

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	11-007
Project Title	A national plan for carnivore conservation in Tanzania
Country(ies)	Tanzania
UK Organisation	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Collaborator(s)	Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI)
Report date	October 31, 2004
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	www.habari.co.tz/carnivores

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).

Carnivore Centre

- The project's meeting room has been used to host two GIS meetings, one meeting on mammal biodiversity and three seminars for foreign visiting students (from Italy) who went on to collect information on carnivores for the project as part of their field practical. TAWIRI has also held 10 meetings in the meeting room covering topics in wildlife research and management.

Stakeholder links

- The project has continued to maintain and strengthen links with both foreign and local institutions including the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS); Zoological Society of London (ZSL); IUCN Species Specialist Groups such as Canid and Otter Specialist Groups and local stakeholders such as Wildlife Division (WD); Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA); Universities and training institutions such as Sokoine and University of Dar es Salaam and the College of African Wildlife Management. It has also extended and strengthened its links with local stakeholders in preparation for drafting the carnivore conservation action plan in 2005. In particular it now has good links with all the key wildlife institutions in Tanzania: TANAPA, FBD, and WD. WD is the management authority for wildlife in Tanzania, and was not fully engaged with the project, and hence has been a specific target over this reporting period. WD is now fully engaged with the project and is assisting with distribution of data collection sheets, posters, newsletters as well as issuing permits for free entry to Game Reserves for project staff.
- The project has held a total of two workshops on carnivores for local tour operators and has made 63 visits to different tour operators to inform them about project activities and encourage their participation in data collection.
- A further 60 contributors have been added to the project's contributor database.

PR

- A total of 5247 cheetah watch leaflets, 6310 wild dogs watch leaflets and 2,309 carnivore atlas packs were distributed over the reporting period.
- Newsletters (2000), Cheetah and Wild Dog Watch posters (1000), Carnivore Atlas posters (1000) and stickers (1000) were designed by the project and printed. They are being distributed to stakeholders and contributors to raise awareness about the project and to promote the collection of data on carnivores across Tanzania.

- The web site has been regularly updated to show current distribution maps as well as the project newsletter.

Training

- The project has trained a total of 11 people in GIS applications. Out of these five were undergraduate students from Sokoine University, and one from University College of Lands and Architectural studies, three from Tanga and two from Kilimanjaro Regions respectively.
- The project's Database and GIS Analyst attended a month course in database design and advanced GIS at Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development in Nairobi, Kenya. In addition the project's PR Officer is attending a course on web design and management. This will provide him with skills to update and manage the project website on www.habari.co.tz/carnivores.
- The project has received very little data on otters, and recognises that these species require a specific approach. The project is thus organising a workshop for otter surveys that will be run by the IUCN otter specialist group. The planned workshop will provide training for carnivore centre staff, but also for other interested wildlife professionals in Tanzania from the governmental and NGO sectors.

Database

- A total of 913 carnivore sightings were received over the reporting period. Range maps were produced quarterly and posted on the project website.
- Some important layers such as digital elevation model, land use, and land cover for GIS analysis have been obtained from Africover. These will be used for assessing land use changes, which are key to developing the conservation action plan.
- Over the reporting period project staff have visited five National Parks (Arusha, Manyara, Udzungwa, Mikumi and Sadani) to meet with park ecologists. On each visit the project objectives were outlined and assistance sought in terms of collecting information on carnivores in the parks. Staff have also visited the Selous Game Reserve to seek the input of Game Officers in collection of carnivore data in Game Reserves. Sighting data was collected in all these visits which has helped improve coverage in data collection.

Action Plan

- The project hosted a major international workshop on cheetah census techniques. This workshop was held to co-ordinate a global cheetah census, identifying suitable techniques, establishing best practice methods for their use, and prioritising areas for surveys. The priorities identified at the workshop will be useful for framing the priorities in the national workshop in 2005.

Sustainability

- The project has obtained extra funding for its activities, allowing it to initiate field surveys to address data gaps. In the last reporting period the project was awarded an annual renewable grant of \$12,000 from WCS. The project is also working with ZSL to develop links to a new Africa exhibit at Whipsnade zoo as a possible source of sustainable support.
- The project has initiated collaboration on a camera trapping project with ZSL. This has resulted in a Royal Society Grant that has enabled the project to acquire 60 camera traps that will be used to address gaps in atlas coverage. The traps are awaiting shipment at the end of the reporting period. An intensive training period is planned for December during which two carnivore project staff will be trained as trainers in initiating camera trap surveys. A research assistant will be appointed on the Royal Society grant to carry out the surveys and will be trained at the same time. Thereafter the project plans to conduct 10 surveys in areas where data is lacking over the following 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.

1. A previously reported problem of a low level of data received, particularly in the southern sector,

was targeted specifically over this reporting period. Active efforts were made to encourage higher levels of data submission through direct contact and visits with potential contributors. This approach has been successful, and the project has received substantially higher levels of data contributions over this reporting period, averaging over 150 sightings a month, with an increasing proportion from the south. However further efforts have been hampered due to problems with the project vehicle.

2. Extra demands on staff time made by TAWIRI have become a problem over this reporting period. Whilst increasing capacity of TAWIRI is an explicit aim of the project, the extra demands have had an impact on overall staff productivity in terms of carrying out the activities of the project. These issues have been raised with the Director General of TAWIRI, who has stated that he will endeavour to ensure that such demands are kept to a minimum in future. With this in mind we do not expect further changes to our timetable of activities, however this issue will be kept under review.

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

The project underwent a mid term review in the last reporting period. This review and the project's annual report document the changes made to the project timetable and workplan in order to address problem 1 above and also explain the change in direction. The problems in implementing 1 and the remaining problem 2 have not been discussed with the secretariat. Problem 2 has hopefully been resolved after discussions with the Director General, however ongoing problems with the project vehicle inhibit our ability to fully address problem 1 and have no obvious resolution, unless the project can raise further funding for a new vehicle. Nonetheless, as a timetable of visits to target areas were not in our original workplan, these issues do not affect changes to our original agreement, but they do affect our ability to implement the changes that were recommended in our mid term review and in our annual report.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: **see above, in..... (month/yr)**

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: **see above, in.....(month/yr)**

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.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**