## **Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report**

(due 31 October 2013)

Project Ref No 19-014

**Project Title** Implementing CITES in Madagascar

Country(ies) Madagascar

**UK Organisation Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology** 

Collaborator(s) Madagasikara Voakajy

**Project Leader** Richard Griffiths Report date 31 October 2013

Report No. (HYR HYR2

1/2/3/4)

**Project website** http://www.madagasikara-

> voakajy.org/index.php?option=com content&view=article&id=34%3 Achameleons&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).

This half year report outlines the progress made according to the original timetable.

Activity 1.3. and 2.1. The Risk Assessments for all amphibian and reptile species in Appendix II and non-CITES have been sent to the CITES Authorities in Madagascar. This will be followed by a revision of quota and development of NDFs for species with low and medium risks for 2014.

Activity 2.3. Meetings were held during Dr Richard Jenkins' visit in Madagascar and Christian Randrianantoandro's visit to the UK, and with a volunteer (Nicolas Dubos) hired by the project's team in Madagascar to discuss the previous Animals Committee recommendations. Actions are underway to set up a quota for each identified collecting site for Mantella aurantiaca, to revise quotas for each species of Mantella including M. bernhardi, and M. viridis, to establish an identification guide to *Uroplatus* species, and to review the trade of suspended species (e.g. Phelsuma spp.)

Activity 3.1 and 3.2. The first draft of the identification material for *Uroplatus* spp. required by the 25<sup>th</sup> Animal Committee meeting from Madagascar, was distributed to experts and users for comments and improvements. The revision will be done by December 2013

Activity 3.3. A capacity building workshop for judicial police officers was held on 10-11 April 2013. This focused on how to identify species, to discern legal and illegal collection, and to combat illegal trade. This was organized by the Civil Society with the involvement of the project's representatives (Raphali Andriantsimanarilafy and Christian Randrianantoandro).

A training workshop on 'the roles of the Scientific Authority and the method for making Non-Detriment Findings' was carried out in Madagascar over 5-9 August to improve the capacity of the national Management and Scientific Authorities, and resource experts to manage the export of species. This was facilitated and attended by project members (Christian Randrianantoandro, Raphali Andriantsimanarilafy) and Dr. Richard Jenkins (IUCN). This was managed by the CITES Secretariat and comprised both theoretical and practical parts under a project developed by the Scientific Authorities' Flora and Fauna Madagascar. During this workshop, preliminary NDFs on Furcifer angeli, Mantella aurantiaca, and Crocodylus niloticus

were established and presented in a plenary session.

Activity 3. 5 & 3.6. Project representatives in Madagascar will prepare documents on *Furcifer angeli, Phelsuma* spp. *Mantella viridis, Mantella aurantiaca* and other *Mantella* species to present to the CITES Authorities for the next Animal Committee meeting, which will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> April – 01<sup>st</sup> May 2014 in Veracruz, Mexico.

Activity 3.10 and 3.11. Dr. Zafimahery Rakotomalala from the Animal Biology Department of the University of Antananarivo completed the MSc course in Conservation and International Wildlife Trade at DICE. Equipped with this training, it is anticipated that Dr Rakotomalala wil become a focal point for trade-related issues in Madagascar. Christian Randrianantoandro, from Madagasikara Voakajy will attend the same course in September 2014.

Activities 3. 12 and 3. 13. Jessica Raharimalala, from the Water and Forestry Department, School of Agronomy, University of Antananarivo is reviewing the amphibian and reptile species in CITES Appendix II and non-CITES as part of her research project to obtain her degree. She will present her research results by December 2013. A second student will be recruited to study the impacts and benefits of reptile and amphibian trade at the community level in November 2013.

Activities 4.1 and 4.2 have taken place with the regional representative of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and local communities, in preparation for a workshop with the CITES authorities, collectors and communities, scheduled for November 2013 at a *Mantella aurantiaca* site.

Activity 4.3. Field surveys were carried out in June and July to monitor *Mantella* populations and to set up transects lines for the next field survey during the wet season.

Activity 4. 4. A meeting was held on 13 August with the national CITES authorities, regional representative of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and exporters to review the collecting procedures, and to have an overview of the number of specimens collected from each collecting site of *Furcifer campani*.

Activity 4.5. A monthly participatory monitoring exercise was held in Mangabe-Ranomena-Sasarotra with representatives of local community based associations to survey threats, and ponds of *Mantella*.

Activity 4.6. The 2013 Mangabe festival was held on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2013 in Ampahitra, at the edge of the new protected area Mangabe-Ranomena-Sasarotra. The festival aims to raise the profile of the golden mantella frog amongst the stakeholders in Mangabe and encourage the communities living within and around this new protected area to engage in the conservation of this emblematic species and its habitat. Community organizations were rewarded for the efforts they carried out for the conservation of Mangabe's forests from April 2012 to March 2013 after an evaluation by a team composed of Madagasikara Voakajy, the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the district of Moramanga and the mayors of Mangarivotra and Ambohibary communes.

Activity 4.7. Twenty four members of a women's group from the village of Ampahitra attended a embroidery training course from May to August 2013. They obtained their certificates in September 2013. At the end of the training, they were able to make shirts, trousers and costumes decorated with project-related motifs.

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.
Because of the stringent English language requirements now required to obtain a student visa to study in the UK, Christian Randrianantoandro was unable to start the MSc Conservation and International Wildlife Trade as anticipated in September 2013. Agreement has been reached with the Darwin Initiative secretariat to carry over these funds to the following year, so that Christian can obtain the grades required for speaking and listening and start the programme in September 2014 instead. This has also resulted in a short extension to the overall project so that it now finishes on 30 September 2015.
Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?
Yes, the relevant changes have been proposed and agreed with Defra.
Discussed with LTS: yes, in August 2013 (month/yr)
Formal change request submitted: yes, in 29 August 2013 (month/yr)
Received confirmation of change acceptance yes in 16 September 2013 (month/yr)
3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?
Yes □ No ⊠
f 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?
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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at <u>Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</u>. The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. <u>Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report</u>