



Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Important note:

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders:
it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes



Submission Deadline: 30 April 2013

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	19-010
Project Title	Developing Long-term Stakeholder Capacity for Elephant Conservation in Mali
Host Country/ies	Mali
UK contract holder institution	Wilderness Foundation-UK
Host country partner institutions	Direction des Eaux et Forêts, Ministry of the Environment
Other partner institutions	International Conservation Fund of Canada, The WILD Foundation
Darwin Grant Value	£240,510
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2012 – 31 March 2015
Reporting period (eg Apr 2012 – Mar 2013) and number (eg Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	Apr 2012 – Mar 2013 Annual report 1
Project Leader name	Dr Susan Canney
Project website	http://www.wild.org/where-we-work/the-desert-elephants-of-mali/
Report authors, main contributors and date	Dr Susan Canney 10 th April 2013

2. Project Background

Increasing human pressure throughout the migratory range of the 550 Mali elephants is heightening the potential for human-elephant conflict at the same time as degradation impoverishes livelihoods and reduces the resilience of the ecosystem to cope. And yet successful mitigation methods, such as land-use planning and the integration of elephant conservation into community natural resource management plans and development plans, are still possible if action is taken soon, particularly as poaching has been non-existent.

In their NBSAP, Mali has identified the Gourma as an area of great significance with regards to biodiversity. The elephants are singled out for particular attention as they are regarded of national and international importance for several reasons. They represent 12% of all West African elephants. This population is the most northerly population in existence, and is accorded a high priority in the regional elephant strategy of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), making an amazing circular migration of over 600 kilometres annually from Mali to Burkina Faso and back. The African elephant is listed in Appendix Two of the CMS and the subject of a MoU. This population is listed under Appendix I of CITES. Government resources are wholly inadequate to cover this vast area: a different approach is needed.

Scientific studies and community consultation indicated that the threats to the elephants were the same as the threats to the livelihoods of the local population and the resilience of the ecosystem to cope with environmental change, namely:

- Population pressure from the south, as people search for new land to farm. Meanwhile dispossessed herders try shifting agriculture that ultimately results in soil erosion and loss.
- Well intentioned development interventions that have exacerbated the problem e.g. the thoughtless provision of water-points encouraging settlement and a natural resource "free-for-all"; and financial incentives to develop market gardens around water holes attracting agriculturalists from elsewhere.
- Livestock pressure from the river towns where middle classes amass huge "prestige" herds that need to travel further and further afield to find pasture

- Urban commercial interests cutting trees and gathering non-timber forest products.
- The disinclination to respect the resource management systems of another ethnicity.

Underpinning all these is the anarchic use of natural resources by multiple interests and ethnicities. The resultant “free-for-all” has led to resource degradation, habitat destruction, impoverished livelihoods, and an increase in human-elephant conflict.

The strategy is to protect the elephant migration route by establishing consensus-based community land-use planning and natural resource management systems, effectively putting “the commons” under community management. These empower the local population to sustainably manage the natural resources on which their livelihoods depend, reverse ecosystem degradation, make provision for elephants, generate income and equitably share revenue. This strategy has been developed at Lake Banzena in the “Elephant Partial Reserve”, the last accessible water for elephants at the end of the dry season and the lynch-pin of the migration. The approach worked better than we ever thought and the project is now extending it throughout the elephant range, beginning with adjacent communities.

3. Project Partnerships

The partnership with the Malian Ministry of the Environment and its Direction National des Eaux et Forêts (DNEF) is excellent and fruitful, and continues to strengthen. We continue to work closely together, and the DNEF supports us in any way it can. In the last year this was particularly evident in the creation of the rapid response anti-poaching unit described below.

The project leader is responsible for the overall direction of the project; project strategy, budget and the selection and programming of activities; keeping abreast of developments in conservation, development and sustainability innovation; fundraising and reporting; liaison with donors and the Mali government; and communicating the project and its philosophy to others; as well as technical inputs such as the compilation of GIS maps. The field manager, based in Mali, is responsible for executing project activities on the ground. The project leader and the field manager speak every day to discuss the current situation and determine the details of project execution and the budget, and are in frequent email communication. The Field Manager is responsible for the field team which has grown this year to include a full time accountant/book-keeper plus two full-time field assistants as well as an administrative assistant and a driver.

Other international or regional partnerships – we will be providing DNA for Sam Wasser’s team and the Illinois team to determine genetic distance from other elephant populations. We have increased our number of financial partners (and writing pieces for their blogs and newsletters), but we have no formal collaborations with similar projects. We have established links with the Saharo-Sahelian Interest Group, attending and giving a presentation at their annual meeting in May 2012. We will be doing the same in 2013, have written for their newsletter, and the project leader has been invited to join their board.

The CBD focal point, Mr Boureima Camara is involved in many discussions and meetings concerning the Gourma and the elephants at national level. The project has provided major capacity building in helping the DNEF respond to protecting the elephants during the recent conflict, as described below

We anticipate forging more partnerships with other projects when we start working with agricultural communities in mediating human-elephant conflict.

4. Project Progress

The Gourma region has been significantly disrupted by the Malian conflict. There was a total withdrawal of government presence after the coup resulting in a state of total lawlessness, controlled by armed groups and awash with guns.

We were able to continue our work through modifying our working practices and adapting our activities to respond to the new situation, and particularly in finding ways to protect the elephants from poachers. The activities are covered in the report, however the impacts on our working practices were:

- Hiding the project vehicles to prevent their hijack, using motorbikes instead, and checking ahead to ensure that it was safe to travel
- Closing the office, and removing its contents. This was done by many individuals on different occasions, so as not to attract attention.

- Being unable to use GPS, cameras and even mobile phones to prevent their confiscation/ theft or punishment for their use. We are, therefore not yet able to locate exact position of protected areas and this has hindered means of verification.
- Activities had to continue without the presence of government administration or technical services, and so we have been unable to finalize the text of legal conventions. When they return meetings will be held to ensure their input and modified accordingly before finalization

4.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

Output 1 – The development and implementation of a model for the protection of the pastoral areas of the elephant range

This is the model developed at Lake Banzena in the Elephant Partial Reserve. Lake Banzena is now free of human occupation, the last families moving to their new site in August 2012. Evaluation of the community's natural resource management system suggested that they were ready to operate autonomously, and so the project leased six camels for the community to use in resource protection. A camel procurement and management committee oversaw the purchase, and determined the rules of responsibility and management. The "brigades de surveillance" have continued to patrol, despite the absence of foresters, have kept the lake free of human occupation, and moved on herds of cattle. The community prevented the jihadis from abducting the camels by using their project communications training in explaining how they were used for resource protection. The jihadis were persuaded that this was a good thing and left the camels. The brigades have protected their pasture reserve from fire with 450km of firebreaks and patrol religiously. They also built an additional firebreak of 120km parallel to the river to protect pasture adjacent to the river so that herders would not need to come to Banzena (see section 11 and <http://www.wild.org/blog/protecting-the-mali-elephants-from-war/>).

a) Integrating the communities to the south-west and east

No sooner had we begun working with the community of Banzena than the adjacent communities requested that we do the same with them. This is important as displacing large herds from Banzena could increase the pressure elsewhere.

Already the communities of Tinabou, Kazey-Kazey, Ouro Hama Allaye and Sartatane to the south and west had been integrated into the process, and the communities to the east and south-west asked to join in. These include the villages, campements and hamlets of the Karwassa, Inani, N'gaw-N'gaw and Modo to the south-west flanking the Niger inner delta, in the communes of Diaptodji, Korarou and Debere; and those of Insegueren (Ais, Houbouka, Zalam-Zalam) and Dimamou (18 campements) to the east in the communes of Inadiatafane, Serere, Hombori and Gandamia (see map).



Each of the meetings enjoyed a large turn-out of women who attended to show their support for the men in protecting habitat and the elephants. For them, elephants are good luck and to be encouraged, because they come wherever there is forage.

Meetings were held between 18th June and 22nd July 2012 at Modo, Tassok, Ais, Daka Kolada, Insegueren, Tazuit, and Dimamou. The meetings were attended by a total of 433 people representing 45 areas and began with information sharing and a discussion of the issues, problems and potential solutions. This is

to bring the different clans and ethnicities together and create the sense of a common cause from which concerted action would benefit all. They had all heard of what had happened at Banzena and seen how the pasture reserve, protected by fire-breaks had protected valuable resources of pasture and forest, and how they would be able to not only take control of their resources to prevent over-exploitation, but also derive an income from charging the large prestige herds for access to water.. They agreed to work together to:

- Support the continued elimination of human activity at Lake Banzena

- Extend the process to their areas
- Protect key elephant habitats and the migration route by establishing similar systems of resource management.

A new sylvo-pastoral reserve was delimited and continues to be regularly patrolled.

b) Training adjacent communities in resource protection activities and integrating them into the Banzena group

Adjacent riverine communities asked that the project help them with resource protection and restoration activities. These were on the margins of the elephant range *sensu stricto* (although a key part of the elephant range up until the 1980s), but their livestock use the resources of the Gourma, particularly during the wet season, and so any increase in resource availability in these areas reduces the pressure on the Gourma. In addition, controls on the large transhumant herds in these areas support the efforts of the communities in the heart of the elephant range.

These communities had already spontaneously created “brigades” of young men of their own accord, and initiated activities in fire-watching and fighting, patrolling to detect illegal hunting and cutting of trees, and limiting the numbers of large transhumant herds in their territory.

58 representatives took part from the communities of: Kaye-Kaye, Koro Bella, Koro Peul, Koro Songhai, Moukoye Taifo in the commune of Bambara-Maoudé; Fifo, Kaye Kayen, Tassawelt, Kal Taoutala, Kel Bouren noir, Kel Idaren in the commune of Haribomo. ; Kanioumé, Guelewel, Kersani, Kelzanoye in the commune of Diaptodji; and Diambana, Elou, Ibrizaz, Tanal, Idourfane in the commune of Korarou, The training took place at Kaye-Kaye between the 16th and 24th April 2012 and centred on four themes:

- Collaboration and synergy of activities and patrols with the Banzena communities to increase effectiveness and efficiency
- Techniques in the construction and maintenance of fire-breaks using camels
- Knowledge of the relevant forestry laws concerning protected species, abusive tree-cutting, hunting and habitat protection
- The dangers of human and animal pressure on elephant habitat

After the training these 21 villages committed to:

- Construct and/or maintain fire-breaks every year
- Protect water bodies and forests frequented by elephants
- Organise inter-community meetings to enable co-ordinated action to limit the numbers of large transhumant herds using their pasture and water-points during the dry season.

c) Training of the Banzena communities in water point management and the regulation of large transhumant herds

These herds arrive at the time of the dry season when pastures are particularly poor, already over-exploited, and particularly vulnerable to degradation through trampling and over-exploitation; and when water resources are at their lowest. These numbers are to be limited by the introduction of charges per head of livestock for access to water and pasture in the Banzena relocation area, and is possible because of the resource management systems, committees, structures and practices already in operation.

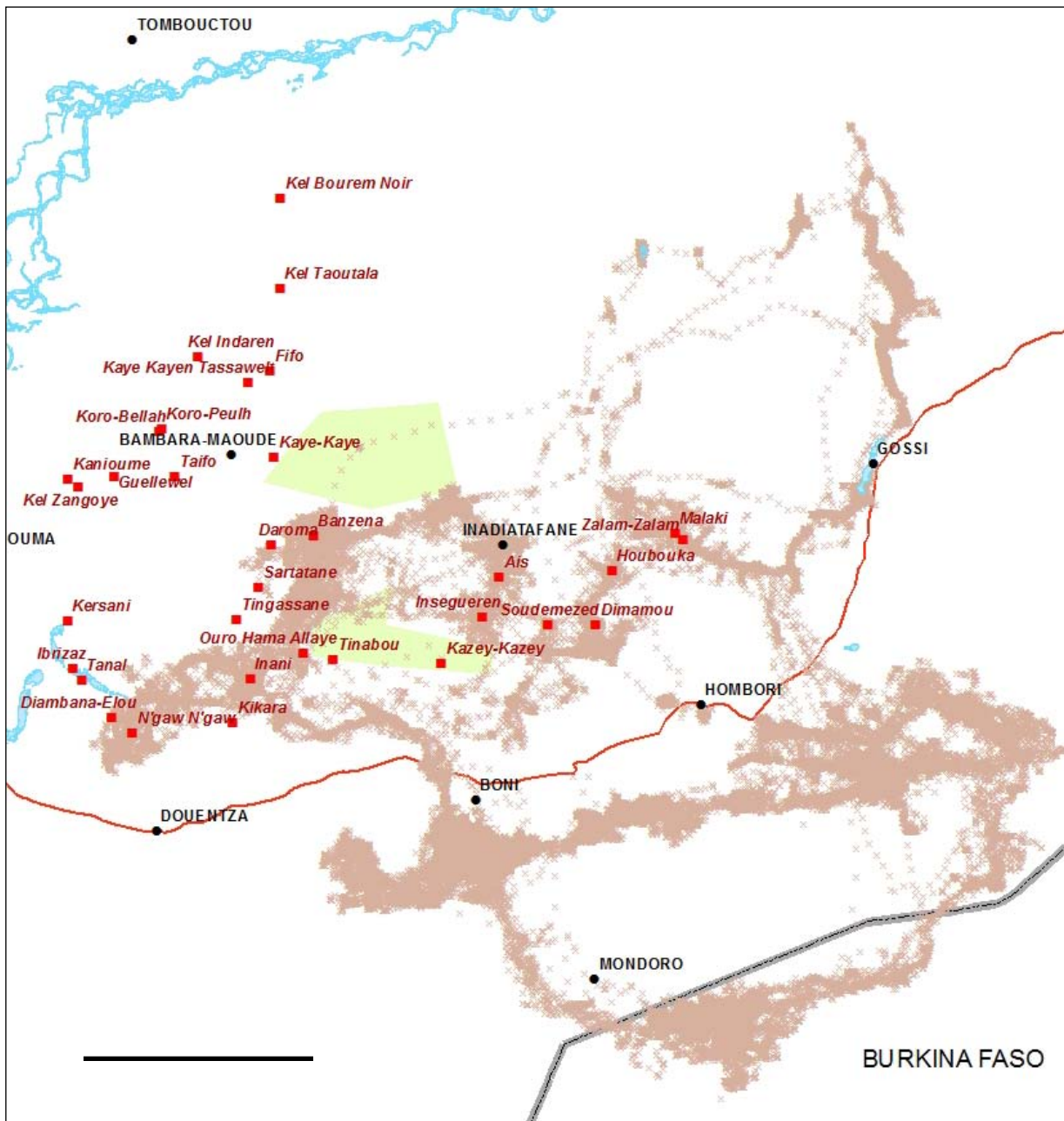
The training took place between 14th and the 21st July 2012 for 36 representatives of the management committees, the brigades de surveillance, the womens’ associations and several herders. It centred on the following themes:

- Taxation for access to water for transhumant animals
- Sanitation and maintenance of the water-points
- Hygiene and the avoidance of water-borne disease.

For the watering of livestock, it was decided to charge camels at 40 cfa per head per day, and cows and shoats at 25 and 10 cfa per head per day respectively; while management regulations included:

- Water for human consumption was free
- Washing laundry was forbidden in the vicinity of the boreholes
- Watering cows was forbidden in the vicinity of the boreholes and only the small lake was to be used.

When these rules were communicated to the camps, villages and hamlets in the area, many of the large “prestige” migratory herds left rather than pay the taxes.



Map showing the locations of communities (where known) of the activities funded by the Darwin Initiative in year 1. Green polygons represent the first pasture reserves established in 2011. There were two more designated this year but we have yet to be able to GPS them. Light brown - the elephant migration route. Red line is the metalled road Mopti-Gao. Grey line is the international frontier with Burkina Faso. The black line in the bottom left represents 50km.

d) Radio broadcasts on local radio

These continued throughout the dry season until 20th July 2013 in the languages of Peulh, Dogon, Tamasheq, Songhai, Moor, and Bamana, transmitted from the local radio stations of Douentza, Gossi, Inadiatafane, Rharous, to inform wider communities of the new resource management systems and the reasons for them.

The following activities are not directly funded by the Darwin Initiative but are intimately connected, supporting the Darwin activities and vice versa, and particularly output 4 which arises out of output 1.

e) A socio-economic baseline study to enable the evaluation of project impact

The report is completed but still awaiting the input of one person who is highly occupied by his government tasks, but it should be available shortly.

Output two – a plan for the resolution of human-elephant conflict in the agro-pastoral and agricultural south of the elephant range frequented by elephants during the wet season. Socio-economic survey has been completed and should be available shortly

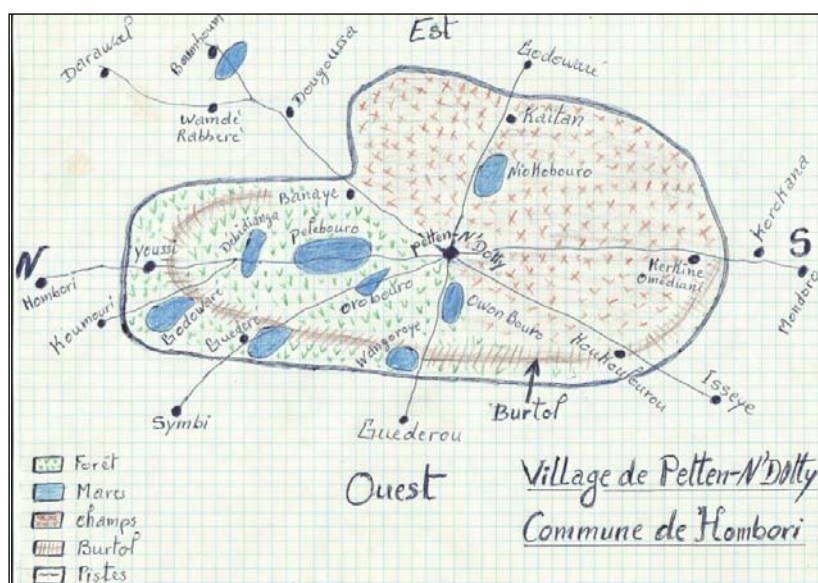
Output three – an inter-communal convention covering the whole of the elephant range

Two more intercommunal conventions were agreed this year (although without the presence of the government administration and technical services), which together with the existing one, means that the whole of the range is covered at this level. It remains for these three to be brought together to one.

Output four – community ecosystem protection initiatives

Two new sylvo-pasture reserves were created this year, bringing the total to 4. A total of 925km of fire-breaks were built: 450km to protect the Banzena reserve pasture, built by 270 young men over 182 days; 140km near Kazey-Kazey; 140km in the Karwassa; and 195km in Serma-Massi-Issey in the south of the elephant range. All of these mean that herders have end-of-dry-season pasture in their territories and do not need to use Banzena, thus leaving Banzena free of human activity with forage for the elephants. The Darwin Initiative funded the training that enabled these activities.

Example of a map constructed by villagers (in this case for Pettendoti) to identify natural resources in order to form a basis for discussion and enable the determination of protection status and management regime for each.



Unforeseen activities - Elephant protection during the conflict and the absence of government

The absence of government and the proliferation of arms and conflict meant the elephants were very vulnerable to poaching, particularly given the explosion in elephant massacres to fund war. Indeed the first elephant killing experienced in the Gourma occurred in January 2012 ordered by an MNLA local commander. We convened a 3-day community meeting in April 2012 for 78 people, to exchange information on day-to-day challenges that included: the availability of grain (due to hijacking of lorries), the recruitment of young men to the armed groups, and elephant protection. Local community elders and leaders pledged to spread the message widely (including to the armed groups) that killing elephants steals from the local people. The MNLA were culturally constrained as they belong to the same clans, while the jihadis relied on the good-will of the community for food and provisions. We helped the communities procure grain, and recruited and trained 250 young men to form “vigilance networks” and support our existing management systems, paying them in food. None of these young men joined the jihadis, taking pride in their tasks of elephant protection, information gathering (on poaching incidents), resource protection and assisting the “brigades de surveillance” in their tasks. More than this, they saw

themselves as project extension agents spreading the word to other communities. See more information here <http://www.wild.org/blog/protecting-the-mali-elephants-from-war/>

We have also worked with the government to mobilize, train and deploy an anti-poaching unit of elite foresters to respond to information from the vigilance networks (see section 11)

4.2 Progress towards project outputs

We are well on target to achieve the outputs of the project. Existing assumptions still hold, although we continue to enjoy strong support from all levels of government, and the interest and commitment of communities to continue in resource protection at local and communal level throughout the conflict, and despite the absence of armed back-up from the foresters, has exceeded expectations.

4.3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Cod e No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Number planned for Y1	Total planned
6A	Number of people receiving training: 94 trained purely in resource protection and 107 as a part of the establishment of vigilance networks, partially funded by Darwin Initiative	94 + 107	100	295
6B	Number of training weeks provided this includes training funded by other donors	14.5	12	36
8	No weeks spent by UK project staff in country (Impossible to travel to Mali during the conflict. Met Field manager in Dakar, Senegal to review progress)	0	10	30
10	No guides/manuals	0	0	2
11A	No papers in peer-reviewed journals	0	0	1
11B	No papers to be submitted	0	0	2-3
12A	No databases	0	0	1
14A	No international conferences to be organised	0	0	1
14A	No national workshops to be organised these are earmarked for funding by other donors and will be reduced in number due to the conflict	0	3	12
14B	No conferences/ workshops attended	1	1	2-3
15	No.local/ national press releases in host country & UK	3	4	17
17A	No. dissemination networks established	0	0	1
19	No. national & local radio interviews in host country & UK	12	12	40
20	Laptop and printer plus an additional £72,000 raised for the anti-poaching unit (not Darwin)	£73,000		£9,790
Other measures arising from Darwin funded activities				
	Kms of firebreaks constructed	925		
	Area of pasture protected (to be determined)			
	No. additional areas of reserve habitat	2	2	5

Table 2 Publications

All online news sites published at no cost, by the project leader (if not otherwise stated) and based on blog entries see http://www.wild.org/category/blog/mali-elephants-blog/
Protecting the Mali Elephants from War, 25 th Jan 2013, African Conservation Foundation http://www.africanconservation.org/in-focus/item/protecting-the-mali-elephants-from-war
Concerns grow for Mali's elephants as war escalates, 23 rd Jan 2013, Wildlife Extra http://www.wildlifeextra.com/go/news/elephants-mali-war.html#cr
The War in Mali Isn't Any Good for Its Elephants, By Stefan Simanowitz, February 2013, Vice Magazine http://www.vice.com/en_uk/read/war-threatens-malis-elephants
Malis Fragile Elephant Population at Risk, March 25, 2013, Huffington Post http://www.huffingtonpost.com/stefan-simanowitz/malis-fragile-elephant_b_2900108.html
Towards Freedom 18 th March 2013 http://towardfreedom.com/environment/3175-caught-in-the-crossfire-

[malis-nomadic-elephants-at-risk](#)

Save Our Species Mali's Warzone Elephants, 30 January 2013, News story

http://www.sospecies.org/sos_news/success_stories/?11828/Malis-Warzone-Elephants

Save Our Species Surviving the War for Mali's Elephants, 20 February 2013 News story

http://www.sospecies.org/sos_news/success_stories/?12511/Surviving-the-War-for-Malis-Elephants

Protecting Mali's Elephants, Sandscript No 13, Spring2013, SCF newsletter

http://www.saharaconservation.org/IMG/pdf/Sandscript_13_Spring_2013_Standard.pdf

4.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Progress towards the project purpose has exceeded expectations. The purpose is for communities to manage human-elephant co-existence and elephants become an integral part of NRM and support local livelihoods. Our initial idea was to extend the "Banzena approach" progressively across the elephant range. However, the creation of the vigilance networks throughout the elephant range (described in section 4.1) took the ideas of the project further than originally anticipated. At the same time, other communities outside the project's zone of influence started implementing management systems and reserving pasture spontaneously. So the spread of the model has not occurred in the planned, ordered way, but in a more haphazard fashion that will ultimately greatly speed spreading the model across the elephant range.

Once the army has finished its mopping up operations, we will do a survey to assess the state of progress of each community, and GPS all initiatives. Once the government administration and technical services return to the area, they can be integrated into all the initiatives described so far and the written texts can be finalised.

4.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

The loss of habitat to fire has been dramatically reduced, but we have not been able to quantify the amount due to constraints in using GPS. Wildlife has suffered from the war with hunting of gazelles and birds, although not in the areas covered by the communities with whom we have worked to create resource management systems, as their brigades have continued to patrol throughout. The elephants have been protected by the community as described in sections 4.1 and 11. Of the 7 killings, 6 were ordered by the same local MNLA commander, and while it is difficult to have definitive proof, it is highly likely that there would have been many copy-cat killings by other militia leaders, had the community not united in sanctioning elephant killings, and had the project brigades and vigilance networks not been in place.

The 730 people who lived at Lake Banzena have relocated and the lake and surrounds have been kept free of human settlement. Cattle numbers have dropped considerably, it has retained water and forage throughout the dry season for the past 2 years, and elephants have found refuge there.

5. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

The Field Manager continually monitors the activity of the community management systems. Unfortunately the Project Leader has not been able to visit the project area throughout the past year due to the conflict, but a team of high-ranking DNEF officials led by the National Director Adjoint monitored the project as part of the baseline socio-economic survey. The report is not yet available but informally the team was very impressed by the achievements in such a short space of time, with a relatively small budget, over such a large area.

However we have been unable to obtain quantitative records of the activity of the patrols. We have tried using evaluation forms but are dealing with populations that are for the most part illiterate, and even if we were able to train them to record data faithfully or use data loggers, this would need to be introduced once they have fully integrated the new information they have learned, and are completely familiar with patrolling and other operational procedures. We may then be able to train individuals in recording data. We therefore hope to recruit more field assistants so that they can document this information.

Being unable to use cameras and GPS units has meant we have not been able to map fire-breaks and areas of reserve pasture; while the absence of the government administration and technical services is meant that we have not been able to finalise the text of the local and inter-communal conventions. However, all these things should be possible over the coming year.

6. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable) N/A

7. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The project successfully dealt with enormous risks from the outbreak of conflict and the occupation of the area by armed groups. We adapted our activities accordingly as described in elsewhere, and continued with our work.

We are also aware that the elephants are still in great danger from forces outside of Mali, for example if the islamist groups across the Sahel increase their inter-group solidarity and transmit ideas of raising money through elephant poaching from groups such as Al-Shabab and Janjaweed, plus the arrival of foreign peace-keepers. We are alerting the top levels of government to these risks, however the greatest risk comes from foreign interests who work through bribing government employees in the administration and technical services. These interests are mistrustful of dealing directly with local people who more likely to divulge information about these activities. The existing vigilance networks have been remarkably successful and we intend to extend these throughout the elephant range, at the same time as raising money for a second vehicle that would allow a second anti-poaching base at the opposite end of the elephant range.

Post-conflict we now face additional risks from: inter-community enmity and potential impacts from aid and reconstruction activities, and are initiating a process that we aim to be taken up by Mali and its financial and technical partners. This is described in more detail in our blog entry:

<http://www.wild.org/blog/post-war-mali/> explaining why an organization concerned with elephant conservation is convening a national workshop on reconciliation, aid and reconstruction.

8. Sustainability

This project has an extremely high profile within the Ministry of the Environment, and enjoys 100% support, being regarded as a model for the rest of Mali. The Project Leader and Field Manager enjoy ready access to the top levels of the Direction of Eaux et Forêts, and to the Minister and Secretary General of the Ministry of the Environment. The elephants, the need for their conservation, and the achievements of this project have been discussed at least twice in Cabinet during this time.

Project achievements have greatly boosted the morale of Eaux et Forêts and their profile within government. The result is that the top posts are now occupied by dedicated and effective individuals who make a strong supportive team.

The ultimate aim is that communities manage their own resources and restore the ecosystem thereby creating more resources while protecting elephant habitat and the migration route. We support them in this until we feel they have demonstrated their ability to manage their resources themselves, when we supply them with camels and equipment on a lease arrangement (i.e. they held by the community in common under written agreements, and are to be used for natural resource management). If the conditions of the lease are broken, the camels are returned. So far we have 3 communities that are operating autonomously. We will monitor these on an ongoing basis but they continued throughout the crisis. This Darwin Initiative project is part of a long term initiative, the Mali Elephant Project, that we envisage continuing until 2020 at least, when we envisage the whole of the elephant range being managed by integrated community-forester natural resource management systems, supported by an elephant range management plan.

9. Dissemination

We continually keep all levels of government informed and involved in all our activities so that awareness is spread, from Ministers to regional governors to local council representatives. The elephants and the project were discussed twice in cabinet. The project is regarded as a model within Mali.

News has been posted on the websites of The Wilderness Foundation, The WILD Foundation, and the International Conservation Fund of Canada. During the reporting period two press releases have been written and the following articles have appeared: on the Wildlife Extra website; VICE web-magazine, the African Conservation Foundation news site, towards Freedom website; Huffington Post, two articles on the Save Our Species news site, and an article in the Spring edition of the Sahara Conservation Fund's newsletter.

The schools project is suspended until the schools return, and we hope to employ a communications officer to be responsible for photo documentation and production of videos.

10. Project Expenditure

Table 3 project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013)

Item	Budget	Expenditure	Variance/ Comments
Staff costs			
Project leader	XXX	XXX	none
Field manager	XXX	XXX	
Overhead costs	XXX	XXX	£2,353 reallocated from office overheads to travel as agreed
Travel and subsistence	XXX	XXX	
Operating costs	XXX	XXX	none
Capital items/equipment			
Computing hardware	XXX	XXX	£945 to be carried forward
Others: Consultancy			
Cartography	XXX	XXX	£1,184 to be carried forward
Translation	XXX	XXX	£247 to be carried forward
Others			
Radio broadcasts	XXX	XXX	none
Printing	XXX	XXX	£24 to be carried forward
Exch. rate contingency	XXX	XXX	£1,000 to be carried forward
TOTAL	£93,340	£89,941	£3,399 to be carried forward (3.6% of total)

11. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum).

I agree for LTS and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

- We were able to continue working with the communities within the project area throughout the conflict, despite the absence of government, complete lawlessness and a proliferation of guns.
- Despite very limited resources we mobilized the population to protect the elephants as described in section 4.1, and 4.5, and as a result only seven out of 550 elephants were killed. Through these elephant protection activities, we were able to extend the reach of the project throughout the elephant range.
- To provide armed back-up to the community information networks we worked with the Malian government to recruit, train, and deploy an elite, rapid response anti-poaching unit that could be deployed as soon as the army had secured the area. The government provided their top foresters, salaries, arms and ammunition and we raised an additional \$80,000 emergency funding over a period of 4 months to cover training, equipment and a vehicle.
- We managed to avert a calamity that threatened our work at Lake Banzena. The dam at Gossi broke draining the chain of lakes along the Gossi corridor. This meant that herders from the river that use these areas would look elsewhere for dry season water and be forced to move towards Banzena. To prevent this we suggested building a 120km fire-break to protect pasture close to the river, so that herders would not need to move into the Gourma to find pasture. No sooner had we mentioned this but the Banzena brigades immediately set to work. This is described in more detail (with map) here <http://www.wild.org/blog/protecting-the-mali-elephants-from-war/>
- Post-conflict we are responding to new threats that have opened up for the elephants. Communities are divided and we are planning to integrate community reconciliation into our activities, as it is united communities that are most powerful in resource protection and restoration. At the same time we are learning from the experience of past droughts and conflicts in the 1980s and 1990s by working to ensure that aid and reconstruction activities are designed not to inflame current social tensions, nor contribute to environmental degradation. We convened a 3-day 12 ministry workshop for top-levels of government to discuss these issues and develop an action plan that will be presented to Mali's financial and technical partners. These are the beginnings of a process that will then be taken to the regions and the communities themselves see <http://www.wild.org/blog/>

New images: firebreak construction; community natural resource maps, anti-poaching unit, illegal charcoal burning, livestock crowding a water source; illegal firewood operation discovered, community meetings, many photos of elephants. Contact the Project Leader.

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2012-2013

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The conservation of biological diversity, ⇒ The sustainable use of its components, and ⇒ The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 		<p>The communities with which the project is working are at different stages of resource protection and sustainable use – some are operating autonomously and others are on the way towards that. Illegal cutting, hunting and charcoal burning have been prevented and resource use sustainably regulated</p>	
<p>Purpose Communities manage human-elephant coexistence and elephants become an integral part of natural resource management (NRM) and support local livelihoods in the Gourma through the generation of long-term capacity at all levels of decision-making</p>	<p>Communities report a reduction in incidences of conflict.</p> <p>An intercommunal convention covering the whole of the elephant range enters law and protects elephant habitat.</p> <p>Pastoralist communities are implementing sustainable NRM that includes habitat protection and restoration.</p> <p>A participatory plan for agro-pastoral and agricultural communities is developed, and used to raise money for implementation.</p> <p>Projects & programmes working in the area include the consideration of elephants in their programmes.</p>	<p>The challenge of the conflict meant we had to find ways to protect the elephants at the same time as keep working with the communities in NRM and habitat protection, despite a tight budget. We were able to do this by including elephant protection in existing activities; as well as introducing new activities that answered to the concerns of the population as well as fulfilled project goals (eg recruiting the young men to vigilance networks that were also trained in habitat protection). The benefits were that it enabled us to engage with more communities sooner</p> <p>Conflict between humans and elephants is virtually non-existent in the pastoral areas where the project has been working. Pastoral communities have continued with NRM procedures throughout conflict, and agricultural communities are keen to be included, already having designated key elephant forests as protected from clearance, occupation with highly regulated resource extraction.</p>	<p>Continuing to work with the pastoral communities in implementing the next stage of resource management systems, and including community reconciliation activities as an essential component.</p> <p>The development of a plan for the agricultural communities in the wet season elephant range.</p> <p>The extension of vigilance cells throughout the elephant range to protect the elephants post-conflict.</p> <p>The deployment of an additional ranger post (pending raising funding for an additional vehicle)</p>
<p>Output 1. A model is developed and implemented for the protection of the elephant range in pastoral areas that cover 60% of the elephant range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The integration of the 3 adjacent Karwassa communities into the 	<p>Community structures established and active</p> <p>Training courses delivered, effectiveness evaluated (see 16,19&20)</p> <p>Reduction in incidences of harmful and</p>	<p>The three adjacent communities have been integrated into the Banzena process and the model has been extended to the communities mentioned in the report and shown on the map. Groups of communities are at different stages ranging from community consolidation to complete autonomy in resource management and habitat protection</p> <p>Community NRM structures established and active in planned areas and beyond</p>	

<p>Banzena process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of model to remaining pastoral communities (Partially funded by Darwin Initiative) 	<p>illegal activities in project areas</p> <p>Reduction in humans & cattle at Banzena</p> <p>An increase in forest cover, healthy ecosystem indicator species, and game species at Banzena (longer term)</p> <p>Wider community aware and supportive of rules of resource use and acting accordingly</p> <p>Income for the community from charging outsiders for resource use</p>	<p>The necessity to mobilize networks of young men to form vigilance cells throughout the elephant range to protect elephants during the conflict meant we could also train them in natural resource and habitat protection activities.</p> <p>Training courses delivered and effective, as the skills learned were immediately implemented in the case of habitat protection, but not enough time has elapsed, nor has the situation become stable enough to judge the effectiveness of charging outsiders for access to resources.</p> <p>The whole community has moved from Lake Banzena to the new relocation site. Vastly reduced numbers of cattle at Lake Banzena and the elephants were able to freely access late dry season water and forage.</p> <p>An increase in forest cover requires a longer term evaluation, but in project areas, people practising illegal cutting, charcoal burning and illegal hunting have been apprehended.</p> <p>The socio-economic baseline study included an assessment of wider community awareness and uptake. We await the report</p>
1.1 Activity Community meetings to integrate Karwassa communities into the wider Banzena initiative for community NRM		Completed
1.2 Activity Training of the wider Banzena community management committees in resource management administration and record-keeping		Completed
1.3 Training of the Karwassa patrols in duties and monitoring		Completed
1.4 Operation of community-government patrols		The patrols have continued to operate without the foresters as there has been no government presence in the area throughout the conflict.
1.5 Demonstration visits to other projects e.g. the PADESO project in Sokolo where community NRM systems have been used to mediate agriculturalist-pastoralist conflict		Not possible to travel during the conflict, postponed until it is possible
1.6 Training of the community management committees and patrols established in remaining pastoral areas		This has begun as reported in the body of the report and will continue throughout year 2
1.7 Radio broadcasts to inform wider communities of the new resource management systems		Completed for year 1 and will continue throughout the project
1.8 Evaluation of functioning of community resource management systems with high-ranking members of the DNEF		Although this was programmed for year 2 Q4, we took advantage of the baseline study to include an evaluation and are awaiting the report
1.9 International meeting to share findings and define conditions for which the models developed are appropriate		End of project if still an appropriate task
1.10 Final report & conference proceedings written, academic papers submitted		End of project if still an appropriate task

<p>Output 2. A costed and phased participatory plan for the resolution of human-elephant conflict, whose implementation will serve as a model for the management of conflict in the agro-pastoral and agricultural communities found over 40% of the range (not funded by the Darwin Initiative although supports and feeds in to DI activities, and vice versa)</p>	<p>A team of four to undertake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-economic survey plus consultation of all communities using a combination of community meetings and household visits. • A mapped assessment of conflict • Production of plan on the basis of findings <p>Final community workshop to share the plan.</p>	<p>The socio-economic survey has been completed and we are awaiting the report. This process included meeting with local communities.</p> <p>Over the next year we will work with the communities to develop and agree a plan for the management of conflict in agricultural zones.</p> <p>We will also use the data from the report to assess gaps in conflict data and conduct a study to be able to produce a map.</p>
<p>Activity 2.1. Socio-economic study of the communities in the key conflict areas of the south and production of a participatory plan of action</p>		<p>The survey has been completed, the report is being finalised. The next year will see the development of the plan</p>
<p>Activity 2.2. Community workshop to share plan</p>		<p>This will occur in year 2 or 3</p>
<p>Output 3. The establishment of an inter-communal convention covering the whole elephant range (not funded by the Darwin Initiative although supports and feeds in to DI activities, and vice versa)</p>	<p>10 meetings (one per commune, followed by 3 of integration) to identify the elephant route and associated regulations, penalties, means of enforcement & integration with community systems of outputs 1 - 3.</p>	<p>All meetings have occurred apart from the final one. This year saw an additional two intercommunal conventions. Together with the existing one, this means that the whole of the elephant range is covered by agreements at communal level. The intercommunal conventions represent agreements between three groups of communes on harmonised rules for the elephant range. However the government technical services and administration were not present and so these will need to be included in the process before finalisation.</p>
<p>Activity 3.1 Meetings held in each commune to identify the elephant migration route, key elephant areas, rules of resource use in these areas, plus the enforcement mechanisms</p>		<p>Completed apart from the integration of government when it returns to the area</p>
<p>Activity 3.2 Signature of overall convention covering the whole elephant range</p>		<p>Year 3</p>
<p>Output 4. Sustainable NRM (output 1) is supported by the establishment of community ecosystem protection initiatives such sylvo-pastoral or forest protection zones that increase resources. (Linked to output 1 and partially funded by Darwin Initiative)</p>	<p>At least 5 areas of habitat are protected for regeneration.</p> <p>An additional 3 fire-breaks are built & maintained each year</p> <p>Reduction in percentage of area burned.</p> <p>An increase in forest cover, healthy ecosystem indicator species, & game species (longer term)</p>	<p>An additional 2 sylvo-pastoral reserves delimited, patrolled and entirely protected by firebreaks in Y1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sartatane, Daroma et Tingassane - 32 x 65 Km • Karwassa - 35 x 49 Km <p>An additional 925 km firebreaks built this year – length is a more useful measure as firebreaks join up and it is difficult to determine what separates one firebreak from another - these areas did not burn</p> <p>Too soon to assess the impact on forest cover but we can report that the following forests have been protected – all are crucial for elephants – and resource use is highly regulated and enforced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 x 24km of forest around Lake Banzena • Forest of Idamane west 12x15km • 11 x 21km of forest surrounding the chain of temporary lakes in the

		Dimamou-Houbouka-Isséguren-Ais area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest of Kerwal near Dimamou – 8 x 12 km • 17 forests in the wet season range
Activity 4.1 Establishment of at least 5 habitat regeneration initiatives		The target of designating two additional sylvo-pastoral reserves was achieved. We now need to pursue the legal procedures of formal designation under the Charte Pastorale
Activity 4.2 Construction of 3 firebreaks each year to protect community sylvo-pastoral reserves; and maintenance of existing fire-breaks		An additional 925 km firebreaks built this year
Activity 4.1 Evaluation of ecosystem restoration initiatives.		This will occur at the end of the project

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

This includes 2 additional activities not funded by the Darwin Initiative – changes are highlighted in yellow

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</p>			
<p>Sub-Goal: To ensure the historic migratory path of the Mali elephants is secure and unimpeded by human development, and that the elephants have stable access to the natural resources key to their survival – water and food – while avoiding human-elephant conflict.</p>	<p>Project outcomes and evaluations show that the elephant range is protected from development by intercommunal and local conventions; that these are enforced by the operation of community-government resource management systems, and supported by habitat restoration initiatives.</p>	<p>GIS analyses to show the proportion of key areas in elephant range covered by resource management plans explicitly including consideration of elephants, and quality of protection.</p> <p>Monitoring data and evaluation reports showing impact on the ecosystem and undesirable human activities.</p>	
<p>Purpose: Communities manage human-elephant coexistence and elephants become an integral part of natural resource management (NRM) and support local livelihoods in the Gourma through the generation of long-term capacity at all levels of decision-making</p>	<p>Communities report a reduction in incidences of conflict.</p> <p>An intercommunal convention covering the whole of the elephant range enters law and protects elephant habitat.</p> <p>Pastoralist communities are implementing sustainable NRM that includes habitat protection and restoration.</p> <p>A participatory plan for agro-pastoral and agricultural communities is developed, and used to raise money for implementation.</p> <p>Projects & programmes working in the area include the consideration of elephants in their programmes.</p>	<p>Project reports on community consultation, workshops, and functioning of community systems; results of socio-economic and conflict surveys; the plan for agro-pastoral and agricultural communities; and habitat protection activities and monitoring.</p> <p>The legal texts of local and intercommunal conventions, designations of sylvo-pastoral reserves (<i>Decret de classement</i> and <i>Cahier de charge</i>), and the documents constituting resource management structures are formally signed and endorsed (<i>Constitution d'Association</i>).</p>	<p>Post-conflict community division can be sufficiently overcome</p> <p>Continued strong support from national, regional and local government, and limited turn-over of personnel.</p> <p>Sustained interest and participation of the local communities.</p> <p>Good collaboration with the newly constituted committee managing the extension of the World Bank's PCVBG-E</p> <p>Funding is available for the duration of the project</p>

<p>Outputs (add or delete rows as necessary)</p> <p>1. A model is developed and implemented for the protection of the elephant range in pastoral areas that cover 60% of the elephant range.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The integration of the 3 adjacent Karwassa communities into the Banzena process • Extension of model to remaining pastoral communities 	<p>Community structures established and active</p> <p>Training courses delivered, effectiveness evaluated (see 16,19&20)</p> <p>Reduction in incidences of harmful and illegal activities in project areas</p> <p>Reduction in humans & cattle at Banzena</p> <p>An increase in forest cover, healthy ecosystem indicator species, and game species at Banzena (longer term)</p> <p>Wider community aware and supportive of rules of resource use and acting accordingly</p> <p>Income for the community from charging outsiders for resource use</p>	<p>Signed conventions and other legal texts.</p> <p>Project reports on meetings & workshops.</p> <p>Surveys to assess understanding and take-up to form the basis of future training.</p> <p>Surveys to assess understanding of wider community</p> <p>Patrol forms providing data on patrol activities, harmful and illegal human activities, ecosystem indicators, numbers of people, cattle and elephants at Banzena.</p> <p>Transect data from Banzena (already established)</p> <p>Management committee records</p>	<p>Some of the remaining pastoral communities have expressed interest, but not all communities have yet been approached.</p>
<p>2. A costed and phased participatory plan for the resolution of human-elephant conflict, whose implementation will serve as a model for the management of conflict in the agro-pastoral and agricultural communities found over 40% of the range.</p>	<p>A team of four to undertake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Socio-economic survey plus consultation of all communities using a combination of community meetings and household visits. • A mapped assessment of conflict • Production of plan on the basis of findings <p>Final community workshop to share the plan.</p>	<p>Report of findings plus a detailed and costed plan of action, that will serve as the basis for future fund-raising</p> <p>Report of the final workshop</p>	<p>That inter-ethnicity rivalry does not obstruct the process.</p>
<p>3. The establishment of an inter-communal convention covering the whole elephant range.</p>	<p>10 meetings (one per commune, followed by 3 of integration) to identify the elephant route and associated regulations, penalties, means of enforcement & integration with community systems of outputs 1 - 3.</p>	<p>Project reports of the engagement process documenting the meetings involved.</p> <p>2 signed intercommunal conventions, plus 1 covering the whole of the range</p>	<p>That the enthusiasm for subsequent inter-communal conventions will be as keen as for the existing one.</p>

<p>4. Sustainable NRM (output 1) is supported by the establishment of community ecosystem protection initiatives such sylvo-pastoral or forest protection zones that increase resources.</p>	<p>At least 5 areas of habitat are protected for regeneration.</p> <p>An additional 3 fire-breaks are built & maintained each year</p> <p>Reduction in percentage of area burned.</p> <p>An increase in forest cover, healthy ecosystem indicator species, & game species (longer term)</p>	<p>Boundaries are mapped using GPS</p> <p>Project visits & reports using data from completed patrol forms, and simple transect data</p> <p>Periodic photographs taken from fixed positions</p>	<p>That there are individuals willing to take responsibility for these within the community.</p> <p>That government foresters are able to undertake the monitoring involved.</p>
<p>5. Elephant protection activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of vigilance cells across the elephant range • Deployment of a second anti-poaching ranger post 	<p>Area of the elephant range covered by vigilance cells</p> <p>Number of vigilance cell hubs</p> <p>Operation of a second ranger post</p>	<p>Information gathered by vigilance cells</p> <p>Activities undertaken by vigilance cells</p> <p>Action resulting from operations of vigilance cells</p>	<p>That money can be raised for these</p>
<p>6. Kick-starting and catalysing a process to extend the reconciliation process to the local level; ensure aid agencies are aware of the implications for their activities; and ensure that reconstruction activities are conducted with awareness of their social and environmental impact</p>	<p>Attendees and outputs of two workshops:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-days for the Malian government national – local (already occurred) • 1 day resultant report presented to Mali's financial and technical partners 	<p>Measures of engagement during the workshops (workshop reports)</p> <p>Reconciliation process taken to local level and involving local communities</p> <p>Mali's financial and technical partners including these considerations in their activities</p>	<p>This is an ambitious activity, but even raising awareness of the issues is a positive outcome.</p> <p>Receptivity of Mali's financial and technical partners</p>

Activities (details in workplan)

- 1.1 Community meetings to integrate Karwassa communities into the wider Banzena initiative for community NRM
- 1.2 Training of the wider Banzena community management committees in resource management administration and record-keeping
- 1.3 Training of the Karwassa patrols in duties and monitoring
- 1.4 Operation of community-government patrols
- 1.5 Demonstration visits to other projects e.g. the PADESO project in Sokolo where community NRM systems have been used to mediate agriculturalist-pastoralist conflict
- 1.6 Training of the community management committees and patrols established in remaining pastoral areas
- 1.7 Radio broadcasts to inform wider communities of the new resource management systems
- 1.8 Evaluation of functioning of community resource management systems with high-ranking members of the DNEF
- 1.9 International meeting to share findings and define conditions for which the models developed are appropriate
- 1.10 Final report & conference proceedings written, academic papers submitted
- 2.1 Socio-economic study of the communities in the key conflict areas of the south and production of a participatory plan of action
- 2.2 Community workshop to share plan
- 3.1 Meetings held in each commune to identify the elephant migration route, key elephant areas, rules of resource use in these areas, plus the enforcement mechanisms
- 3.2 Signature of overall convention covering the whole elephant range
- 3.3 Inclusion of government technical services and administration in the convention process in order to finalise the legal texts
- 4.1 Establishment of at least 5 habitat regeneration initiatives
- 4.2 Construction of 3 firebreaks each year to protect community sylvo-pastoral reserves; and maintenance of existing fire-breaks
- 4.3 Evaluation of ecosystem restoration initiatives
- 5.1 Extension of vigilance cells across the elephant range
- 5.2 Deployment of a second anti-poaching ranger post
- 6.1 A three day workshop for the Malian government at all levels ranging from Ministers to local councils to chart a way forward regarding community reconciliation, aid and reconstruction at the community level in the Gourma
- 6.2 Half or one day meeting to present the results to Mali's financial and technical partners

Annex 3 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

This may include outputs of the project, but need not necessarily include all project documentation. For example, the abstract of a conference would be adequate, as would be a summary of a thesis rather than the full document. If we feel that reviewing the full document would be useful, we will contact you again to ask for it to be submitted.

It is important, however, that you include enough evidence of project achievement to allow reassurance that the project is continuing to work towards its objectives. Evidence can be provided in many formats (photos, copies of presentations/press releases/press cuttings, publications, minutes of meetings, reports, questionnaires, reports etc) and you should ensure you include some of these materials to support the annual report text.

Included

- Project photo reports can be accessed here <http://www.wild.org/main/how-wild-works/wild-in-action-worldwide/malieles/photo-reports-2/>
- Field Manager's summary report on activities Jan-Dec 2012
- Abstract of the presentation to the Saharo-Sahelian Interest Group annual conference
- Two press releases
- Articles – see table 2 with web-links

Available

- The texts required for the officially designating the Banzena brigades as a legal "Association"
- The text of the local convention agreed by the Banzena communities
- The texts of the first inter-communal convention, and ultimately the other two (not yet available but will be)
- Socio-economic baseline study report (not yet available but will be)
- Report of the socio-economic survey of the agro-pastoral and agricultural areas in the south of the elephant range (not yet available but will be)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	√
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	√
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	√
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	√
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	