

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	17020
Project Title	Enhancing the Elephant Trade Information System to guide CITES policy
Country(ies)	
UK Organisation	University of Reading
Collaborator(s)	TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa
Project Leader	<i>Dr Fiona Underwood</i>
Report date	<i>31 October 2010</i>
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 1</i>
Project website	

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).

Act 1.2 & 1.3: Functional Specification for the new database software has been completed and software platforms evaluated.

Act 1.4: The subcontract for the development of the database software went out to tender and Solertium Corporation have just been awarded this contract and started work on the project.

Act 2.2: Statistical models to produce bias-adjusted indicators are being evaluated

Act 4.3: In Cameroon the ETIS training manual (handbook) was finalized in the French language for distribution throughout the country.

Act 4.4: Preparations for ETIS training events were undertaken in Thailand and Malaysia in Asia and in Cameroon in Africa. These activities will be completed in the next reporting period.

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.

After tendering for a subcontractor to develop the database software it became clear that our original timetable for its development was much longer than required. To keep within budget the timescale for this component has therefore been reduced and activity 1.5 also brought forward. Time originally allocated to activity 2.2 will not be available as it is now required for activity 1.4 and 1.5. This part of the project therefore needs an extended timescale and so activities 2.3 -2.5 also require moving.

We have to pay VAT on the database software development and this brings this part of the project to a slightly higher cost than originally budgeted for. This requires a slight shift in budget allocation, although always at less than 10% of each years budget.

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

Financial aspects have been discussed with LTS International and a change request form regarding the timing has been submitted at the same time as this document.

Discussed with LTS: Budget issues discussed September 2010

Formal change request submitted: Yes, October 2010

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

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: £ [REDACTED]

4. 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 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**