

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

## Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/12/007
<b>Project Title</b>	Afi Mountain Wildlife Sanctuary Conservation Programme
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Nigeria
<b>UK Organisation</b>	ResourceAfrica, P.O. Box 198, Cambridge CB3 0TF
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Cross River State Forestry Commission, Nigeria Conservation Foundation, Pandrillus, Wildlife Conservation Society, Fauna & Flora International
<b>Report date:</b>	October 2004 (April –September 2004)
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	Year 2
<b>Project website</b>	N/A

### **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 team of rangers attended a 7-week training in protected areas management at the New Bussa Wildlife College in Niger State, Nigeria.

A one day in-house training was provided to the forest guides who replaced the Rangers during their course at the New Bussa College.

The Permanent Secretary of the Forestry Commission undertook a week study tour to IGCP to learn about the promotion of non consumptive use of wildlife resource and particularly the gorilla-based ecotourism.

Several monitoring patrols were conducted around the Sanctuary as soon as the social unrest ceased in the neighbouring villages.

A large community meeting including the Traditional Ruler Council members to agree on a timetable for the destruction of farms within the Sanctuary.

A quick gorilla census at the Sanctuary was undertaken by WCS one of the project partner

Draft training manual for Sanctuary staff and community delegates for this year under development, but have been delayed with the replacement of the Conservation Coordinator.

Activities with the local schools ongoing with 1 training course for the head of schools and conservation club facilitators organised. The Environmental Development Fund to provide logistical support local schools around the Sanctuary was launched and was a huge success. This event was broadcasted in the local radio and the local newspapers.

### **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.**

There were basically two unpleasant events which have impacted negatively on the

implementation of the project activities during the period under review. These include:

(1) A community riot between two neighbouring villages created a break in the implementation of the project activities between April and May. There was total chaos at the Sanctuary where more than 30 peoples were killed. The project vehicle was vandalised and the windscreen completely smashed.

(2) The Conservation Coordinator initially hired for the project left at the end of August. This was an agreement reached during the Afi Mountain Partnership meeting in June by all partners. The recruitment process for his replacement has been slow and the development of the institutional arrangement that will guide the new Conservation Coordinator is ongoing. In the meantime, the Sanctuary Rangers are now under the direct supervision of the Wildlife Officer in secondment from the Forestry Commission and have been receiving modest financial support from the project. In the absence of a Conservation Coordinator at the Sanctuary, the project movable assets including the vehicle have been temporarily kept at the Forestry Commission Headquarters in Calabar. It is expected that the full operation will resume as soon as the ongoing institutional arrangement is completed.

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

None of these issues have been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat as it is expected that the situation will be brought to normality in time for the activities to proceed as planned. This is indeed not an unfamiliar situation in Nigerian working environment.

**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?**

**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](mailto: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.**