

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

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 2014
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR3
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. Outputs 1-6 will be included with the annual report.

Activities 1.1-1.3. Following the quotas for 2014 attributed by CITES for Madagascar (MDG) in March and revised in August 2014 (although there was no difference between the two notifications for MDG), UNEP-WCMC compiled information on chameleon species newly involved in the trade (*Brookesia betschi*, *B. ebenau*, *B. griveaudi*, *B. minima*, *B. nasus*, *B. peyrierasi*, *B. therezieni*, and *Calumma parsonii*) and requested additional information on population size, status and demographic trend, threats, national laws of the wild exploitation and trade including juridical protection, and quota fixation. A document was prepared and sent to the Authorities CITES MDG in July 2014 (Output 1). Following the report established by UNEP-WCMC, the European Commission (EC) requested information on the Non-Detrimental Findings (NDF) relating to the export quotas from MDG. Experts are invited by the Scientific Authority Fauna MDG to contribute to this. This information is in preparation and will be submitted to the CITES Authorities CITES MDG.

Activity 2.1. A final document showing the trade review for Appendix II amphibian and reptile species is in preparation (Output 2). The results are planned to be published in a scientific journal before the end of the project.

Activity 2.3. The proposed quotas based on the Red List status made by the Madagascar CITES Authorities are unsatisfactory. UNEP-WCMC and then the EC asked the CITES Authorities for Madagascar to provide NDF for the eight chameleon species newly involved in the trade.

During the 65th Meeting of the Standing Committee (SC) in Geneva, Madagascar was complimented on the work undertaken on *Mantella aurantiaca*. Two notifications on Madagascar's quotas for 2014 were published by CITES in March and in August. The CITES Secretariat mentioned there were updated MDG's quotas but no difference was noted between these two published quotas (Outputs 3 & 4). The 280 quota requested for the Golden Mantella and agreed by CITES during the 65th SC meeting is not yet published by CITES. This problem was communicated to the CITES Secretariat by email from the Management Authority CITES MDG and by Christian Randrianantoandro during the visit of Tom de Meulenaer from the

CITES Secretariat in Madagascar on October 16th.

Activity 3.1 and 3.2. The revision of the first draft of the identification materials for *Uroplatus* spp. required by the 25th Animal Committee meeting from Madagascar is ongoing. The final version will be published in January 2015 as well as the new identification guide for the *Brookesia* and *Palleon* genus from Madagascar.

Activity 3.3. The second session of the capacity building organized by the Civil Society for judicial police officers was held on October 20th. The project's representatives (Raphali Andriantsimanarilafy and Christian Randrianantoandro) participated in this event by providing the PowerPoint presentations to the organizers.

A project update was made to the CITES Authorities for Madagascar and the project partners in August 2014, comprising completed activities, challenges and future plans (Output 5).

A workshop for establishing the two year action plans for the International Trade Center (ITC) was organized in the Hotel Ibis Ankorondrano on 15th to 16th October. Actions on biological research for collecting data on species involved in the trade and on making NDFs with quotas were included in the draft.

Activity 3. 10. The project representative from MV Christian Randrianantoandro was not able to obtain the English language requirements to obtain a student visa to study for the MSc in Conservation and International Wildlife Trade in the UK.

Activities 3. 12 and 3. 13. Jessica Raharimalala, from the Water and Forestry Department, School of Agronomy, University of Antananarivo submitted the final version of her research project on the review of the amphibian and reptile species in CITES Appendix II and non-CITES. She continues to support the team to study the impacts and benefits of this trade at the community level with a PhD candidate, Janine Robinson, from the Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology.

Activities 4.1 and 4.2 and 4.4. Meetings will be organized in the regions of Alaotra-Mangoro and Vakinankaratra where the collecting sites of *Mantella aurantiaca* and *Furcifer campani* occurred to evaluate the existing collecting procedures. The collecting procedure will be established in the regions representing collecting sites of chameleon species newly involved in the trade.

Activities 4.3. Field surveys will be carried out between November 2014 and March 2015 to collect new data on the population ecology of *Mantella aurantiaca* and *Furcifer campani* with a view to evaluating the impacts of the trade.

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 2014 Mangabe festival was held on 9th September 2014 in Mangarivotra, at the western limit 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 symbolic species and its habitat. Community organizations were rewarded for the efforts they carried out for the conservation of Mangabe's forests from June 2013 to August 2014 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 (Output 6).

Activity 4.7. The women's group called "Kintan'ny Ala" from the village of Ampahitra continue their work producing embroidery relating to local wildlife. Other women's groups are under development to extend this initiative.

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 got overall scores of 5.5 (Listening 4.5; Reading 5; Writing 6.5; Speaking 5.5) on IELTS in 2013 and 6.0 (Listening 5.5; Reading 6; Writing 5; Speaking 7) in 2014. The writing 5.0 was below the threshold of 5.5 that would be required for a UK student visa. He was unable to start the MSc Conservation and International Wildlife Trade planned in September 2014. As it was not possible to retake the English language test in time to obtain a student visa, a request is being formulated for the funds to be used in running the core wildlife trade module for the MSc in Madagascar instead together with some other activities. We do not anticipate this will affect the timetable for project activities, although the target of producing a second person trained to MSc level in CITES-related issues clearly cannot be met.

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

A detailed plan for carrying out alternative training in lieu of the unused MSc scholarship is under discussion with our project partners and will be submitted as a project change request in due course.

Discussed with LTS: **yes, in** **(month/yr)**

Formal change request submitted: **yes, in** **(month/yr)**

Received confirmation of change acceptance **yes in** **(month/yr)**

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: £

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**