

# Darwin Initiative

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

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we will not be able to confirm receipt of reports but will contact you individually should any questions arise**

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14-009
<b>Project Title</b>	Biodiversity monitoring in forest ecosystems in Bale Mountains National Park, Ethiopia
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Ethiopia
<b>UK Organisation</b>	University of Aberdeen
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Bale Mountains National Park (Oromia Bureau of Agriculture and Rural Development) and Wildlife Conservation Department
<b>Report date</b>	<i>31 October 2007</i>
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	3
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.abdn.ac.uk/bale">www.abdn.ac.uk/bale</a>

**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).**

Monitoring - we have established and trialled a protocol for sampling forests with permanent plots and are proceeding to install these in the Harena. We completed data collection on forest structure across the forest and are in the process of analysing those data. The bird monitoring work has stalled due to reallocation of BMNP staff.

Reports - these are being drafted, with extracts being prepared for a special edition of *Walia* that will be published on Bale Mountains.

Traditional management - the remaining focus group discussions have not yet been completed due to staffing problems at BMNP.

Protocol development - Along with the permanent plots and transect sampling mentioned above, additional preliminary work has been done with the forest glades, freshwater springs in the forest and archeological sites. These three resources are important fundamentally for understanding patterns of forest use by the permanent and temporary settlers in the forest.

Training - the park warden, Mr Berhanu Jilcha, started his MSc programme in Kent in September 2007. His position in the park has been temporarily assumed by Mr Addisu Asefa.

Posters - two posters have been printed and disseminated to communities in the forest.

**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.**

Our project Research Assistant was robbed during a field trip and some important equipment was stolen (laptop computer, digital camera, 2 pair of binoculars, compass, 3 GPS units, and a flash disk). Although this was reported to the police locally, it is unlikely that any of these materials will be recovered. The UA insurance doesn't cover project staff overseas, unfortunately, and the park's insurance also is insufficient to cover the loss. We have requested and been granted the flexibility to reallocate funds from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year budget to replace the most essential pieces of equipment.

The tuition costs at the U Kent are substantially higher than they were when the project budget was approved, again requiring us to reallocate some of our travel and subsistence budget towards the fees. Darwin has approved this reallocation.

The responsibilities of the park staff that were actively involved in the project during the first two years, and specifically, taking responsibility for the bird monitoring programme and the traditional management report, have changed. Currently, the two experts are finding it very difficult to allocate time to completing their work related to our project. In January we will hold a meeting to discuss and decide on a way forward. It may be that some of the work is taken on by consultants and that we will request a non-funded extension to the project to allow us to complete our outputs.

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

All budgetary issues reported on here have been discussed but as no changes were made to date to the original agreement. Changes were made to the original logframe in April 2007 and these were discussed and agreed with Darwin.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:**                                **yes, in April 2007**

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:**    **yes**

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

No.

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.**