

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

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

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	13/019
<b>Project Title</b>	The Greater Masai Mara Community Scout Programme
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Kenya
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Friends of Conservation, local communities, Kenya Wildlife Service, others
<b>Report date</b>	31 October 2004
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 1
<b>Project website</b>	Under development to reflect the community scout emphasis of this project, but based on: <a href="http://www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/dice/research/mara_tourism.html">http://www.kent.ac.uk/anthropology/dice/research/mara_tourism.html</a> , which already shows burgeoning relationship with Friends of Conservation.

### **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 project began on schedule in April 2004 with the recruitment of a previous Darwin Scholar, Stephen Kisotu (162/10/003) as project co-ordinator by the host partner Friends of Conservation (FoC). Terms of reference for community scouts were developed and existing scouts in the southeast of the greater Mara were retrained according to these new terms of reference, and have been active throughout the period.

In May 2004, the UK Project Officer visited Kenya to meet with representatives of FoC and other host country partners including KWS and local community leaders in order to plan forthcoming activities. Since then, the project co-ordinator has been active in the field, visiting communities in other areas of the Greater Mara in order to select and recruit new scouts. Training of these scouts, planned for September 2004, is taking place in October.

### **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.**

The project is proceeding according to schedule and all planned activities and developments for the remainder of the first year are likely to be achieved. However, two unexpected developments have taken place.

First, the Director of FoC, Helen Gibbons, resigned from the organisation and was replaced by Mr Richard Hartley in June 2004. The new Director has a great deal of field experience with communities and community scouts across Africa and is undoubtedly going to be a great asset to the project.

Second, the Project Officer resigned from the project to broaden his career in conservation, after 10 years at DICE and seven years working on Mara projects. He was replaced at the end of the first six-month period by Dr Matt Linkie. The new Project Officer comes with considerable experience of both community-based wildlife monitoring and the use of GIS as a mapping and planning tool, and will be able to extend the capacity-building outputs of the project by training FoC field staff in relevant mapping

and analytical techniques. These additional training outputs are planned for October/November 2004.

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

The Darwin Secretariat were consulted about, and approved of, the change of Project Officer. No changes to the project schedule or workplan are required as a result of the changes in DICE-based or FoC-based personnel.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:** Yes, the change in Project Officer was discussed with the Darwin Secretariat in September 2004 (ref Sarah Moon & Carrie Haloun).

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:** N/A

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

The project was scheduled to begin in April 2004, but the Darwin Secretariat did not announce the list of successful projects until after this time. This, together with the inevitable further delays in signing contracts and receipt of funds, has the potential to disrupt approved projects scheduled for an April start. In this case, we were able to avoid delaying the start because this was in essence a follow-on project and the host country partner was already active, although cash flow has been severely stretched. Perhaps Darwin might make it clearer that projects should not realistically expect to start until July at the earliest, or otherwise bring forward the application process so that April start dates are more feasible, given these are a great deal more convenient for other reasons, not least in overlapping with Darwin financial years (eg in our case not taking a two calendar year project into three financial years).

**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.**