

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
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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).

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 25th 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 28th April – 01st 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 will 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 25th 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

