

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Annual Report

1. Darwin Project Information

| | |
|---|---|
| Project Ref. Number | 13/021 |
| Project Title | Strengthening Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in West Africa |
| Country(is) | Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Ghana, Guinée, Sierra Leone |
| UK Contractor | BirdLife International |
| Partner Organisation(s) | Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL), Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), Guinée Ecologie (GE), Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL) and SOS-FORETS in Côte D'Ivoire |
| Darwin Grant Value | GBP 189435 |
| Start/End dates | 30 June 2004 to 31 March 2007 |
| Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and report number (1, 2,3..) | 30 June 2004 to 31 March 2005 Annual Report 1 |
| Project website | |
| Author(s), date | Lincoln Fishpool, Paulinus Ngeh, May 2005 |

2. Project Background

- Briefly describe the location and circumstances of the project and the problem that the project aims to address.

The project is located in the Upper Guinea Forest (UGF) region of West Africa, which extends from Guinea to Togo. These forests have among the highest diversity of mammals in the world and are recognised to be one of the 25 global hotspots for biodiversity conservation. It has also been recognised by BirdLife International as an Endemic Bird Area, to which 15 restricted range species are entirely confined, 11 of them globally threatened. Approximately 80% of the original forest cover has been lost and the remaining forest is highly fragmented. Only 3% of remaining forest in areas of highest importance for biodiversity is protected.

In 2001, BirdLife International published the Important Bird Areas of Africa and Associated Islands. The compilation of this book resulted in a fuller appreciation of just how scanty and out-of-date was the biodiversity information on the Upper Guinea Forest region. Several factors contributed to this but one of the fundamental reasons was the lack of indigenous capacity.

Lack of capacity has also been identified as one of the key gaps in biodiversity conservation in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) of all countries in the UGF zone. However, these countries have yet to begin implementation of these plans.

This project is aimed at addressing the lack of capacity needs in the region through the training of 150 nationals from the UGF countries in techniques of biodiversity identification and survey.

3. Project Purpose and Outputs

- State the purpose and outputs of the project. Please include your project logical framework as an appendix and report achievements and progress against it (or, if applicable, against the latest version of the logframe).

The project aims to improve capacity of government staff, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other relevant conservation institutions in tropical biodiversity survey and identification techniques, with a focus on birds, mammals and plants.

The project has four outputs, namely:

- *Regional/national training programmes for biodiversity survey and monitoring established and functional*
 - *BirdLife's World Bird Database installed and regularly updated by NGOs*
 - *National IBA inventories established and/or updated*
 - *Biodiversity information published and disseminated*
- Have the outputs or proposed operational plan been modified over the last year, for what reason, and have these changes been approved by the Darwin Secretariat? (Please note that any intended modifications should be discussed with the Secretariat directly rather than making suggestions in this report).

No.

4. Progress

- Please provide a brief history of the project to the beginning of this reporting period. (1 para)

The contract for the project was signed on 24 June, 2004, approximately three months after the official April 1st start date of Darwin projects. This delay was due to concerns about security in the sub-region. In order to resolve this situation, further consultations were made with staff of Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in the different countries in the sub-region. It was agreed, after these consultations, that UK staff will initially travel to Ghana only. Travel to other countries shall take place only after consultation and authorisation by Darwin. As a result of the delay, BirdLife was authorised to make modifications to the project document. Modifications were made to the delivery dates of some key milestones and GBP 10,000 was transferred from f.y. 2004/2005 to 2005/2006.

- Summarise progress over the last year against the agreed baseline timetable for the period and the logical framework (complete Annex 1). Explain differences including any slippage or additional outputs and activities.

The signing of the project contract with Darwin was followed by the establishment and signing of sub-contracts with the five national coordinating NGOs. These NGOs helped in the identification of 15 nationals (three per country) for the sub-regional training for trainers course in Ghana. Three experts were identified and contracted to undertake the sub-regional training for trainers.

The project was officially launched in October 2004 by the Minister of Regional Cooperation and NEPAD in Ghana and attended by 60 invitees, including the Acting British High Commissioner. The launch was hosted by the British High Commission, Ghana. The project launch was followed by three weeks of 'training for trainers course' for the 15 nationals, by the three experts. During the training three high biodiversity sites were visited and surveyed. Equipment and books were distributed for the sub-regional training course and other training courses planned subsequently at the national levels (see annex 1&2 for list of equipment and materials distributed). The first Project Steering Committee meeting was held and terms of reference developed.

Four out of the five NGOs have undertaken their first national training courses as planned. A total of 48 additional nationals have been trained (Ghana 12, Sierra Leone 14, Guinea 15 and Côte d'Ivoire 7). Data and information collected from the sites used for the training has been used to update the World Bird Database. The UK mammal expert, based long-term in Sierra Leone, was contracted to provide support for the national training in Sierra Leone.

Communication difficulties led to a delay in the transfer of funds to SCNL in Liberia for the organisation of its national training course. Unfortunately, SCNL did not have sufficient funds to pre-finance the training course. The training course is now scheduled to take place in May 2005.

Relationships have been established by most NGOs with other relevant national projects and international organisations working in the region, and their collaboration sought, as a complement to project activities.

Participants in Sierra Leone were also trained in report writing skills.

Trainees in Guinea have been trained in the use of the computer with focus on website browsing for relevant information to the training courses. The bird and mammal trainers benefited from additional training organised by Winrock International in Guinea. Their selection was influenced by the fact that they had just completed training in bird and mammal in the Darwin project. The bird trainer also participated in a one month raptor (vulture) survey in West Africa organised by Guy Rondo of Afrique Nature International. The trainer for plants was part of an "Institute de Recherche pour le Developpement" (IRD) team that undertook plants survey in the Boffa region of Guinea in March, 2005. All three trainers have been selected to participate in a Rapid Appraisal Programme to be organised by Conservation International in April and May, 2005 in Guinea.

See annex 1 and table 1.

- Provide an account of the project's achievements during the last year. This should include concise discussion on methodologies and approaches by the project (e.g. research, training, planning, assessment, monitoring) and their consequences and impacts as well as results. Please **summarise** content on methodologies and approaches, and, if necessary, provide more detailed information in appendices (this may include cross-references to attached publications).

Over the nine months of implementation, the project organised one regional and four national field training courses. This resulted in the training of 63 nationals in field survey techniques and, at the same time, collection of data from seven Protected Areas.

Equipment and materials (binoculars, telescopes, books etc) were bought and distributed to NGOs.

The government of Ghana exempted from custom duties training equipment worth GBP 2000 as support to the project.

A bilingual brochure summarising the project was produced and is being disseminated by the NGOs.

Working relationships have been established and/or strengthened with relevant government agencies, research institutions and International organisations such as, Kew Gardens, UK, Conservation International (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund) and Rio Tinto.

The national training course in Ghana discovered further evidence of the presence in the Kakum National Park of the globally endangered bird species Ibadan Malimbe (Malimbus ibadanensis) whose presence in Ghana is uncertain and subject to dispute by ornithologists.

Guidance notes for training in the field identification techniques, with a focus on birds, mammals and plants, has been drafted.

The project was widely publicised in all countries through press releases, official launches, radio interviews and features.

The overall approach taken to the training has involved careful planning. This has included the selection of candidates, sites and logistic arrangements and field training itself. Candidates were selected based upon agreed criteria including age (<40 years), commitment to biodiversity conservation, active involvement in conservation related activities, level of knowledge in biodiversity identification and survey and willingness to work long hours. Selection also took into account as many stakeholder categories as possible, in order to help ensure sustainability. Site selection took into account accessibility, biodiversity richness, distance and security. The field training itself was based on agreed approaches and draft guidelines developed during the sub-regional training. Details of approach and methods are available in the training reports -Annex 3, 4, 5.

Project monitoring was undertaken by:

- *the Chief Executives of the implementing NGOs through review of work plans,*
field and progress reports and field visits,
- *the project manager through review of progress and field reports and annual visits to countries and field sites,*
- *the project team leader through review of progress reports and field visits to selected countries,*
- *experts during training.*
- Discuss any significant difficulties encountered during the year and steps taken to overcome them.
 - *A progressive decline in concentration and endurance of many trainees after some time in the field led to a modification of the duration of the training. The duration will be increased progressively in subsequent training courses as trainees gain more experience and exposure to field work.*
 - *Differences in levels of knowledge and skills between countries and trainees. This obliged the experts and trainers to slow down the speed of training to accommodate that of the least skilled to permit everyone to follow. It was agreed that henceforth more effort should be made to identify, as far as possible, candidates for future training with broadly similar levels of knowledge. Candidates with low levels of knowledge but who performed well during the first training course are, however, to be included in subsequent training.*
 - *There were communication difficulties with some of the NGOs, especially Guiné Ecologie in Guinea and Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia. This resulted mainly from technical problems, such as power outages and break down of equipment of internet service providers in these countries. This was partially resolved through the use of cellular phones.*
- Has the design of the project been enhanced over the last year, e.g. refining methods, indicators for measuring achievements, exit strategy?

The project is now more fully focused on biodiversity identification, rather than on survey techniques, in view of the relatively low levels of knowledge in this regard of the majority of candidates, funds available and time constraints.

- Present a timetable (workplan) for the next reporting period.

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| <i>April/May</i> | <i>First Annual Project report produced</i> |
| <i>May/June</i> | <i>Candidates and sites identified for the second national field training in biodiversity identification and survey techniques</i> |
| <i>July</i> | <i>Reports from candidates who participate in the first national training courses on sites they have surveyed and/or activities they have undertaken which are of relevance to the project</i> |
| <i>July</i> | <i>Reports from Trainers of activities undertaken which are of relevance to the project or as a result of training received in the project.</i> |
| <i>July</i> | <i>Second Project Steering Committee Meeting organised</i> |
| <i>July/August</i> | <i>Second set of five national training workshops to train 45 nationals on biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring undertaken.</i> |
| <i>September</i> | <i>Second set of five national training reports produced with updates of biodiversity information on those sites used for the training</i> |
| <i>September</i> | <i>Update of Worldbird Data base with data and information from new sites surveyed during the training courses.</i> |
| <i>September</i> | <i>Press release on significant findings during the second field training course</i> |
| <i>September</i> | <i>BirdLife World Database updated with data from sites used for the second national training course</i> |
| <i>Oct</i> | <i>Candidates and sites identified for the third national field training in biodiversity identification and survey techniques.</i> |
| <i>October</i> | <i>Half year report produced</i> |
| <i>Nov/Dec</i> | <i>Third set of five national training workshops of 45 nationals biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring undertaken.</i> |
| <i>January</i> | <i>Third set of five national training reports produced with updates of biodiversity information on those sites used for the training.</i> |
| <i>January</i> | <i>Press release on significant findings from the third field training course.</i> |
| <i>January</i> | <i>BirdLife World Database updated with data from sites used for the third national training course.</i> |
| <i>February</i> | <i>Reports from candidates who participate in the second national training on sites they have surveyed and/or activities they have undertaken which are of relevance to the project</i> |
| <i>March</i> | <i>Poster of threatened birds and mammals of the UGF produced and disseminated</i> |
| <i>March</i> | <i>National IBA inventory of Sierra Leone published.</i> |
| | <i>Second draft national IBA inventory of Ghana completed</i> |
| | <i>First draft of national IBA inventory of Guinea completed</i> |
| | <i>First draft of national IBA inventory of Cote d'Ivoire 50% drafted</i> |
| <i>March</i> | <i>Draft Communication plans completed</i> |

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

- Have you responded to issues raised in the review of your last year's annual report? Have you discussed the review with your collaborators? Briefly describe what actions have been taken as a result of recommendations from last year's review.

Not applicable

6. Partnerships

- Describe collaboration between UK and host country partner(s) over the last year. Are there difficulties or unforeseen problems or advantages of these relationships?

Collaboration has been very good overall. The UK's FCO was very helpful in discussions on security concerns in the sub-region raised at the beginning of the project. Most project equipment and materials were bought from the UK with assistance from BirdLife International's UK secretariat. Technical support was provided to the project in the design and production of the project brochure and preparation and dissemination of press releases. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (BirdLife International Partner in the UK) provided technical support to two of the NGOs and discussions are ongoing with them for the provision of material assistance to the project. The project and sub-regional training was hosted by the British High Commission in Ghana.

These relationships are very useful and will help facilitate the implementation of the project.

- Has the project been able to collaborate with similar projects (Darwin or other) in the host country or other regions, or establish new links with / between local or international organisations involved in biodiversity conservation?

Collaboration has been established with a number of projects and conservation organisations in all countries. In Liberia, the project will collaborate with another Darwin project on communal forests, implemented by Fauna and Flora International. Discussions are underway between the Society for the Conservation of Nature in Liberia (SCNL) and NABU (BirdLife International Partner organisation in Germany) to conduct the second national training course in October with the assistance of a German expert.

In Guinea, collaboration has been established with Conservation International and Kew Gardens-UK. Discussions are ongoing for collaboration with Rio Tinto in the near future.

In Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana the project is collaborating with another project, funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund of Conservation International on biodiversity survey of some key biodiversity areas.

Relationships have been established with at least one University in each country.

7. Impact and Sustainability

- Discuss the profile of the project within the country and what efforts have been made during the year to promote the work. What evidence is there for increasing interest and capacity for biodiversity resulting from the project? Is there a satisfactory exit strategy for the project in place?

The project has a high profile in all the countries in the sub-region. This was enhanced by the calibre of persons (Ministers, Ambassadors, and Head of Government Departments and International NGOs etc) who participated at the project's launch in the various countries, which attracted wide publicity.

Efforts to promote the project were made through the distribution of project leaflets, project launch workshops, discussions with other relevant stakeholders, radio

interviews and features and awareness raising, especially of local communities in and around sites used for the field training.

Interest in the project is demonstrated by the numerous enquires received about the project and requests from individuals and organisations/institutions to be included in the training. Requests have also been received from organisations and universities for copies of project material and for equipment. The collaboration that has been established with other projects and organisations is additional evidence of the developing interest in building biodiversity capacity.

8. Post-Project Follow up Activities (max 300 words)

This section should be completed ONLY if your project is nearing completion (penultimate or final year) and you wish to be considered to be invited to apply for Post Project Funding. *Each year, a small number of Darwin projects will be invited to apply for funding. Selection of these projects will be based on promising project work, reviews to date, and your suggestions within this section. Further information on this scheme introduced in 2003 is available from the Darwin website.*

- From project progress so far, what follow-up activities would help to embed or consolidate the results of your project, and why would you consider these as suitable for Darwin Post Project Funding?
- What evidence is there of strong commitment and capacity by host country partners to enable them to play a major role in follow-up activities?

9. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

- Explain differences in actual outputs against those agreed in the initial 'Project Implementation Timetable' and the 'Project Outputs Schedule', i.e. what outputs were not or only partly achieved? Were additional outputs achieved?

Project Implementation timetable

| PLANNED | ACTUAL |
|---|-----------------------|
| <i>Project contract signed</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Project subcontracts prepared and signed with NGOs</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Procurement of project equipment</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Training programme developed by experts</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Internal project planning by BirdLife International</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Bilingual (French and English) brochure summarising project and its objectives produced.</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Terms of reference and contracts prepared and signed with Experts</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Training site (s) identified and logistic arrangement completed</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Project launch</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Press release on project launch and future plans</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Training of 15 trainers for 5 weeks by UK professionals on techniques of tropical biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Training in data management and reporting.</i> | <i>Partially done</i> |

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| <i>Surveys and monitoring framework and other relevant field tools produced and distributed to NGOs by UK professionals</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Press release on major and interesting findings during the sub-regional field training.</i> | <i>Not done</i> |
| <i>First Six monthly report prepared</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Training report with update of biodiversity information of site(s) used for training</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>Candidates to be trained at national level and sites identified</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>National training programmes prepared</i> | <i>Done</i> |
| <i>First set of 5 national training workshop to train 45 nationals on techniques of tropical biodiversity identification, survey and monitoring by the trainers organised</i> | <i>Done by 4 countries</i> |
| <i>5 National training reports with biodiversity information on sites used for training in each country</i> | <i>Done by 4 countries</i> |

A press release on the sighting of Ibadan Malimbe in Ghana will be made in July (see below).

The first national training course in Liberia has been postponed to May 2005. Communication problems with SCNL delayed the transfer of funds for the training and SCNL unfortunately was unable to pre-finance activities due to financial constraints.

Additional outputs achieved:

- *Project document was translated into French to facilitate implementation by French speaking countries*
- *Trainees from Sierra Leone were also trained in report writing.*
- *Trainers in Guinea have benefited from additional training by other organisations such as Winrock International, Afrique Nature International and IRD.*
- *Most NGOs have established and/or strengthened contacts with other organisations and institutions as a result of the project.*
- *Provide details of dissemination activities in the host country during the year, including information on target audiences. Will dissemination activities be continued by the host country when the project finishes, and how will this be funded and implemented?*

One thousand five hundred (1500) copies of a bilingual (English and French) brochure on the project were produced and are being disseminated. The project document was translated into French for distribution in French speaking countries. Press releases were prepared and distributed to the media prior to the launch of the project in the different countries. Information on the press releases was reproduced by the print media in all the countries (« *Des experts proposent des solutions* » Auteur : Didier KORE 17-02-2005. *Le Courrier D'Abidjan*. Site web : www.lecourrierdabidjan.info, « *Biodiversité : SOS-Forêts veut apporter un plus à la conservation* » Auteur : Moussa Touré - 21-02-2005

Fraternité Matin - Quotidien national à grand tirage. : www.fratmat.net, GWS and BirdLife organise biodiversity training, October 4, 2004, NEPAD minister lauds biodiversity identification training, October 7, 2004 Independent Newspaper Ghana,

email : NewsIndep@yahoo.co.uk). An article on the project was published in the *BirdLife Africa Newsletter* (Volume 6.2). This newsletter has a wide distribution, especially in Africa. The project launches were followed by radio interviews and features about the project and its importance. In some countries, the project launch was televised. Project information was posted on the BirdLife International website (www.birdlife.net/news/pr/2004/10/ugf.html) and also carried on the website of Africa News Agency (www.afrol.com/articles/14415).

The radio interviews and newspaper articles etc. were targeted at the general public. More specific dissemination targeted other conservation NGOs, relevant government institutions and universities. This involved sending them copies of the project brochures, inviting them to project launches, organising debriefing meetings and one to one discussions.

Dissemination of project activities will be continued by the NGOs after the project ends since they form an integral part of the ongoing IBA programme of these organisations. Information dissemination will also figure prominently in the communications plans been developed as part of the project output. Funding for this is not yet identified but this will be sought from planned follow-up projects.

- Please expand and complete Table 1. **Quantify** project outputs over the last year using the coding and format from the Darwin Initiative Standard Output Measures (see website for details) and give a brief description. Please list and report on appropriate Code Nos. only. The level of detail required is specified in the Guidance notes on Output Definitions, which accompanies the List of Standard Output Measures

Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)

| Code No. | Quantity | Description |
|----------|----------|---|
| 4C | 63 | Fifteen persons, 3 from each of the 5 countries, were trained as trainers in biodiversity identification techniques with a focus on birds, mammals and plants. The training was facilitated by 3 experts. These trainers later trained 48 other nationals in their respective countries. A UK expert, based in Sierra Leone, assisted in the training in Sierra Leone. |
| 4D | 11 | A total of 11 training weeks have been provided, three for the sub-regional training and eight for the national training. |
| 7 | 2 | A bilingual (English and French) brochure was produced with information on the project for dissemination and sensitisation purposes. Guidance notes for field training were drafted during the sub-regional training and are being used for national training. |
| 10 | 1 | The national IBA inventory for Sierra Leone has been completed and is ready for publication. Ghana has prepared the first draft of its national IBA Inventory and Guinea has completed 80% of the first draft of its national Inventory. |
| 12B | 9 | The World Bird Database (WBDB) has been modified to make it more flexible and copies provided to and installed by the national NGOs. Nine persons (9) have been trained in the use of the |

| WBDB | | |
|------|----|---|
| 13B | | The WBDB has been updated with data collected from the 7 sites surveyed |
| 15 | 9 | Two press releases were posted on the internet, one on the BirdLife International website and the other on the site of the Africa News Agency. Six press releases were prepared and circulated at national level in the various countries. One article was published in the BirdLife Africa newsletter. |
| 19 | 10 | Most of the radio interviews and features were at national level and focused on the project and its importance and potential impact. |
| 20 | | Equipment and books worth GBP 7,355 were purchased and distributed to NGOs for the training. |
| 23 | | GBP 41,210 has been leveraged from several sources, including contributions by national NGOs |

- In Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Details will be recorded on the Darwin Monitoring Website Publications Database. Mark (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

Table 2: Publications

| Type * | Detail | Publishers | Available from | Cost £ |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|--------|
| (e.g. journals, manual, CDs) | (title, author, year) | (name, city) | (e.g. contact address, website) | |

10. Project Expenditure

- Please expand and complete Table 3.

Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)

| Item | Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project schedule) | Expenditure | Balance |
|------|--|-------------|---------|
|------|--|-------------|---------|

- Highlight any recently agreed changes to the budget and explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget.

11. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

- Discuss methods employed to monitor and evaluate the project this year. How can you demonstrate that the outputs and outcomes of the project actually contribute to the project purpose? I.e. what are the indicators of achievements (both qualitative and quantitative) and how are you measuring these?

The project was monitored and evaluated through the review of project progress and training reports and field visits.

The information provided in the log frame (Annex 1) indicates how the outputs are actually contributing to the project purpose. The indicators of achievement and how they are measured are presented below

| Indicators | Means of verification |
|--|---|
| <i>Number of nationals trained</i> | <i>-Lists of trainees -training reports, -field visits during training</i> |
| <i>National IBA inventories</i> | <i>-Inventories available for inspection</i> |
| <i>Updated databases</i> | <i>-Review of NGO databases</i> |
| <i>Training materials and tools</i> | <i>-List of materials and tools -materials and tools available for inspection</i> |
| <i>Number of organisations aware of database</i> | <i>-List of organisations -Interviews of members of other organisations -citations of database by other organisations</i> |
| <i>Number of Sites</i> | <i>-Site survey reports -Field visits</i> |
| <i>Communication plans</i> | <i>-Plans available for inspection</i> |

| | |
|---|--|
| | -improvement in communication meaning? |
| Publicity materials produced and disseminated | -Copies of materials available for inspection. -level of public awareness raised about the project through for example public response to radio interviews and features on project.. -number of individuals and organisations collaborating with the project |

- What lessons have you learned from this year's work, and can you build this learning into future plans?

The differences in level of knowledge among candidates can have serious implications on the achievements of field training. For subsequent training, greater effort will be made to select candidates with comparable levels of knowledge in order to maximise field training benefits.

A noticeable drop in concentration and endurance was observed in a number of the trainees after only a relatively short stay in the field, particularly those who had previously had little experience of field work. Evidence of prior field work experience will be made one of the determining factors in the selection of candidates for future training.

Difficulties in communicating with some of the countries affected somewhat the implementation of the project through for example, delay in the transfer of funds which led to the postponement of some project activities. Fortunately, the development and eventual implementation of communication plans both at the sub-regional and national levels, one of the deliverables of the project, will help resolve this.

12. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum)

■ I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project over the year that you consider worth highlighting to ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat. This could relate to achievements already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention e.g. in terms of best practice. The idea is to use this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including e.g. publication in the Defra Annual Report, Darwin promotion material, or on the Darwin website. As we will not be able to ask projects on an individual basis for their consent to publish the content of this section, please note the above agreement clause.

Possible sighting of the Ibadan Malimbe (Malimbe ibadanensis) in Kakum National Park, Ghana



*The globally Endangered bird species, Ibadan Malimbe (*Malimbus ibadanensis*) has been reported in Kakum National Park in Ghana. The occurrence of the species in Ghana is a matter of some controversy. Although there are some earlier reports from Ghana of this species, which is otherwise only known to occur in a very small area of SW Nigeria, these have not been accepted by the wider ornithological community, as they have not been properly documented.*

More recently, however, the species was reported from Kakum National Park in September 2004 by David Daramani of the Ghana Wildlife Society with a group of bird watchers from the United Kingdom. In February 2005, the species was again reported on two different occasions at two different locations. The first sighting was made at the Antwikwaa Camp area at the South-Western end of the Park on 7 February 2005 and second on February 10, 2005, this time along the road leading Aboabo Camp at the Northern end of the Park. David Daramani again sighted the species, this time with Augustus Asamoah (also of GWS) and a team of five trainees during the field identification-training course of the Darwin funded project on "Strengthening Capacity for Conservation in West Africa. If confirmed, these records are of considerable significance to the conservation of this species, as they represent a large extension of range of this highly threatened, localised endemic.

Kakum National Park is one of the preferred bird watching destinations for forest birds in Ghana. It is also very popular for tourism because of its impressive canopy walk.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2003/2004

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2003-Mar 2004 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation of biological diversity, • The sustainable use of its components, and • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources | | | |
| <p>Purpose <i>To improve capacity for biodiversity surveys and monitoring in Important Bird Areas in the Upper Guinea Forest of West Africa.)</i></p> | <p>At least 150 nationals trained in biodiversity survey and monitoring in the sub-region</p> <p>National Inventories of IBA established and/or updated</p> <p><i>Updated database of biodiversity in the upper Guinea forest zone</i></p> | <p><i>63 nationals trained, 15 of them as trainers.</i></p> <p><i>Sierra Leone has completed and made ready for publication its National IBA inventory</i></p> <p><i>Database updated with data from 7 sites surveyed during the training</i></p> | <p><i>Train at least 100 more nationals.</i></p> <p><i>Sierra Leone to publish National IBA inventory</i></p> <p><i>At least one more National IBA inventory to be completed.</i></p> <p><i>Database updated with new data from at least 20 sites.</i></p> |
| <p>Outputs</p> | | | |
| <p>Regional/national training programme for biodiversity survey and monitoring established and functional</p> | <p>150 nationals trained by end of year 2 of the project</p> <p>Training materials and tools produced</p> | <p><i>63 nationals trained (15 in Ghana, 17 in Sierra Leone, 10 in Cote d'Ivoire, 18 in Guinea and 3 in Liberia).</i></p> <p><i>Draft guidance notes for field training developed.</i></p> <p><i>30 Viking pairs binoculars, 20 copies of Birds of Western Africa</i></p> | <p><i>Organise training to train 100 additional nationals</i></p> <p><i>Finalise field training guidance notes</i></p> <p><i>Acquire 50 additional pairs of binoculars, 50 bird and 50 tree field guides</i></p> |

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| | | <i>(Borrow & Demey), 46 copies of Expedition Field Techniques (Bibby & Stuart), 26 copies of Kingdom Field guides to Mammals of West Africa, 7 copies of the Field Guide to the trees of Ghana (Hawthorne), 2 Sony tape recorders, 3 copies of the 11 CDs of Bird Sounds of Africa, Telescope distributed.</i> | |
| World bird database installed and regularly updated by NGOs | Number of organisations aware of the existence and using the database WBDB populated and regularly updated | <i>11 organisations are aware of the existence of the database (3 in Ghana, 2 in Liberia, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone) WBDB was updated with data collected from the 7 sites surveyed</i> | <i>Train more persons in the use of the database, especially in other organisations. Update database with information and data from at least 20 additional sites.</i> |
| National IBA inventories established and/or updated | 5 National IBA inventories produced At least 35 IBAs survey/ monitored by the of the project | <i>Sierra Leone has completed its national IBA Inventory. Ghana has completed the first draft of its national IBA Inventory. Guinea has drafted about 80% of its national IBA inventory Seven sites surveyed</i> | <i>Raise funds for the publication of the national IBA Inventory of Sierra Leone Ghana to finalise draft national IBA inventory Guinea to compete first draft of its national IBA Inventory. At least 20 more sites surveyed</i> |
| <i>Biodiversity information published and disseminated</i> | Sub-regional and national communication and publicity plans developed Publicity materials produced and disseminated | <i>Preparation of sub-regional and national communication plans has been initiated. 1500 bilingual flyers produced and are being distributed</i> | <i>Finalise communication plans. Continue the distribution of flyers Prepare at least 15 press releases Publish 4 more articles in the</i> |

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| | | <p><i>8 press releases produced</i></p> <p><i>1 article published in BirdLife Africa newsletter</i></p> <p><i>Ten radio interviews and features done.</i></p> <p><i>Draft project reports produced</i></p> | <p><i>BirdLife Africa newsletter and other newsletters and journals</i></p> <p><i>Ten radio interviews and features done on project results</i></p> <p><i>Finalise and circulate project reports.</i></p> |
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Note: Please do NOT expand rows to include activities since their completion and outcomes should be reported under the column on progress and achievements at output and purpose levels.