

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Monitoring biodiversity for site management planning in eastern Africa.
Countries	Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda.
Organisation	<i>Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust</i>
Project Ref. No.	162/11/002
Report date	April to October 2003.

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months 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).

Wetland Biodiversity Monitoring Scheme (WBMS):

The Darwin Project Officer (Oliver Nasirwa) returned to Kenya after a year based at WWT Slimbridge. The project now has an established office in Nairobi (hosted by the National Museums of Kenya) where the DPO will be based for the next two years. A computer has been purchased for the office and the project will financially support overheads paid to the National Museums. The DPO will commence secretariat functions for the WBMS after its official launch in November 2003 (see below).

The new monitoring scheme that the Darwin project will establish (WBMS), will have its official launch in November. The DPO established a steering group for the event and has spent the last six months organising and coordinating the different elements of the launch (attendance of the Environment Minister, Ambassadors, key speakers, press and television, *etc.*).

After discussion at last years Project Steering Group, an artist was commissioned to produce the WBMS logo. This was then finalised and electronically captured by the interpretation team at WWT.



A production draft of the WBMS Scheme manual was produced and distributed for comment by the project partners. This will be further discussed at the Steering Group meeting in November. A final copy (and French version) will be published in 2004.

An A5 size folded 'brochure' for the scheme was designed by the publications team at WWT with input from all nine partner organisations (see image below). Two thousand copies have been published, and a French version will be printed in 2004. The text for the promotional brochure will also form the foundation of the WBMS website that will be developed in the next phase of the project.



WBMS database

Development of the WBMS database continued. The working of the database will be included as a major element of the WBMS training event (see below). WWT's IT development officer visited the headquarters of Wetlands International in The Netherlands to discuss the database and demonstrate its functionality. Issues in relation to maintaining the link between WBMS and the African Waterbird Census (AfWC) were also discussed and resolved.

WBMS training event

Twenty people from nine countries will attend a WBMS training event in November 2003. This will take place at the Kenyan Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI) at Naivasha, Kenya. The last six months have seen the development and preparation of the training material which will be delivered by staff from KWSTI, WWT and Wetlands International.

Site management plans

The Darwin project will lead to the production of nine draft site management plans i.e. one for each participating countries. In October 2003, two plans were drafted (for sites in Sudan and Ethiopia) as a result of partners being funded by the Darwin project to attend a 42 day wetland management course at the Kenyan Wildlife Service Training Institute. Out of more than twenty attendees, the highest grades were awarded for the management plans to the two WBMS participants. Six of the remaining site management plans will be completed through attendance on the course in 2004, and one through an MSc project to be completed by a member of staff of the Kenyan Darwin partner.

Exit strategy

After consultation and discussion at the November 2003 steering group meeting, a major element of the final year and a half of the project will be the development and implementation of the project exit strategy. The official launch of the WBMS, the opening of an office for the scheme secretariat, as well as the recently published promotional material and website, will provide a strong foundation on which to maintain the WBMS after the end of Darwin funding. This process has also received a boost from work being undertaken by one of the project partners (Wetlands International), in partnership with Ramsar Bureau, the African Eurasian Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) secretariat and BirdLife International: after nine months intensive work by Wetlands International, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) approved 350,000 USD (matched by a further ca. 300,000 USD) towards the preparation of a major capacity building initiative for the critical wetlands that make up the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Flyway. This money has just resulted in the submission of a full project brief to the GEF for 6 million USD funding (with 6 million USD matching funds). It will include reviewing gaps in protected areas, training, communication and management on the flyway. The results of this exercise will then be integrated with a review of best practices from throughout the flyway, to provide a targeted programme of capacity building. The current Darwin project was named within the GEF bid, and if successful, the funds would be used to support the WBMS office and secretariat.

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?

Two of the partners were unable to attend the wetland management course in 2003. The implications for this on the project budget are currently being audited and will be communicated to the department after the steering group meeting in November. It is probable that this will not affect the budget allocations between years, as the costs can be paid to KWSTI in advance i.e. a 'booking' will made for places on the training course during the final quarter of 2003/04.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's

management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

None.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Project Manager, Email: stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk