



***Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species
Annual Report***

Community-driven conservation and ecotourism in the Mara ecosystem,
Kenya

Durrell Institute of Conservation & Ecology,
University of Kent

April 2003

Darwin Project Information

Project title	<i>Community-driven conservation and ecotourism in the Mara ecosystem, Kenya</i>
Country(ies)	<i>Kenya</i>
Contractor	<i>DICE, University of Kent</i>
Project Reference No.	<i>162/10/003</i>
Grant Value	<i>£136,566</i>
Start/Finishing dates	<i>May 2001/October 2003</i>
Reporting period	<i>April 2002 - March 2003</i>

Project Background

Much of Kenya's biodiversity lies outside protected areas, and human-wildlife conflict both inside and outside protected areas threatens the viability of large mammal populations. Equally, local communities adjacent to protected areas are seeking sustainable means to utilise their biodiversity resources, in ways that limit conflict between wildlife and people.

The previous Darwin Initiative project in Masai Mara (162/6/131) identified that, despite being promoted as a sustainable use of natural resources, tourism in and around the Masai Mara was not benefiting local communities or wildlife in an area where human-wildlife conflict was prevalent. This was because tourism was not locally driven and did not fully engage local communities. These findings suggested the need for a new approach to resource utilisation in unprotected communal areas where large mammals reside.

At the same time, DICE staff in Kenya were approached by a local community adjacent to the Masai Mara, in partnership with a Kenyan ecotourism operator, requesting technical and training assistance with the sustainable development of resource utilisation in their area, through the establishment of a locally run ecotourism and wildlife monitoring centre. This provided an excellent opportunity to (1) pursue an action-based exit strategy for the previous Darwin Initiative grant, and (2) assist a local community in the development of truly sustainable resource utilisation with built-in biodiversity conservation, from the outset of the development process.

This project aims to assist a community living adjacent to Masai Mara National Reserve to develop sustainable utilisation, including ecotourism. Through training and the establishment of a wildlife and conflict monitoring centre, the project will build local capacity in (1) wildlife conservation and management, and (2) the development of low impact tourism facilities.

Project Objectives

Purpose:

To develop and implement a community-driven conservation, conflict resolution and ecotourism programme that will protect endangered wildlife and alleviate human-wildlife conflict outside the formal protected area network.

Outputs:

Through training and implementation, to establish a community wildlife monitoring and conflict resolution centre, and develop a plan for community-driven tourism development to support conservation and conflict mitigation.

Activities:

- Train two local co-ordinators to MSc level at DICE.
- Train 20 local scouts in improved wildlife and conflict monitoring.
- Establish a local wildlife association with resource planning responsibilities.
- Produce land use, tourism development and conflict mitigation plans.
- Establish a centre for wildlife and conflict monitoring.

See log frame attached at end of report.

Progress

The project has made significant progress over the course of the year. A valuable internal and external review in September/October 2002 served to reschedule the project, placing greater emphasis on community-based wildlife and conflict monitoring and mitigation. Whilst tourism remains a longer-term goal for the project, it has focused in the interim on capacity building and education for community decision-making regarding tourism as a conservation and development tool.

All of the revised key milestones for 2002/2003 have been achieved (see table below). Both Maasai community representatives completed their MSc studies at DICE, which included two baseline studies of local attitudes, expectations and experiences regarding wildlife conflict and tourism. Both were awarded good pass marks and will formally graduate later in 2003.

Within the communities of Naikarra and Olderkessi, four local associations have been formed to manage their resources and explore tourism development. One of these has been formally registered with a constitution and members' list. The project community representatives have worked with all four associations to develop a current land use map and provisional land use plan that forms the basis for further detailed planning and development. In this regard, the two community representatives together with the Project Officer have continued to work with these communities on

both of the major conservation themes of the project, namely human-wildlife conflict and nature-based tourism planning.

Human-wildlife conflict

One of the project community representatives and DICE MSc graduate in Conservation Biology, Stephen Kisotu, has taken up the position of wildlife and conflict monitoring coordinator. In collaboration with the local community associations, he identified ten candidates for training as wildlife conflict monitors. These received formal and on-the job training in conflict enumeration and the use of GPS for geographic surveys and mapping. They have received uniforms and bicycles, and have been collecting comprehensive records of conflict over the past six months under the continued supervision of the monitoring coordinator and the Project Officer. Additional resources for this work have been provided by WWF.

Furthermore, an increasingly productive partnership with Friends of Conservation (FoC), a local NGO, has facilitated the further training of twelve wildlife scouts employed by FoC in wildlife monitoring using GPS and enhanced recording techniques. This integrated monitoring programme is unique in that it is collecting detailed data on both wildlife distributions and conflict incidents, involving both livestock depredation and crop raiding. Together with wider geographical survey work, these data will enable a thorough analysis of wildlife and conflict in space and time that will aid in the development of appropriate mitigation strategies.

Finally, the collaboration with FoC has enabled the development of a local wildlife and conflict monitoring center ahead of schedule. An existing FoC office that formed a base for wildlife monitoring is being enhanced and extended to house an integrated FoC/DICE wildlife and monitoring programme. It is hoped that this center will also act as an education and awareness hub for community outreach activities. A formal opening will take place later in the year.

Tourism planning and development

The second community representative and DICE graduate in Tourism and Conservation, Mrs Resiato Martyn, together with the project officer, has made significant progress with regard to community-driven planning for tourism development.

In February, a ten-day study tour of other community-based conservation and tourism initiatives around Kenya was planned and facilitated. Nine community representatives and a driver participated in this study tour, where they were exposed to a variety of partnership models and tourism products and activities. Immediately after this study tour, an ecotourism specialist from Nairobi visited Naikarra and Olderkessi to meet representatives of the four community associations and evaluate the potential for each of four planned conservancy areas for tourism.

The results of both the study tour and the ecotourism evaluation were disseminated to the wider community in a number of local meetings in March. These meetings

enabled the communities to improve their awareness and understanding of tourism and the opportunities and constraints of their own situation. Initial recommendations for the direction in which tourism planning and development should take place were drafted.

Communities concluded that the activities undertaken with the support of this Darwin project were extremely valuable in assisting them to take forward their ideas regarding tourism development. However, it was also noted that such activities should be developed further, in order to:

- Achieve a consensus among the community
- Clarify land tenure issues and secure lasting rights for community associations
- Develop linkages with appropriate tourism operators
- Provide a comprehensive feasibility study
- Develop a business plan for the community
- Widen this approach to other disenfranchised Maasai communities living in the Mara ecosystem.

A funding proposal (US\$ 150,000) was developed in partnership with FoC and submitted to the Tourism Trust Fund of the EU delegation in Kenya in March. This proposal has been provisionally accepted, and should enable the development of a comprehensive tourism plan for the entire Mara region and the establishment of public-private partnerships within the next 12-18 months.

In addition, in recognition of the continued success of the programme in the Mara ecosystem, we have been invited by the Darwin Initiative to apply for follow-on funding as part of a new initiative to extend the impact and legacy of Darwin projects. A proposal is in preparation and will be submitted in July.

Additional achievements

It was noted in the final report of the first Darwin Mara project (162/6/131) that, besides this second Darwin grant, follow-on funding had been received from WWF to continue to work on human-elephant conflict in a different part of the Mara ecosystem in Transmara District. This and the current Darwin project in Narok District have been running concurrently, and there have been increasing synergies between the two. In the past six months we have extended the community-driven approach to tourism planning to the Transmara side, and have conducted ecotourism evaluations, study trips and community workshops with one particular community, Lepolosi, in the heart of the District. We have assisted this community to establish a forest and wildlife association, and worked to build the capacity and experience of the junior elder, Leonard Seme, who chairs this association. In this way we have effectively doubled the outputs and impact of the current Darwin project.

We have also continued our links with Moi University, who have sent two students in Wildlife Management to conduct their dissertation research on human-wildlife conflict. They are working with our scouts in Lepolosi and extending the range of monitoring in this area to include conflict with carnivores and other herbivores

besides elephants. This provides a great opportunity for comparative analysis between two very different areas of the ecosystem.

Finally, we have made some further gains on the outputs of the first Darwin Mara project (162/6/131). Both PhD students completed their PhDs and successfully passed their vivas in early 2003. Both will now formally graduate in the near future. A couple of additional publications were produced, including a summary of the proceedings of the final workshops of the project that have been published by IIED in their influential Wildlife and Development Series. Furthermore, a number of presentations of project findings were made at international symposia and meetings. At the Student Conference on Conservation Science at Cambridge University in March, Noah Sitati was awarded the prize for the best presentation. This is acknowledgement not only of Noah's ability to communicate his work, but also of the scientific merit and conservation applicability of the study. This prize resulted in both press and radio coverage locally.

The provisional work plan for the coming year is as follows:

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE 2003/2004	
Date	Key milestones
April/May	Distribution of ecotourism evaluation report and community vision to potential commercial partners, with a view to facilitating a future legal/commercial partnership
May	Steering Committee review
August	Timetable of meetings for wildlife association drawn up
October	Final Workshop convened for stakeholders and others to review project
October	Community plan for human-wildlife conflict mitigation produced, with practical recommendations
October	One or more funding proposals submitted by the community to potential development donors for ecotourism infrastructure development and for developing a comprehensive management plan to integrate conservation and conflict mitigation with ecotourism
October	Wildlife and conflict monitoring centre opens
January	Final report

Partnerships

This year has seen even further gains in our relationship with Friends of Conservation. FoC now form one of our principal partners in the field, and we are working closely on collaborative initiatives and the development of joint funding proposals. This is an extraordinary success given the situation at the outset of the first Darwin project where FoC were fundamentally opposed to our involvement in the

Mara. Our current collaborations suggest that FoC, with its increasing field presence across the ecosystem, and its focus on local capacity building and employment, are the most appropriate organization to facilitate the further progress and long-term impact of the Darwin programme. We are working closely to achieve this.

Our relationship with local communities continues to grow. Now that Stephen Kisotu has returned to his home area, we have a local representative in place who commands the respect of his community and is able to interface at the deepest level. This is of enormous benefit, and is serving to extend the scope of our input and the activities that can be achieved. Equally, Stephen is working to facilitate improved relations between the community, FoC and KWS in an area where in the past there has been mistrust and suspicion. Thus the Darwin initiative project is at the heart of local partnerships.

Kenya Wildlife Service continues as a project partner in both Naikarra/Olderkesi and in Transmara where our current WWF-funded project operates. Again, our involvement with local KWS staff is strengthening all the time, and we are working to assist KWS field staff to improve their capacity to monitor and respond to conflict.

Our relationship with WWF is as strong as ever, and we are already looking at possibilities for their continued support for our conflict monitoring and mitigation work. The WWF regional office in Nairobi acts as an institutional base for UK project staff when in Kenya, and a communication center for field staff.

The private sector partner, Basecamp Travel (formerly Dream Travel) who had intended to develop an ecotourism operation in Naikarra/Olderkesi, has temporarily dropped out of the partnership. This is in part because of a change of staff, and in part because of the communities' desire to interact with a variety of potential operators in their search for the best opportunity. Our work over the past few months has helped the communities reach a point at which such interaction could provide mutually beneficial partnerships. In addition, another community-oriented operator who is already working on the border of Olderkesi is keen to develop a partnership with this community. Although proceeding cautiously, we are hoping to facilitate dialogue within the coming months. We are also working closely with the chairman of the Ecotourism Society of Kenya to identify and engage the most appropriate commercial partners.

Impact and Sustainability

Two Maasai community representatives trained to MSc level at DICE has markedly increased the capacity of these communities to take an active role in their own development, and in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Equally, the training and continued employment of a team of community scouts is providing wildlife-associated revenue to the community and raising awareness and understanding of the issues and solutions associated with wildlife conflict and conservation. Our progress with regard to community-based tourism planning will in

the long run help to provide revenue sources to support communities and conservation and alleviate conflict.

Our growing partnership with Friends of Conservation, a NGO with over two decades of experience in the Mara, offers an opportunity to continue and extend the activities we are pursuing beyond the life of the project, in order to ensure their long-term impact and sustainability. We are already helping to build the capacity of FoC, and we hope to continue this constructive partnership to enable FoC, with local communities, to initiate a much broader programme of community-based monitoring and wildlife security across the entire region.

Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)

Those in bold indicate outputs that are enhanced or additional to those planned for this period.

PROJECT OUTPUTS		
Output ref. no.	Quantity	Description
2	2	Two Kenyan students awarded MSc from University of Kent
6A	20	Community scouts receive four weeks on the job training in wildlife (10) and conflict (10) monitoring
6B	80	Man weeks of training
6A	9	Community leaders participated in a two week study tour of community-based conservation and tourism initiatives elsewhere in Kenya
6B	18	Man weeks of study tour
8	26	UK project staff in Kenya
9	1	Resource use map produced
9	1	Land use plan produced
9	1	Independent ecotourism evaluation report with recommendations
9	2	Community vision for tourism development produced, with a timetable for objectives
11A	2	Papers/Monographs published or in press from first Darwin project in Masai Mara (162/6/131)
12A	1	Community website established (http://www.mosaic-conservation.org/mara/communities.html)
14A	2	Workshop in Kenya for community members to define community vision for ecotourism development
14A	2	Meetings organised to present findings of first Darwin project in Masai Mara (162/6/131)
14B	1	Conference attended to present findings
14B	3	Conferences attended to present findings of first Darwin project in Masai Mara (162/6/131)
15D	1	One local press release in UK
23	£100,000	Proposal for further donor funding submitted to the EU (Kenya), with provisional acceptance

Table 2: Publications

Two publications from the first Darwin project in Masai Mara have been produced in this period:

- Walpole, M.J., Karanja, G.G., Sitati, N.W. & Leader-Williams, N. (2003). *Wildlife & People: Conflict and Conservation in Masai Mara, Kenya*. Wildlife and Development Series No.14, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), London.
- Sitati, N.W., Walpole, M.J., Smith, R.J. & Leader-Williams, N. (2003, in press). Predicting spatial aspects of human-elephant conflict. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 40.

Project Expenditure

Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period

Item	Budget	Expenditure £
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Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

The project has been continually overseen by the project officer, using the logical framework and agreed outputs and milestones for guidance. Furthermore, a field evaluation by an external Darwin Initiative reviewer provided extra guidance and confirmed the revisions to the objectives and milestones made by the UK project staff.

The indicators of achievement are the successful completion of project objectives and milestones on time. All the revised objectives and milestones have been reached. On this basis we judge the project to have been successful to date.

Our major lessons, as always, are to expect the unexpected, and to allow sufficient time for the development of partnerships that cannot be achieved without the necessary consideration and consultation on both sides. We have also learned that,

with perseverance, situations that appear unpromising can yield very positive outcomes. Once firm partnerships are in place it is much easier to generate tangible outputs.

A further observation, confirming our approach throughout our work in the Mara region, is that having committed local counterparts in the field is the best way to achieve progress. Our trained Maasai community representative who is now working full time on the project in the field is a vital conduit between DICE and the communities, and his technical abilities gained at DICE together with his local knowledge and standing with the community are yielding more progress than we could have expected. The correct choice of local counterpart is vital in this respect. In both Stephen Kisotu and Noah Sitati we have been able to recruit trained teachers with local respect and the ability to communicate effectively and influence people.

Finally, we have discovered this year that successful projects such as ours will generate media interest. In the past, UK publicity has not been seen as a priority, and this is probably true for many such projects. It is good that the Darwin Initiative are this year taking a lead role in publicizing projects and initiating contact between project staff and the media, to further enhance the wider impact of projects on public understanding and support for conservation.

Author(s) / Date

M.J.Walpole
N.Leader-Williams

30th April 2003

Project summary	Measurable indicators	Means of verification	Important assumptions
<p>Goal</p> <p>To assist Kenya, and in particular local communities in the Serengeti-Mara Ecosystem, with the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable management of biological resources.</p>	<p>Declining loss of local biodiversity, and recovery of endangered species.</p> <p>Greater local implementation of the CBD, in terms of number of Articles addressed.</p>	<p>Land use and biodiversity surveys as part of this study and ongoing monitoring.</p> <p>Evaluation against CBD criteria.</p>	<p>Continued peace and political stability in Kenya both nationally and locally.</p> <p>Continued community commitment to sustainable resource utilisation and conservation within and beyond the life of the project</p>
<p>Purpose</p> <p>To develop and implement a community-driven conservation, conflict resolution and ecotourism programme that will protect endangered wildlife and alleviate human-wildlife conflict outside the formal protected area network.</p>	<p>An increase in endangered wildlife populations, an increase in local benefits, and a decline in human-wildlife conflict incidents.</p>	<p>Wildlife sighting and formal monitoring records, community accounts and social surveys, conflict reporting records and monitoring data.</p>	<p>Continued community commitment to sustainable resource utilisation and conservation within and beyond the life of the project.</p> <p>An ongoing collaborative agreement by project partners to implement the exit strategy.</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>Through training and implementation, to establish a community wildlife monitoring and conflict resolution centre, and develop a plan for community-driven tourism development to support conservation and conflict mitigation.</p>	<p>Establishment of a centre that is staffed and operational.</p> <p>Improved monitoring of wildlife for conservation and conflict resolution in progress.</p> <p>Implementation of a tourism plan.</p>	<p>Written and photographic documentation and ongoing progress reports.</p> <p>Field reports and data gathered.</p> <p>Independent evaluation report, community vision, application(s) to donors and, if appropriate, legal partnership agreement.</p>	<p>Commitment by all partners to fulfilling the objectives of the project.</p> <p>Provision of sufficient development funds by the private sector partner.</p>
<p>Activities</p> <p>Train two local co-ordinators to MSc level at DICE.</p> <p>Train 20 local scouts in improved wildlife and conflict monitoring.</p> <p>Establish a local wildlife association with resource planning responsibilities. Produce land use, tourism development and conflict mitigation plans.</p> <p>Establish a centre for wildlife and conflict monitoring.</p>	<p>The agreed number of candidates complete formal and on-the-job training courses within the agreed timetable.</p> <p>A wildlife association with legal status is established.</p> <p>Plans drafted.</p> <p>An wildlife and conflict monitoring centre is constructed.</p>	<p>Formal reports and certification, graduation by MSc students at DICE.</p> <p>Drafted constitution.</p> <p>Physical documents produced.</p> <p>Written and photographic documentation.</p>	<p>Availability of suitable and committed candidates for training.</p> <p>Continued community commitment to sustainable resource utilisation and conservation within and beyond the life of the project.</p> <p>Commitment by all partners to fulfilling the objectives of the project.</p>