

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	EIDPO7 (follow up to 162/11/003)
Project Title	Ensuring legacy and conservation impact within Kenya's biodiversity monitoring network
Country(ies)	Kenya
UK Organisation	Nature Kenya (East African Natural History Society)
Collaborator(s)	National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Service, Forest Department, NEMA
Report date	July 2005 to September 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
Project website	www.naturekenya.org www.rspb.org.uk

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).

The project started on July 1st 2005. Progress on each output as follows:

1. Greater institutionalisation of monitoring within managing agencies creates extra capacity and awareness within each agency
Close liaison continued with KWS, FD and NEMA. Basic monitoring forms were obtained from Kenya Wildlife Service, Forest Department and Wildlife Clubs of Kenya and the second status report nears completion
2. A standard training module for people new to the network is delivered through the key agencies
The training delivered during phase 1 is being adapted to meet the needs of a broader range of user groups (for example KWS rangers) as well as field officers. Training delivery will probably be delayed until 2006. The Project implementation team made a visit to Cherangani Hills near Kitale to become more familiar with the area and established contacts with community conservation groups in the area with a view to future collaboration.
3. Project databases ensure more efficient and effective analysis and use of monitoring data to a common standard across the Kenyan network
Input to databases continues. No further action as yet.
4. Site Support Groups' ability to integrate monitoring programmes into their core work is enhanced
Site Support Groups (SSGs) continued to carry out detailed monitoring in both wet and dry seasons at Kikuyu escarpment, Kinangop Grassland, Kakamega, and Mukurweini valleys. The IBA team joined Kakamega Environment Education Programme in wet season monitoring and checked the method being employed, with a view to improving the quality of data submitted. They also discussed difficulties the monitoring team was encountering in

their work. The trip also served as a induction for new team members. Global Environment Facility is supporting ICIPE to carry out monitoring in Kakamega and Kitui and ICIPE has asked Nature Kenya to carry out this work for them by incorporating it into the detailed monitoring.

5. An increased number of management plans are making active use of monitoring data, with a particular focus on wetlands

Two workshops were held at Mukurwe-in and Dunga in Kisumu to solicit views of stakeholders on site conservation which were later used to respectively develop and refine these two draft Site Action Plans. Twenty six people attended the Mukurwe-in workshop while the Dunga Swamp workshop was attended by twenty eight people.

6. Regional and national dissemination carried out to promote use of data from the programme and encourage its replication elsewhere

Nature Kenya made an IBA presentation to stakeholders on the kind of data generated by the project and its use. A similar presentation was made at Dar es laam in Tanzania during a workshop to discuss critical ecosystem monitoring protocols and indicators.

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.

Solomon Mwangi, the contact person for the project moved from Nature Kenya to Biodiversity Conservation Programme under European Union. He was replaced by Enock W. Kanyanya who was formally with Kenya Forests Working Group of the East African Wildlife Society.

Anthony Kiragu who was a Conservation Programme Officer with Nature Kenya also left to take up his Darwin scholarship involving study at the University of East Anglia. Joel Siele and Jacob Machekele joined Nature Kenya to take over Kiragu's work.

These changes initially slowed the rate of progress. There was also a rather fluid transition between the first project and this follow up since some of the activities are in continuity. However the new staff are expected to catch up quickly since both Enock and Joel are familiar with the IBA monitoring programme. We hope to be on track by April 2006.

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

No

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: No no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/work plan: No no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

3. 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.