

DARWIN INITIATIVE FOR THE SURVIVAL OF SPECIES

SIX MONTHLY MONITORING FORM (1st April to 30th September 1996)

Project Details

DoE Project Reference No. 162/5/193

Project Title Monitoring biodiversity of a dry
savannah biome in Tanzania

Institution University of Oxford

Round 1 (please tick)

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PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

- a) Outline progress over the last six months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project. If some milestones have not been achieved or have slipped, explain reasons for this.

NB This reports covers the first three months of the project, from 1st July to 30th September.

Preliminary field work to map ground features using a global positioning system (GPS) was completed as defined. The GIS master map for the Mkomazi Game Reserve (MGR) was completed (in ARC/INFO) and includes the GPS-gathered field data.

The botanical survey of the western part of the MGR was initiated but has not yet been completed. Training in field survey techniques, as part of the first phase of training of two biologists, was completed (1 week) but training in data analysis was not conducted.

The two biologists involved in the botanical work (Mr Kidegesho and Mr Masuruli from the College of African Wildlife Management) received training in survey techniques and began surveying as part of their M.Sc. research projects. Part way through their work, however, a dispute developed (which was outside of my control) between the biologists and the Mkomazi Ecological Research Programme managers which resulted in these individuals leaving the Programme. Thus, the survey was not completed and analysis training was not conducted. Alternative arrangements to complete this work have been made; please see the Miscellaneous Information section for details.

- b) What progress has the project made in achieving its objectives over the last six months? Is the project still expected to achieve all the original objectives which were specified? Explain any problems/difficulties which have been encountered to date in achieving the objectives of the project (or any which you envisage may be encountered in the future).

The work has achieved its objective of developing the master map of the MGR and surrounding area.

The project is still expected to achieve all the original objectives.

Apart from the unexpected departure of two of the Tanzanian trainees from the project, there have been no notable problems or difficulties to date. Achievement of training, equipment provision, protocol development and management planning objectives is dependent on the continued operation of the Planning Unit within the Department of Wildlife. External (donor) funding of the Unit has recently ended and there is currently some uncertainty about the nature and extent of future activities. There is no doubt, however, that the Unit will continue to exist; the support offered by this project is key, at this time, to the development of its independence.

- c) What lessons can be learnt from your experiences (both good and bad) over the last six months?

None to date.

- d) If the project timetable has slipped or changed, provide an updated project implementation timetable for the remainder of the project. *(Please note that projects are expected to adhere to their original timetable and that the timely completion of projects is an important factor taken into account by the Department when assessing project performance. However, from time to time projects may be delayed unavoidably due to circumstances beyond their control. Where a project is falling behind schedule, details on the revised programme of work should be provided below. This will need to be passed to the Department for approval).*

The unexpected departure of two of the Tanzanian trainees from the project has affected the timing of completion of the whole reserve botanical survey. The original plan was to complete the survey by the end of December (see Table B, Project Outputs). This task will now not be completed until April 1997 through alternative arrangements (see Miscellaneous Information section). This apparent slippage does not, in fact, result in a change to the project implementation timetable since the survey data are due to be integrated into the GIS between April and July 1997, following design of the database framework (to be completed by March 1997).

- e) What is the estimated completion date for the project?

30 June 1998

- f) Is this different to the completion date set out in the original application form?

Yes

(please tick)

No

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Please use this space to provide any further information on the progress of the project over the last six months, or on the Darwin Initiative as a whole. For example, are there any issues you wish to raise on management/monitoring/financial procedures or on any other matters?

ADDITIONAL NOTES

a) Project progress against baseline timetable.

New arrangements to complete the botanical surveys and provide the training planned are in place and do not, as they are currently organised, result in a change in the project implementation timetable or project outputs. They are as follows;

- i) botanical surveys: two botanists (Mr Raphael Abdullah, who is already involved in the project, and Mr Emmanuel Mboya) from the Tropical Pesticides Research Institute (one of the original collaborators on the project), have received field survey training from Dr Malcolm Coe (one of the original key staff on the project) and are currently conducting the surveys. The completion of this work will be facilitated by the involvement of Ms Susan Canney, a new member of the project's key staff who is working for a Ph.D. under my supervision.
- ii) training: in addition to the training already received by J. Kidegesho, B. Masuruli, R. Abdullah and E. Mboya, field survey training will also be given to two new collaborators on the project, Ms Nebbo Mwina and Mr Cyprian Malima. Nebbo and Cyprian, who are information managers, will also receive training in data analysis as part of a new collaboration with the Information Section of the Planning Unit, Department of Wildlife. This collaboration has already been detailed to Valerie Richardson, who has agreed to the changes entailed.