

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162-13-002
Project Title	Conservation Management Training and Capacity-building in Sub-Saharan Africa
Country(ies)	Partners: UK and South Africa; Target region sub-Saharan Africa
UK Organisation	International Centre for Protected Landscapes
Collaborator(s)	Centre for Environment and Development, University of KwaZulu-Natal
Report date	October 31 st 2005
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	3
Project website	N/A (pending)

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).

Baseline timetable shown in italics. Achievements and explanation shown in normal text:

July 05 Proposed Programme approved by the Senate of the University of KwaZulu-Natal

The masters' programme is subject to quality approval at School, Faculty and College levels within the University. This has proven to be a very protracted process but Faculty approval was given in September and the Programme will go before the College Quality Committee on 12th November. The final stage of approval, however, is an equally challenging one, and this is by the Department of Education at Government level. The programme does not go before that Committee until March of next year. Given a successful outcome, the programme is scheduled to run from July 06, just two months behind the original schedule. Our programme and module templates have recently been identified by Faculty as a 'model' for curriculum development within the system.

September 05 Visit of ICPL staff to CEAD for training of administrative staff in DL systems; awareness raising of wider University personnel; Training workshop for in-country co-ordinators (regional support network)

This was a very useful and wide ranging visit, achieving substantially more than had originally been planned for:

- 1) A 3-day workshop was held for administrative staff in which we established the administrative systems that need to be put in place to deliver distance learning effectively and efficiently. The response was good; needs and solutions were worked through to a high level of detail.
- 2) Meetings were held with senior University personnel including the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Head of College Professor Peter Zacharias; Professor John Cooke, Dean of Faculty; and Professor Ahmed Bawa, Deputy Vice Chancellor Research. Their support for the programme has been evident in the subsequent movement of the programme through various quality assurance and validation procedures at school and faculty level.
- 3) A workshop was held by the University's IT Unit for the project partners, to train us in the opportunities offered for support of distance students by the internal ORS system. This will enable innovative networking & group discussion facilities to be used in programme delivery.
- 4) A workshop was held for practitioners of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and others on 'landscape approaches to integration of conservation and development'. This was well received and it was suggested that other such workshops – targeting wider groups of professionals - should be

offered through the partnership.

- 5) The training workshop planned for in-country co-ordinators has been re-scheduled for April of next year. Not only has the institutional approval process not yet been completed, but also it was agreed by the partners that September 05 would be too premature for this activity to be really effective. Holding the event in April will be just three months before the first intake of students commences the programme.

Promotion of MSc programme throughout sub-Saharan Africa, with support of country co-ordinators

Under University regulations, we have not been able to formally promote the Masters' programme until it has final approval. We have, however, been promoting it through our respective informal networks and already have a number of applicants from whom selection of candidates will have to be made for the first intake of students.

Additional activities:

Collection of resource materials and writing of modules continues.

A website is under development.

Promotional materials are under development and application forms are available and in circulation.

During the CEAD visit in September, the ICPL project leader gave a public lecture on "Protected Areas: flawed and failing or hope for the future" as the Annual Ruth Edgcombe Memorial Lecture at UKZN. This lecture will be published in a book of the first four such annual lectures.

ICPL and CEAD are organising a major conference to take place in Namibia in August 2006. The Conference will address issues that are central to the new masters' programme, especially in regard to the role of protected areas in working towards a sustainable world. It will target policy makers, practitioners and academics from the region, as well as some international experts. Substantial funding is being sought from other sources to support the Conference, and in particular to enable people from poorer African countries to attend. The Conference will facilitate awareness raising in integrated approaches to conservation management, information exchange, networking and capacity-building.

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.

Securing UKZN approval of the masters' programme through all the University procedures has continued to frustrate progress to a degree, subject as it is to institutional schedules and delays. That said, the rigour of the quality criteria for new programmes required by the recently re-structured UKZN is such that the resulting programme be all the better for having gone through this scrutinising process. We are, nonetheless, a little behind schedule with some of our activities as a result. We shall be looking closely at how best to deal with this during the second half of the year.

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

Darwin Secretariat is aware though the first annual report, review and response to the review.

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? 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.**