

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2012)

Project Ref No	19-014
Project Title	Implementing CITES in Madagascar
Country(ies)	Madagascar
UK Organisation	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology
Collaborator(s)	
Project Leader	Richard Griffiths
Report date	31 October 2012
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR1
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).

The first six months of the project have largely proceeded according to the original timetable. Where slippage has occurred, it is only minor.

The project was presented to the partners (national CITES authorities and government) to outline the overall objectives and timetables.

Significant achievements included the selection and successful installation of Dr. Zafimahery Rakotomalala, the representative of the Scientific Authority, at DICE to begin his MSc course in Conservation and International Wildlife Trade at DICE.

Meetings were held with the national CITES authorities in the run-up to the 62nd Standing Committee. The CITES Management Authority attended the meeting in July and witnessed the committee's approval of the recommendations made by the 26th Animals Committee regarding Madagascar's frogs and lizards. Significantly, this included the resumption of trade in *Furcifer campani* following the 1994 suspension.

Activities 1.1 and 1.2 were completed during the reporting period and provide a sound foundation from which to further improve the use of scientific information in decision making. In particular, the adoption of a procedure to make risk assessments and conduct non-detriment findings will be the basis for future project activities.

Activities 2.1 and 2.2 were completed on time and included an analysis of trade data provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests on export of reptile species that are not listed on CITES appendices. Linked to this, Madagasikara Voakajy (MV) participated in a meeting with WWF and the national CITES authorities to discuss preparations for CITES CoP16.

Activity 3.1 has started and negotiations are underway with a Malagasy expert to produce the *Uroplatus* identification guide.

Activity 3.9 was also completed, and 16 people (10 more than the target), representing the national Management Authority, Scientific Authority for Animals and species experts (June, 27th and July, 19th) completed the CITES Virtual College (on line course). Malagasy students from the DESS course have yet to be selected and we have not therefore completed Activity 3.13.

Preliminary discussions about Activities 4.1 and 4.2 have taken place with the CITES

