

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	162/12/002
Project Title	Capacity Building for Monitoring and Managing the bushmeat trade in Gabon
Country(ies)	Gabon
UK Organisation	University of Stirling, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences
Collaborator(s)	University Science Technique de Masuku (USTM), Centre International de Recherches Médicales de Franceville (CIRMF), Ecole National des Eaux et Forets (ENEF), Wildlife Conservation Society Gabon (WCS Gabon)
Report date	31 October 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR3
Project website	http://www.wcsgabon.org/Gibier/BushMeat.html (under development and translation)

1. 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).

The agreed baseline timetable set out the following objectives:

April 2005: Fourth report to Darwin. Second year of teaching in wildlife colleges. DFC project staff (project coordinator and Chef de Service de la Chasse) begin liaison with TV and radio media to create programmes on the bushmeat issue using results and experience of adaptive monitoring.

These objectives were achieved.

The annual report was submitted and favourably reviewed.

The Wildlife Department Director and several of his core staff members received basic training in MS Word and Excel and more advanced staff members were trained at a higher level in these programmes during 2 weeklong training courses and in service training days. Wildlife department staff members Inès Nyinguema (degree level), Ernestine Effa Ntsame, Natacha Bengone N'ssi and Paul Isidore Ab'aa Odzame (Masters level) all received supervision during university research projects using the project database and received high level training in MSAccess.

Kevin Ndong, project core staff member trained in publicity has begun developing film pitches and working with the WCS Gabon film unit to make short films on the bushmeat issue. A story board for a film treatment is currently being circulated to Gabonese television channel RTG for approval and to potential funders.

Ernestine Effa will complete her Masters in January and thus her implication in media publicity is delayed until then. A project website was created and is being regularly updated.

July 2005: monitoring committee meeting followed by wider 1 day workshop meeting in Libreville (organised by DFC) to discuss progress with other stakeholders : law enforcement authorities, local communities etc and encourage consultation and understanding of databases. Results and recommendation in form of 2nd DFC working paper. 2nd year BSc student projects begun.

The student reports were undertaken with no problem and database and adaptive management training was also given at USTM and ENEF as in past years.

However, the monitoring committee meeting was not held, as the monitoring committee is still not convened by

the DFC. The 1 day workshop was agreed by the DFC and is largely organised, however the political campaign for the presidential elections in November was already underway and essentially precluded the participation of most political entities. Clearly the DFC working paper cannot be finalised until the workshop is held. This is currently scheduled for early 2006 after the elections and New year holidays.

In addition to the specified calendar of achievements, project staff gave radio and newspaper interviews:

Interview with journalists from AFP - on the subject of Apes and bushmeat, two newspaper articles written up and posted on

http://www.mg.co.za/articlePage.aspx?area=/breaking_news/breaking_news_africa/&articleid=249958

and

http://www.lintelligent.com/gabarits/articleDEP_online.asp?art_cle=AFP51735desgoellive0

Supervised Canadian intern from University of Toronto – 3 month Intern on a Canadian Corps University Partnership Program looking at bushmeat and health in two towns of Gabon Okonja and Mayumba.

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.

Presidential Elections in Gabon – The presidential elections have caused problems with all of the activities we had planned at a political / policy influence level. There has been NO political will, nor resources, made available for bushmeat management, as this continues to be an unpalatable topic for the general public. We have spent the intervening time continuing to work on our public awareness, training and reporting issues and have prepared the meetings such that we can continue the workplan as soon as possible after the elections.

However, one possibility is that many members of the civil service will change their functions if the government is changed and new Ministers are named. This may mean that we lose our current contacts in the government.

We are trying to put as much of the adaptive management practice and database use as possible into writing and into written agreements such that the project will be protected against loss of particular individuals.

We will know the outcome of the elections and the true impact on the project in December 2005.

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

The problem of elections was foreseen and mentioned in the main report.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

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

The University of Stirling did not receive the Letter of Award from DEFRA until 30 September 2005 – 6 months into the operating year. The University Finances department would not advance funds to Gabon without the letter, therefore the project had to operate entirely on the goodwill of its in country partners who fronted £20,000 of operating costs. This was an extremely difficult working environment. The issue was raised with the Darwin secretariat on several occasions and finally resolved. However, in future, letter of award should maybe be sent in advance of April 1st, such that fronting money without contract is not an issue.

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.**