



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31 October 2016)**

**Project Ref No 23-002**

**Project Title Important  
Plant Areas, Republic of  
Guinea**

**Country(ies)/Territory(ies) Republic of Guinea (Guinea)**

**Lead Organisation Royal  
Botanic Gardens, Kew**

**Partner(s) HNG-UGANC,  
COSIE-MEEF, Guinée-  
Ecologie**

**Project Leader Martin  
Cheek**

**Report date and number  
(e.g., HYR3) 31st Sept. 2016  
(HYR1)**

**Project website/ Twitter/  
Blog/ Instagram etc N/A**

**Funder (DFID/Defra) Defra**

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).**

Report 1<sup>st</sup> April-30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2016

1.1 A priority species list was developed from literature review April-June, and reviewed at the Inception workshop June, when 17 additional species were added, to total 467 species, c.50% greater than the c.330 anticipated in the baseline timetable.

10 candidate priority habitats were identified for and reviewed at the workshop (c.9 had been estimated), and 20 candidate IPA sites (32 had been estimated). Modifications will be made as data collection from fieldwork proceeds, and the number of IPA sites is expected to rise.

1.2 c.2000 records of candidate threatened species were accumulated from herbarium and literature up until end Q2 (c.3000 were estimated to be needed in total by the end of the project).

1.3 Four targeted field surveys were conducted in June: Coyah-forest islands; Kindia-Mt Gangan area, Kolente area, Central Fouta Djallon Highlands (Dalaba-Labé). In late September parallel surveys were conducted in Kounoukan and the Kindia sandstone bowal areas.

1.4 Mapping of sandstone and ironstone bowal habitat (two of the priority habitats) together with detailed species characterisation was initiated in April as part of a Masters project by Natalie Konig (supervised by the PL and Jenny Williams, SA researcher supported by Charlotte Couch) and ground-truthed in June.

1.5 Full IUCN assessments were compiled on SIS for 29 species, of which 12 appeared on the new release of the IUCN website in June 2016, and a further 25 are expected to appear in the Dec. 2016 release.

1.6 Formal application of IPA criteria will begin to be applied to the first candidate IPA sites in Q3.

2.1a In May the PL and main project partner publicized the Guinea IPA Darwin project by speaking at a meeting funded in part by the International Finance Corporation, of extractive companies and biodiversity players in Conakry, Guinea.

b. Key stakeholders were engaged at the Inception workshop in Conakry in June, which was well attended by about 30 persons including the CBD focal point Col. Abouboucar Oulare and the Head of the National Protected Areas Unit, Paul Guilavogui. The event was filmed and the PL interviewed on the project for national television on three occasions. Each time coverage then appeared on all national tv news programmes evening and morning. The opening workshop was closed by the Minister of the Environment, Water and Forests (MEEF), Christine Sagno, with the British Ambassador also present..

3.1 Gathering of materials for a training booklet on Guinea’s plant diversity, the IPA approach, and species redlisting began in Q2.

3.2 An IPA site data recording sheet was developed from a Plantlife template in Q1.

3.3 Lectures and reading material on species-based and site-based conservation were developed in Aug-Sept for delivery to the UGAN MSc in Oct.

3.4 Preparations were made for Dr Magassouba from HNG and Saidou Doumouya (MEEF) to visit Kew for training in and to make progress with data capture and georeferencing in November-December. Training in redlisting in SIS will also be given.

3.5 Discussions on student projects covering socio-economic species have taken place in Q1-2 with the staff at UGAN.

3.6 Design of posters for a National Flower campaign, after discussion with Ben MacCarthy of Plantlife at Kew in July, began in Sept and has proceeded with feedback from Guinean partners.

3.7 Discussions with GE regarding their hosting of a Teachers’ Training workshop began in June during joint fieldwork, and continued by email in Sept.

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt 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.**

None

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? Not applicable**

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

No

[Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk)

**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 can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**