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Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title

Community-driven conservation and ecotourism in the Mara ecosystem,

Kenya.

Country

Kenya

Organisation

DICE, University of Kent

Project Ref. No.

162/10/003

Report date

31 October 2001

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

The project was initiated in May 2001. A community-based organisation has been registered and a constitution drawn up. Eleven community members have received one week of on the job training in wildlife surveys, as part of which as baseline survey was undertaken. Meetings and site visits have been held between community representatives and tour operator representatives to begin the process of drawing up an agreement between the two. Two community members have registered for MSc training at DICE and will begin their training at the end of September 2001.

In summary, the project has achieved more than planned in the first six months.

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 effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

One of the key tour operator representatives was out of action with a broken leg for much of this period, and this slowed some of the negotiations with regard to establishing a tourism and conservation venture. We had hoped to undertake a pilot tourism camp this year, ahead of schedule, but this has been delayed until next year. This will not affect the timing of the project or its budget.

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

None at this time.

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