

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

Project Ref. No.	14-006
Project Title	Conservation of Small Vertebrates in Tsingy Bemaraha National Park, Madagascar
Country(ies)	Madagascar
UK Organisation	University of Aberdeen
Collaborator(s)	ANGAP (Madagascar National Parks Service)
Project Leader	Paul A. Racey
Report date	16 October 2007
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 3
Project website	

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).

Project activities during this reporting period, which corresponds to the austral winter, focussed on capacity building of park guides and creating interpretation posters for the new visitor centre. A 7-day training course was held in the park's office for the 27 guides to improve English and French speaking skills. This was a follow-up to the less intensive course during May 2006 and was requested by our host country partners. The training course also included lessons on etiquette when working with tourists and included assessed guided walks in the forest. Project biologists accompanied the training team and conducted a rodent survey and the annual bat count in 16 caves. We created and produced five (lemurs, birds, reptiles, amphibians, bats and carnivores & rodents), large colour posters for installation in the park's new visitor centre. Darwin trainees continued to write up their research theses and team members had a publication accepted in the journal *Oryx*. We held a workshop in collaboration with our host country partners and the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research to evaluate a teachers' module that we prepared for primary schools.

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.

Nothing to report.

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

N/A

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 email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**