

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report Form

<b>Project Title</b>	Elephants of Mikumi National Park, Tanzania: Conservation, Education & Research
<b>Country</b>	Tanzania
<b>Organisation</b>	Anglia Polytechnic University
<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/11/008
<b>Report date</b>	April-October 2002

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

The following outputs as identified in Table C of our schedule were achieved: Project Planning meetings held in Cambridge and Mikumi NP in April and May. Senior staff and University Project Planning Workshop 17-18 May in Mikumi NP. All ABRU staff trained in project protocols. Elephant and vegetation transects established in southern two thirds of park. Senior rangers selected and trained in elephant transect protocols. GPS/GIS protocols established and senior staff and rangers trained. Elephant survey and GPS protocols implemented. Preliminary aerial survey conducted. First version of elephant identity database created and initial field testing conducted. Park ecologist MSc project planned and data collection started. Capital items purchased (vehicle, laptops, GPSs, tents, cameras, GIS software). Park resource centre planned and construction begun.

### 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?

Unexpected developments (all with positive impacts, no changes to overall timetable and not requiring further financing from the Darwin Initiative): Opportunity to include aerial surveys in collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society have arisen and will make important contributions to the projects outputs. Contributions from Oxford Scientific Films to ABRU allowed for enhancement of capital items purchased with Darwin Initiative money. Opportunity for collaboration with ResourceAfrica on elephant identification database to bring in database design expertise for improved quality and flexibility of this output.

Notable problem: Participation from Undergraduates from Tanzanian Universities more limited than planned due to schedule conflicts with other field courses. Impact on achieved or projected outputs minimal. This issue is being discussed with senior University staff.

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

The patience and assistance of the Darwin Initiative staff during the initial implementation phase of this project, when the project leader was based in Tanzania, was particularly appreciated.