

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2015)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	19-014
<b>Project Title</b>	Implementing CITES in Madagascar
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Madagascar
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Madagasikara Voakajy
<b>Project Leader</b>	Richard A. Griffiths
<b>Report date</b>	31 October 2015
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR4
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.madagasikara-voakajy.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=34%3Aachameleons&amp;catid=39%3Aprojects&amp;Itemid=61&amp;lang=en-GB">http://www.madagasikara-voakajy.org/index.php?option=com_content&amp;view=article&amp;id=34%3Aachameleons&amp;catid=39%3Aprojects&amp;Itemid=61&amp;lang=en-GB</a>

## 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 and amended timetables.

Activities 1.1-1.3. A document was prepared by Madagasikara Voakajy (MV) to reply to a request from Claire McLardy Species Programme UNEP-WCMC. This provided (1) information (distribution maps, geographic ranges, population trends, habitats, ecology, threats, conservation and national legislation) on 23 chameleon species including 16 *Calumma* and seven *Furcifer* species; (2) zero quotas were set for the 22 species; (3) two species - *C. linotum* and *F. monoceras* - need a taxonomic or nomenclatural revision; (4) a proposed quota of 150 individuals per year was provided for *F. angeli* and non-detriment findings on this species were given. This document was submitted to the CITES Authorities in MDG for the UNEP-WCMC. This was also sent to Martin Jenkins, the consultant of UNEP-WCMC during his visit in Madagascar (MDG) in September 2015.

Activity 2.1.-2.3. A document was prepared in response to Hans Stielstra of the European Commission (EC) dated 16 July 2015 requesting information on conservation status and intention of MDG regarding the gecko *Paroedura masobe* for the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (CoP). This was sent to the Management Authority CITES in MDG to demonstrate the current and future measures being taken for the conservation of this species. Madagascar would like to include this species in CITES Appendix II due to its restricted distribution in very few fragments in the east of Madagascar, and the continuing decline in the quality and extent of its habitat. Collaboration with the EC is required to collect additional information on the exact distribution limit, population size in protected and unprotected areas, and the potential of the species to colonize disturbed habitat. This document was sent to the CITES Authorities in MDG for submission to the EC.

A further communication from Hans Stielstra of the EC on 20 October 2015 expressed interest in collaboration between the EC and MDG regarding a consultation from UNEP-WCMC and MV to develop a proposal to include *Paroedura masobe* in CITES Appendix II. For traded species such as *Uroplatus eburnei*, *U. fimbriatus*, *U. henkeli*, *U. malama*, *U. phantasticus*, *U. sameiti*, *U. sikorae*, *Mantella milotympanum*, a ban on importation into the EU could be lifted if MDG provide scientific information to justify the increased quotas for some species between 2014 and 2015, and evidence on the conservation status and management of these species.

Importations to the European Union (EU) are still banned for *Uroplatus guentheri*, *U. pietschmanni*, *Mantella bernhardi*, *M. crocea*, *M. expectata*, *M. viridis* but could be reconsidered if information on conservation status and management, quotas and Non-Detrimental Findings could be delivered by MDG by 20 November 2015.

Activity 3.1 - 3.2. The final version of the identification guides for *Uroplatus* spp. required by the 25<sup>th</sup> Animal Committee meeting from Madagascar and for *Brookesia* and *Palleon* have been produced. The official release of these materials, with collaborators, will take place at the beginning of November.

Activity 3.3. Forest Control Agents from the Ministry of Environment, Ecology, Sea and Forests (MEEMF) working at the Ivato Airport received training in August 2015 on the identification of chameleons. A PowerPoint presentation and posters showing all chameleons with and without quotas and the difference between two similar species *Calumma tarzan* (zero quota) and *Calumma gastrotaenia* (with quota) were used as materials for training.

Activity 3.10-3.11. The original application intended to train two key personnel working on CITES issues at DICE. One of these successfully completed the training. Because of problems associated with obtaining a visa for the second student, with the agreement of the Darwin Initiative, plans were amended so that the training was delivered in Madagascar instead. After a training workshop on "International Wildlife Trade" organized by Dr David Roberts (Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology) and Dr Angus Carpenter (University of East Anglia), a second workshop training for all the 22 DREEMFs on CITES and species identification in Madagascar was organized with the Management Authority CITES and experts in May 2015. A series of presentations were given defining important concepts, exploitation procedures of Fauna and Flora, procedures for creation of a zoological park by the Management Authority CITES, and on CITES Fauna and Flora. These covered amphibians, chameleons, *Uroplatus*, and *Phelsuma* by individual. Participants were briefed on Appendix I species of chameleon.

The project representative Christian Randrianantoandro visited project partners at Chester Zoo between 29<sup>th</sup> August - 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to provide an update on *Mantella aurantiaca* and *M. cowani* activities. A PowerPoint presentation showing the progress on data analysis from capture-mark-recapture of the golden mantella frog in four sites and an update on the activity patterns study of the harlequin mantella frog was given to the staff of Chester Zoo and the project leader Prof. Richard Griffiths from DICE. A meeting with Claire McLardy Species Programme UNEP-WCMC was organized on 8<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the ongoing work of the UNEP-WCMC consultation with the CITES Secretariat in Madagascar (see Activity 1.1.-1.3). The documents on chameleon and *Phelsuma* spp. prepared by MV on this project were discussed during this meeting. This was followed by a meeting, attended by Richard Jenkins, with the UK Scientific Authority to discuss project progress and some potential trade issues with the EU on new quotas, identification of some dwarf chameleon's species, and *Uroplatus* species. A meeting between the project leader, project advisor (Lee Brady) and project coordinator on project progress and upcoming activities was held in 10<sup>th</sup> September.

Activities 4.1.-4.2 and 4.4. After the publication of a quota of 280 *Mantella aurantiaca* for 2015 on the CITES website, the CITES Management Authority was informed of the three collecting sites to be indicated in the collection permits for traders or collection mandate for collectors. The standard collecting procedure was distributed to all DREEMFS during the training workshop in May 2015 for reference and use in other regions.

Activities 4.3. The next field surveys on *Mantella aurantiaca* will be from the end of October - mid-December 2015 and then mid-January - mid-February 2016, and finally March 2016.

Activity 4.5. A decree (n° 2015-725) of definitive protection status of the Mangabe-Ranomana-Sahasarotra covering 27 346 hectares and habitat for *Mantella aurantiaca* was adopted by the Prime Minister and government on 21 April 2015.

Activity 4.7. The women's group called "Kintan'ny Ala" from the village of Ampahitra has recently been visited by staff of the Rainforest Trust who purchased some of their embroidery

relating to local wildlife.

**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.**

n/a

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

**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](mailto: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**