

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

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

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	162/13/031
<b>Project Title</b>	Pioneering an Innovative Conservation Approach in Sierra Leone's Gola Forest
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Sierra Leone
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Conservation Society of Sierra Leone (CSSL); Forest Division (FD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Security, Sierra Leone
<b>Report date</b>	28 October 2005
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 1
<b>Project website</b>	<i>None, but please see</i> <a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk/international/conservation/sierraleone/index.asp">http://www.rspb.org.uk/international/conservation/sierraleone/index.asp</a> for RSPB article about the project

**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).**

***Planned Milestone: 'Jan 05 –initiate forest studies'***

A detailed Forest Study workplan has been developed by the RSPB. A Research Biologist has been recruited by the RSPB (an additional cost incurred by RSPB outside the Darwin Grant) to oversee the research programme and train staff. Their contract began in September a local counterpart has also been recruited from CSSL to ensure that there is local capacity for the long term. The research programme, that will run over the next 12 months will begin with a training programme for the survey team in field survey methods and will work with some of the Sierra Leone nationals being trained by the Darwin project *Strengthening Capacity for Biodiversity Conservation in West Africa (13/021)*.

***Planned Milestone: 'June 05 – Identify training needs of FD, CSSL and local people by means of meeting with all relevant stakeholders.'***

No formal training needs assessments have been carried out. However a training programme is underway for the forest survey team in survey techniques (timber assessments, point counts, mammal identification, bird identification) and FD are developing a training programme for the government forest guards.

***Planned Milestone: 'Awareness raising activities throughout year 2.'***

The programme was launched by president of Sierra Leone in June 2005. This was a major undertaking for the project staff and a major publicity event, and a great success for the project. Proves that the programme has backing at the highest levels. See: Sierra Leone Government website for more details: <http://www.statehouse-sl.org/gola-fore-june6.html>

CSSL continues to carry out awareness raising activities in the communities, and they have also produced a 10 minute film that was broadcast on national television. Regular radio

broadcasts continue to be made by CSSL.

The project has become more active in law enforcement and FD have arrested 4 lorries carrying timber from the forest to date. This is worth mentioning here, as there has been limited law enforcement in the area since he war started in 2001. The project is taking positive steps to send clear messages to illegal loggers and it has been a real test of the resolve on FD staff and local government actors.

**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.**

None

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

**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](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.