

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

Project Ref No	EIDPO029
Project Title	Building on success- turning capacity building advances into conservation gains
Country(ies)	Kenya, Malaysia, Palau and Paraguay
UK Organisation	BirdLife International
Collaborator(s)	Nature Kenya, Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), Palau Conservation Society (PCS) and Guyra Paraguay
Project Leader	<i>Muhtari Aminu-Kano</i>
Report date	
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	<i>HYR 2</i>
Project website	<i>na</i>

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 four countries are continuing to play a major role, together with their countries' official CBD focal points, in the implementation of the CBD by providing advice and support. Nature Kenya was a prominent member of the Kenyan delegation to the 14th Meeting of the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-14). Two of the Partners have been drafted into the official delegation of their respective countries' official delegation to the CBD's 10th Conference of the Parties taking place in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. Progress against other project outputs during the reporting period are highlighted below.

Output 1. National NGOs contribute to the identification, recognition, designation, improved management and monitoring of priority sites as part of implementation of CBD programme of work on protected areas.

Palau Conservation Society (PCS) has worked closely with the Belau National Museum to successfully advocate for a Presidential executive order the "National Programme of Monitoring Forest and Coastal Birds of Palau". The order was signed by the President and made public during the reporting period. PCS will collaborate with the Museum in implementing the directive. Also, the protocol has been adopted and implemented by the "Palau Environmental Quality Protection Board. PCS is also facilitating community-based management planning in five states. Further, at the request of the Government, it has reviewed an early draft of Palau's 4th National Report to the CBD.

In addition to its key role in SBSTTA-14 and envisaged role in COP-10, Nature Kenya is strengthening collaboration with key government stakeholders in developing management plans for seven IBAs in partnership with local communities. It is also coordinating advocacy campaigns against the potential destruction of some IBAs by proposed biofuels plantations. It also partnered with government agencies and local communities in the designation of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in five IBAs.

Guyra Paraguay and the relevant Local Conservation Groups are continuing their biodiversity and socio-economic monitoring work in three Important Bird Areas (IBAs)- in the Pantanal, Southern wetlands and Atlantic Forest, in coordination with their respective municipalities. It has also accelerated its advocacy for the Government to declare all the fifty seven IBAs in Paraguay as a Key Biodiversity Sites through an Executive Resolution.

Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) continues to monitor key wetland IBAs, using waterbirds as an indicator. The annual report is being compiled and will be circulated to relevant stakeholder governmental agencies. MNS is also supporting the creation of the Panti Bird Sanctuary.

Output 2. National multi-stakeholder collaboration for CBD implementation strengthened

PCS is conducting a study to determine how reporting to the three Rio Conventions can be improved. One key recommendation that has been identified is the re-enforcement of existing National Committees established by Presidential Order to lead in Convention coordination and communication. PCS is also leading coordination meetings for the Palau Delegation to the CBD's 10th Conference of the Parties.

Nature Kenya was part of the Kenyan delegation during CBD's SBSTTA-14 which took place in Nairobi in May 2010 and will be part in the COP-10 delegation as well. The Partner continues to co-chair the Kenya IBA National Liaison Committee (NLC), the main multi-stakeholder collaboration to strengthen CBD implementation in the country.

In Paraguay, a 'task group' of several organisations, led by Guyra, has been established in order to strengthen the implementation of the CBD. The group aims to address the challenge of constant turn-over of key personnel within the CBD Authorities by sharing knowledge of the Convention widely within and between organisations. Guyra is also supporting the national parliament (Republic Senate) in developing which Guyra hopes will include provisions on CBD implementation.

With recent changes of personnel within the CBD administrative authority in Malaysia, MNS has stepped up its contact and advocacy within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment so as to seize the opportunity that the new development presents.

Output 3. Understanding of CBD increased and experiences shared with other national and international NGOs

Through key stakeholder meetings with coordinating/reporting agencies and with data providers, PCS is building recommendations for enhanced coordination and improved understanding of Rio Conventions. In November 2010, PCS will take the lead in the organisation of a conference of conservation professionals in the country.

In Kenya experience-sharing and lesson-learning is carried out through meetings of the National Liaison Committee.

Several informal meetings with national authorities have been held in Paraguay led by Guyra Paraguay, with the aim of improving the implementation of the CBDAs well as sharing experiences within stakeholder organizations and several government offices.

MNS organised an International Conference titled "**Challenges and solutions for tropical biodiversity**". Some sessions at this conference discussed and recommended possible short, medium and long term solutions for Malaysia's biodiversity. The proceedings and resolutions of the conference will be produced next year.

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.

None

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

Discussed with LTS: N/A **no/yes, in..... (month/yr)**

Formal change request submitted: N/A no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A no/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