

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	31 October 2011
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR3
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).

IUCN Red List to contain assessment of all Malagasy chameleon species

Following the workshop held in Q1 of 2011 the project team worked with people in the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Chameleon Specialist Group to conduct a quality check and consistency assessment for the reptile accounts. These were completed in August 2011 and the IUCN Red List update with the Malagasy chameleons is scheduled for 10 November 2011.

All chameleon species assessed for their potential as a harvested resource

The CITES Management Authority of Madagascar submitted its documents to the Animals Committee meeting after the deadline. The assessment of the detailed account of chameleons, prepared by the project team that included information of their potential for sustainable trade was postponed to the 26th Animals Committee meeting in March 2012. A member of the project team attended the 25th Animals Committee meeting in Geneva as part of the IUCN SSC's delegation. The project team returned to the Ankaratra Massif to collect field data on the biology of *Furcifer campani* – a strong candidate species for resumed international trade.

Enhanced host country capacity to conserve and sustainably manage endemic chameleon species

The project team maintained regular contact with the Malagasy CITES Authorities throughout the reporting period. This included two meetings in preparation for the 25th Animals Committee and a post-meeting feedback session. The Malagasy students on the project continued preparing their research theses, with three at the University of Antananarivo and two from the University of Toliara approaching their vivas. Jean Victor Nadege Rafanomezantsoa obtained his Licence Professionnelle degree on Biodiversité et Environnement at the Département des Sciences Biologiques of Toliara University on "Étude et suivi des populations de caméléons dans les villages de Sakabera et de Belalanda, Sud-Ouest de Madagascar. The project produced an identification booklet for the *Furcifer* chameleons of Madagascar and the Comores. A hundred copies were printed and these are now being evaluated by experts.

Assessment of the illegal trade in chameleons between Madagascar and South-East Asia

The final report from this part of the project was published and attracted considerable publicity http://news.mongabay.com/2011/0619-hance_malagasy_thailand.html.

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.madagasikara-voakajy.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**