%3Aprojects&Itemid=61&lang=en-GB

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).

In May 2010 project staff organised a half-day meeting at the offices of the Ministry of Environment and Forests to update stakeholders on overall progress and to inform them about the next steps. The meeting was chaired by the CBD Focal Point for Madagascar, and other key partners present included university professors, CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, Madagascar National Parks and NGOs (WWF and Conservation International). We used this opportunity to present the preliminary results of the Darwin Initiative funded survey by TRAFFIC of the illegal reptile trade in Thailand. The host country partner had an impressive stand at the 3-day exhibition at Parc Botanique et Zoologique de Tsimbazaza to celebrate the International Day of Biodiversity, with a focus on chameleons. This was followed by a similar event on World Environment Day in the town of Moramanga. The discovery of a new species of chameleon in a site, managed by the host country partner, led to it becoming the flagship taxon for the District of Anosibe An'ala. Species accounts and maps for 75 chameleons were submitted to the IUCN Red List office in Cambridge in preparation for the January 2010 reptile workshop in Antananarivo. Field research with Malagasy students continued during the reporting period, with return trips to the dry forest of Bongolava in June and the Ankaratra mountain in August. Four of the five Malagasy students have submitted draft research theses, and an MSc student from DICE completed a project on chameleon trade.

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.

There were no notable problems during this period.

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

Not applicable.

Discussed with LTS:	no/yes, in..... (month/yr)
Formal change request submitted:	no/yes, in.....(month/yr)
Received confirmation of change acceptance	no/yes in.....(month/yr)

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

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

We would like to draw attention to the host country partner's new website (www.madagasikaravoakajy.org) because the old website was considered inadequate by the reviewer.

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 LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**