



**Darwin Initiative**  
**Annual Report**  
**April 2006**



**1. Darwin Project Information**

Project Ref. Number	14-024
Project Title	Afro-Asian Elephant Community Conservation Network
Country(ies)	Thailand & Kenya
UK Contractor	Zoological Society of London
Partner Organisation(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elephant Conservation Network, Kanchanaburi (Thailand)</li> <li>• Dept. National Parks, Plant and Wildlife Conservation (Thailand)</li> </ul>
Collaborating Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MIKE Programme (Thailand)</li> <li>• Wildlife Conservation (Thailand)</li> <li>• Jumbo Travel (Thailand)</li> <li>• The Greater Maasai Mara Community Scout Programme (Kenya)</li> <li>• WWF Kenya Human-Elephant Conflict Programme (Kenya)</li> <li>• Friends of Conservation (UK &amp; Kenya)</li> <li>• Durrell Institute of Conservation &amp; Ecology (UK)</li> <li>• Fauna &amp; Flora International HEC &amp; Livelihoods Programmes (UK)</li> </ul>
Darwin Grant Value	£ 188,188
Start/End dates	July 2005 - until March 2008
Reporting period and annual report number	1 July 2005 – 31 March 2006 Annual Report No: 1
Project website	<a href="http://www.zsl.org/field-conservation/deserts-and-rangelands/asian-elephant-conservation-in-thailand">http://www.zsl.org/field-conservation/deserts-and-rangelands/asian-elephant-conservation-in-thailand</a>
Author(s), date	Belinda Stewart-Cox (May 2006)

**2. Project Background**

The Salak Pra-Chalerm Rattanakosin protected area in west Thailand supports some 20% of the country's largest population of wild elephants (around 120 individuals), but it is now a forest peninsula and human-elephant conflicts are increasing both in and around it. Due west Salak Pra is severed from the larger Western Forest Conservation Complex (the core of which is a natural world heritage site) by the Sri Nakarin Reservoir, due south by the Kwaie Yai river, road and ribbon development, and due east, it is flanked by human settlement and agriculture. In 2000-1, the Elephant Conservation Network conducted semi-structured interviews, focus group surveys and site visits to find out from rangers and villagers what is known and felt about elephants and elephant conservation, and where conflicts occur. This survey identified the need for seasonal elephant surveys inside Salak Pra to support a community-based human-elephant conflict monitoring and mitigation programme around the protected area. This project aims to address the problem of human-elephant conflict as a means to improve elephant conservation.

### 3. Project Purpose and Outputs

#### Project purpose:

Through Afro-Asian exchange and technical co-operation, to enact a community-based elephant conservation and conflict resolution initiative in West Thailand to serve as a model for participatory conservation and sustainable development in Indo-China and Southeast Asia.

#### Outputs with associated achievements (1<sup>st</sup> year)

- a) *Local capacity to monitor and mitigate human-elephant conflict improved:*
- o Good progress: 14 village monitors (covering 16 villages) and their nominated assistants trained in human-elephant conflict mapping, measuring and monitoring methods
  - o Good progress: 10 forest rangers trained in forest survey methods in association with the MIKE-Thailand programme and the Salak Pra protected area staff.
  - o No progress yet: the MSc course in the UK was delayed until 2006 (with permission from the Darwin Secretariat) because of difficulty caused by the delay in the project start date.
- b) *Monitoring & mitigation programme established, implemented by local communities & partner organisations.*
- o Good progress: human-elephant conflict community monitoring system established and functioning from February 2006 in 16 villages on the west and south side of the protected area. From Feb–April (the dry season that was unusually wet this year) 26 crop-raiding incidents were recorded in 9 villages involving 15 kinds of crop, the top five of which are sugar cane, mango, papaya, banana and coconut.
  - o Good progress: pilot forest surveys (a total of 8 days) were conducted in December 2005, the methods modified in March 2006 with help from Dr Tim Wachter of ZSL and piloted again in April 2006 (3 weeks) in three areas of the sanctuary; two linked to heavy crop-raiding areas (in the south and west), the third representing a core area of elephant habitat inside Salak Pra.
- c) *Small scale ecotourism venture established, linking communities, protected area & elephant conservation*
- o No progress yet: product planning and development is postponed until we know which communities are currently most affected by human-elephant conflict and until we have a better understanding of, and relationship with, those communities
- d) *International network for community-based elephant conservation and conflict mitigation established.*
- o No progress yet: the Kenyan counterpart's visit to project site is postponed until after the ECN team's study trip to Kenya which was also postponed by the Kenya Wildlife Service. The trip, and associated HEC workshop, is now scheduled for early October 2006.
- e) *Lessons learned and best practice disseminated*
- o No formal progress yet: the first feedback meeting will be held in late June 2005 by which time we will have survey data to report. Media coverage of the project will be arranged in the UK and Thailand once we have official permission. First applied for in June 2005, modified in December 2005 and again in May 2006, permission has been delayed by repeated revisions to the official application process following changes in departmental structure and assigning responsibility for project supervision. Not having official permission has not hindered any other project activities but, because of the political uncertainties in Thailand at present and the regular changes of senior officials, the ECN team prefers not to risk disapproval by promoting the project in the media before official permission is obtained.

#### Operational modifications

The only major modification that was intended (and approved) to the operational plan was postponing the start of the MSc course by one year so that the trainee could involve herself with start-up activities before going away to study. All other changes to this year's operational plan were unforeseen and were caused by the delayed project schedule (feedback meeting and tourism planning), or by external factors beyond our control (official permission).



## 4. Project Progress

When first approved by Darwin Initiative, this project was supported by Friends of Conservation (FOC) but then transferred to the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) when FOC underwent management changes. As a result, the project could not get going properly until August 2005. The first 4 months were spent meeting community members, local leaders and protected area officials, finding volunteer village monitors, drafting survey forms, improving the project office, buying a 4WD vehicle, recruiting project staff, contributing to the MIKE Thailand ranger training course and applying for supplementary funding from the Keidanren Nature Conservation Foundation of Japan and the US Fish & Wildlife Service Asian Elephant Fund. Pilot surveys were conducted in December (forest) and January (HEC), village monitors were trained in February and thereafter recorded all known crop-raiding incidents with the help of ECN staff. In March, the forest survey methods were revised with the help of a ZSL trainer (Dr Tim Wachter) and data logging protocols were established at the ECN office. In April, forest surveys were done in three zones (Salak Pra's core habitat and two areas linked to high levels of crop-raiding) and the project director gave illustrated powerpoint presentations to a wider ZSL audience and to a workshop convened by the Pro-Poor Tourism Initiative.

### 4.1 Progress Against Timetable & Logframe

The two month delay caused by the project's transfer from Friends of Conservation (FOC) to the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) has been incorporated into the planned timetable below e.g. the start date is given as August instead of June so that subsequent slippage within the operational period is easier to see. In many cases, the delayed start date had a knock on effect on the timetable because of having to fit around seasons.

Activity	Planned	Done	New	Explanation
<b>1) Project start-up</b>				
project team start work	Aug	Aug	-	Project permission applied for in July
get equipment / vehicle / ADSL	Aug	Aug-Dec	-	Printer/fax donated by Ricoh Thailand
project TORs developed	Aug	Aug	-	
meetings with 16 communities affected by HEC/crop-raiding	Aug	Aug-Nov	-	Process of presentations, meetings and recruiting village monitors (VMs) took much longer than expected
presentations to local leaders in 3 districts (8 sub-districts)				
recruited 14 village monitors (covering 16 village clusters)				
forming village HEC groups	Aug	<i>not yet</i>	-	In process. Effective groups must form organically. Aim to propose formation of working groups at 1 <sup>st</sup> feedback meeting
<b>2) Protocols / plans</b>				
agree protocols for crop-raiding HEC monitoring	Aug	Dec	-	Agreed with VMs/local leaders. Training & monitoring started between harvests.
draft/agree protocols to update socio-economic surveys	Aug	March	-	Forms drafted, survey delayed by lack of experienced personnel to lead the team. Surveys now planned for Aug-Sept 2006
draft/agree protocols for land-use mapping	Aug	March	-	Delayed by lack of time/people. This is a bigger job than we had anticipated.
draft/agree forest survey protocols, plan training/survey	Aug	Aug-Mar	-	Ranger training with MIKE Thailand programme (Aug), pilot survey (Dec), revised methods (Mar)
draft / test forms for HEC data	Sep	Sep-Jan	-	Drafted Sep-Oct, tested/revised Jan-Feb
<b>3) Training / surveys</b>				
re-train 10 forest rangers	Sep	Dec	-	Done as part of pilot survey
1 <sup>st</sup> forest ele-survey	Sep	Dec	-	Postponed until 3 <sup>rd</sup> crop-raiding season
train VMs in HEC monitoring	Oct	Feb	-	Postponed until after the rice harvest
train VMs land-use mapping / socio-economic surveys	Oct	<i>not yet</i>	-	Targeted mapping planned for May 06, socio-economic surveys for Aug-Sep 06
HEC monitoring starts	Oct	Feb	-	Starts immediately after training
Darwin scholar starts MSc	Sep	<i>not yet</i>	-	Postponed to Sep 2006 (DI approved)
2 <sup>nd</sup> forest ele-survey	Nov	Apr	-	Awaited next crop-raiding season
crop protection trials training	Apr	<i>not yet</i>	-	postponed until year end/early 2007

<b>4) Dissemination</b>				
Thai presentations @ project	Jan	Sep-Jan	-	14 introductory presentations at local & provincial meetings, inc. Kanchanaburi Governor's, Srisawat district chief's and environment planning group's meetings
press release about launch	Aug	not yet	-	Best to await official project permission before media promotion / publicity
6-month DI report prepared	Oct	Oct	-	
community feedback meeting	Mar	not yet	-	Planned for June 06 (post dry season)
media pieces about surveys	Oct	not yet	-	Premature: still await official permission
media pieces about field trials	Apr	not yet	-	n/a as no field trials yet
UK presentations @ project	-	-	Apr	a) Pro-Poor Tourism Initiative workshop b) ZSL public members/donors gathering
<b>5) HEC Network Development</b>				
arrange a visit for the Senate Elephant Working Group to HEC sites around Salak Pra	-	-	Aug	This project is supported by Pensak Chagsuchinda, chair of the Senate wildlife committee's elephant group
visit by ECN Thai team to WCS project site to share/learn HEC monitoring techniques	-	-	Sept	WCS Thailand is monitoring HEC near the Kaeng Krachan NP in S.W. Thailand
HEC website discussed	Mar	not yet	-	Aim to develop ECN website sometime
Kenyan counterpart visit	Apr	not yet	-	postponed until after Kenya study trip
<b>6) Other funds</b>				
sought for ecotourism	Sep	not yet		Ecotourism planning delayed until we have current data/area of HEC impacts
sought for staff salaries	-	-	Dec	From Cecil King Memorial Fund
sought for forest surveys	-	-	Dec	From USFWS Asian Elephant Fund
sought for corridor surveys	-	-	Dec	From Keidanren Nature Fund

## 4.2 Achievements to Date

### Planning:

The ECN project office has been modernised with new equipment and wireless broadband; a second-hand 4WD vehicle (given the honorific of *Chang Puerk* or Royal White Elephant) purchased (see photos); official permission applied for (and revised twice upon request) from the National Research Council and Department of Conservation; TORs drawn up for project staff and community collaborators.

Constructive working relationships have been established with village and district leaders, village monitors, protected area personnel, and provincial officials, including the Governor of Kanchanaburi and the police and army commanders. Effective collaborations have also been established with three elected government counterparts; the chiefs of the target protected areas (Salak Pra and Chalerm Rattanakosin) and Dr Mattana Srikrajang, senior researcher on elephants at the Department of Conservation's Wildlife Research Division.

### Training:

The ECN team was active in two training events organised by the Wildlife Conservation Society (i) the MIKE Thailand programme ranger training for Salak Pra (report attached and (ii) at our request, field training for ECN's Thai team in measuring & monitoring human-elephant conflict with villagers at the WCS project site.

The ECN team then organised three separate training courses in HEC monitoring, each lasting 2-days, for 14 volunteer village monitors and their 14 elected assistants. Besides teaching specific mapping and measuring techniques, the course included illustrated interactive powerpoint presentations about the project; about human-elephant conflict elsewhere (in the province, Thailand, Asia and Africa); and about elephant ecology and behaviour. The decision to hold three small training courses, instead of one large one, proved sound because it allowed a 1:3 ratio of trainer-trainee which enabled the hands-on involvement of everyone, equal contributions to group discussions and the chance for participants to get to know each other better than might otherwise have been possible. Subsequent telephone calls (usually weekly) from the VMs, and their proactive contributions to the project, bears this out.



In addition to conducting its own internal training sessions in data collection, the ECN team was trained in more effective data collection and data logging methods by Dr Tim Wacher from the ZSL Conservation Programme (report attached) who visited the project for a week in March.

#### **Research:**

- 1) *Forest surveys:* using MIKE programme papers for guidance (while recognising that MIKE's aim is different from ours), the ECN team conducted three pilot surveys in December (report attached) using the strip transect method at pre-selected random locations, and logging data onto the forms it had drafted. Then, with the help of Dr Tim Wacher of ZSL, it modified the survey method and forms (see Tim's report), and established Excel login files and protocols that were used during the next survey period at the end of March-early April. All data is logged into the project computers immediately after each survey and back-up files created in an external hard-drive and on CD.

The limited ranger support available from the protected area and a shortage of project survey personnel means that, for the time-being, we cannot cover the whole protected area and have therefore opted to focus on three areas of Salak Pra (see attached map), each of approximately 10 x 1km grid squares. Zones 1 and 2 are linked to areas of regular crop-raiding (Tha Manao and Ko Buk villages), while Zone 3 is known to be one of two core habitats for elephants inside Salak Pra. Using 1:50,000 topographical and vegetation maps to identify areas of likely elephant occurrence, we mapped the number of 1km transects (7-10) that could be covered within a 5-6 day survey, cutting across major drainage lines while avoiding steep hills and outcrops.

- 2) *Monitoring crop-raiding:* using forms provided by WCS and by our Kenyan counterpart, we drafted our own HEC monitoring forms (attached) and then, with the help of two village monitors, piloted and revised them in February. These were then used to train the VMs and have been used successfully, and without apparent problem, ever since. By the end of April, we had mapped, measured and recorded 26 cases of crop-raiding in nine villages - two on the southeast side, three on the south side and four on the west side of the protected area. When crop-raiding is reported by a project VMs (usually the morning after it happens), an ECN team member goes to the village within 24 hours to document the incident with the relevant VM. This is to ensure accuracy and to strengthen the relationship between the ECN project team, the VMs and other villagers, but as the VMs become more experienced and confident, we hope they will do most of the recording themselves, with the ECN team doing occasional checks for data quality control. All HEC data is logged into the project computer the same, or the following, day.

#### **Assessments**

Apart from asking the village monitors to assess the training we provided them (the result was favourable), we have not yet had an external assessment of project progress other than that provided by Dr Tim Wacher.

Our own assessment of our performance to date suggests that our participatory and collaborative approach to working with target communities and protected area personnel is working well. We have received help whenever we have asked for help, and we have been offered valuable opportunities without asking for them (e.g. to join the monthly helicopter flight over the protected area, to attend a provincial environment meeting, to contribute to the Senate elephant wildlife committee's review of Thai elephant law, to investigate reports of a dead elephant seen floating in the river). However, it is too early to know if our efforts are effective.

#### **Monitoring**

We have followed a timetable of activities for the year which is how we know that we are about 4-months behind schedule. But, as with most plans of mice and men, ours have often been modified by external events, including the political upheavals that have gripped Thailand since December. In future, we need find a way of monitoring whether we are aware of all the crop-raiding and other HEC events that are happening, both in our target villages and in other villages in the project area.

### **4.3 Significant Difficulties Encountered**

- a. Most activities are taking longer than anticipated and the workload is greater than anticipated. As a result, the three original project staff members have been working up to 100% of the time on only 50% pay. Additional funds have been sought to increase salaries to appropriate levels of remuneration.
- b. The MIKE programme in Thailand is not working well, partly because government personnel find it hard to work with the regional coordinator and partly because the MIKE programme does not have the budget to fund the work it wants doing, and nor does the Department of Conservation. As a result, little data is being generated from Salak Pra under the MIKE programme. As a result, instead of working with, and supporting, the MIKE programme in Salak Pra, we must lead our own surveys to generate our own data.

- c. Because the Department of Conservation has changed its recruitment and remuneration policy, Salak Pra now has fewer forest rangers than before. So the PA cannot release more than six rangers at any one time to join our forest surveys (and even that number is difficult). Nor can it release senior rangers who could lead a survey, so ECN staff members must always lead the survey team/s. At present, one survey team conducts three surveys per season in the three selected zones. In time we aim to have three survey teams working simultaneously in order to provide full coverage of the protected area. But that will depend on having adequate financial resources and on being able to recruit project staff.
- d. Official permission: this always was a slow process but in mid-2005, the system was revised and now takes longer. We submitted an application in June last year, revised it in December to fit the new format, revised it again in March to include a third counterpart, and it is now being reviewed by various screening committees. We will get permission (provided we do not seriously upset anyone) and we have unofficial clearance from relevant government officials to implement the project, but we think it wise not to promote the project in the media until official permission is received.
- e. Costs: when the petrol subsidy was removed in July, the cost of 4WD diesel vehicles increased. Since then, the cost of diesel has also increased. So the project went over-budget on vehicle purchase and on fuel expenditure. The project must also find alternative funds to pay rent and office overheads, since that budget allocation under the Darwin Initiative funding was used as the ZSL overhead. If funds are provided by Keidanren and USFWS, office overheads will be covered until mid-2007. For some inexplicable reason, the original budget had no allocated for survey food costs.
- f. Shortages of time and personnel have delayed the socio-economic and land-use surveys, both of which are time-consuming. We have arranged for Dr Napat Sirisamphand, the ECN community advisor (now retired from the Chulalongkorn Social Research institute) to take responsibility for doing the socio-economic survey between August and October, working closely with the project team and recruiting local assistance as necessary. For the land-use surveys, we may take advantage of the PAs helicopter patrols to map from aerial photos and, initially, we will probably target priority areas, e.g. the three villages most affected by HEC this year.
- g. Data processing: now that survey methods and data logging protocols have been refined and the project team appropriately trained, the data collection and data recording capabilities of the project team is reasonably sound, but the data processing capability (GIS mapping, analysis and reporting) is rather weak. During the next few months, we will find a way to strengthen this recognised weakness, either by recruiting someone with stronger GIS skills, or by finding someone who can train the team in GIS mapping and supervise subsequent data processing. The project director will also join the forest survey team in July and November in order to help more with data analysis and report writing.

#### 4.4 Project Design Enhancements

As noted already, all survey methods have been refined as part of project development. Indicators for measuring achievements (e.g. reduced crop-raiding) should be in place by next year.

#### 4.5 Timetable for the next reporting period

Component	Activity	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
Villages	Record / measure crop-raiding events	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x
	VMs report & record any elephant sightings	x	x	x	x	x	x
	VMs record / report changes in land-use	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x
	Regular input of village data to database	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x	x x x
	Prepare community feedback workshops			xx			
	Conduct trial land-use mapping		x x				
	Community workshops			x			
	Conduct socio-economic surveys					x x	x x
	Prepare input to Darwin 6-month report						xx
Forest	Record survey data into database						
	Prepare input to 6-month report to Darwin						
	Conduct 3rd set of surveys				x x x		
	Record survey data into database					x x	
	Prepare input to annual Darwin report						xx
	MSc course starts						x
HEC-Tourism	Prepare for study trip to Kenya				x	x	x

Component	Activity	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept
PR / PA	Update project info on ZSL web-page						x
	Discuss plan for ECN website						x
	Survey data presented in map form			x			
	Findings to community workshop			x			
	UK/Thai project PR (DEFRA minister visit)					?	x
	Thai/Kenya press release @ Kenya trip						x
Support	Meeting of UK steering team						x
	Submit quarterly accounts			x			x
	Report to ZSL	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Report to Darwin	x					
	Report to DNP / NRCT (Eng/Thai)			x			
	Submit proposal for additional funds			x			

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

Not applicable

## 9. Partnerships

- a. ZSL & ECN : perhaps because the ECN was founded by the ZSL project director, this collaboration is a happy and harmonious partnership in which each party appreciates the strengths and contributions of the other. This relationship is wholly beneficial and has not, to date, experienced major or minor difficulties.
- b. ZSL - ECN & others :
  - o *WCS*: the project team, both in London and in the UK, has forged a constructive working relationship with the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York, Europe and Thailand. In Thailand, the ECN team has forged collaborative links with the WCS human-elephant project team in southwest Thailand and has discussed field methods with the WCS director.
  - o *Thai Department of Conservation*: the ECN team has established a close collaboration with this department at both national and local level. The official project counterparts are the senior wildlife researcher for elephants at the Wildlife Conservation Division and the chiefs of the two target protected areas. All three counterparts are actively supportive.
  - o *Other national organisations*: because of the project director's long been involvement in Thailand, ECN enjoys mutually supportive relations with the Thai Senate Wildlife Committee and its elephant working group, with WWF-Thailand, WildAid, Green World Foundation, Seub Nakhasathien Foundation, Friends of the Asian Elephant, Thailand Elephant Conservation Centre and the conservation biology departments, or equivalent, of several universities (Mahidol, Kasetsart, Chulalongkorn, King Mongkut, Srinakarin, Chiang Mai, Songkhla).
  - o *Provincial organisations*: the ECN team already has a well-established collaborative relationship with Jumbo Travel, a specialist in community-based tourism in Kanchanaburi, and has forged good working relationships with community associations, with the provincial administration and with a variety of local leaders.
  - o *International organisations*: the project team has good working links with the Darwin-funded Greater Maasai Mara Community Scout Programme in Kenya, with FFI's human-elephant conflict project in Cambodia and with its livelihoods programme in Cambridge, with Friends of Conservation (UK), and with the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology. The only organisation with which the ECN project has had some difficulty collaborating effectively has been MIKE Thailand, specifically with the regional coordinator. ECN is not alone in this.

## 7. Impact and Sustainability

The Elephant Conservation Network (and with it ZSL) and this HEC project are increasingly well known in Kanchanaburi and the project area as a result of project activities, presentations, and collaborations, but we have not felt able to promote the project nationally or internationally via the media until we have official permission from the government. An application for permission was first submitted in June 2005 to the National Research Council of Thailand and to the Department of Conservation but, since then, the permission process and requirements have twice been modified, the required revisions were made and the application resubmitted, mostly recently in March 2006. We will get official papers before too long, of that there is no doubt, but for now, we follow the Thai way and work with unofficial permission. So far the project profile seems good. We are seen as committed, hard-working, well-informed and professional, but it will be important to feed our findings back to the HEC affected communities and get mitigation activities underway before too long. A good indication of the reputation we enjoy is the fact that our village monitors regularly receive calls about wild elephants for them to pass on to us. We have also been contacted by protected area personnel for advice and/or assistance. A good sign. However, it is too soon to know if we have increased local people's interest in conserving elephants or biodiversity.

## 8. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

The project was behind schedule in starting due to the transfer from FOC to ZSL, as a result of which, there has been a knock-on effect because the project's main activities (training, surveys, meetings etc) are linked to the seasons. At the same time, some activities (mainly land-use mapping and socio-economic surveys) were affected by the political upheaval in Thailand which built up through February and March and prompted a snap election in April following which there has been a caretaker government. Dissemination has been limited to provincial organisations and community groups, but as soon as we receive official project permission, we can arrange wider dissemination through the local, national and international media.

**Table 1.** Project Outputs (Standard Measures)

(TBC: to be conducted/ completed)

Code No	Description	Year 1 Plan	Year 1 Actual
<b>Training</b>			
4c	Thai graduates trained in forest & HEC surveys	2	3
4d	Number of training weeks provided	4	6
5	Thai/Karen village monitors	14	28
6a	Forest rangers trained / supervised	10	12
6b	Forest ranger training weeks	5	6
7	Forest (elephant) survey protocol	1	1
7	Community HEC monitoring protocol	1	1
7	land-use mapping protocol (part done)	1	TBC May 06
7	Field trial protocols	1	TBC Dec 06
7	1 leaflet for community awareness (in Thai)	1	1
7	Guidelines for GPS/forest survey data collection	0	1
<b>Research</b>			
8	Project leader	8	18
<b>Dissemination</b>			
14a	Community briefing / planning meetings	1	14
14a	Community feedback / planning workshop	1	TBC June 06
14b	Workshops attended (UK 1, Thailand 3)	0	4
15 / 18 / 19	Media coverage in Thailand & UK (project launch)	4	await permit
15 / 18 / 19	Media coverage of Kenya study trip / crop trials	1 <sup>+</sup>	trip postponed
15 / 18 / 19	Thai media coverage of crop protection trials	1 <sup>+</sup>	trials postponed
17a	Beginnings of a community network established	1	1

**Table 2:** Publications

Type *	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
	<b>None to date</b>			





## 9. Project Expenditure

**Table 3:** Project expenditure during the reporting period ( 1 July 2005 to 31 March 2006)

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-			
-			
-			
-			
-			

## 9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

The ECN team meets monthly to review progress against the project timetable and to plan future activities. In future this may be held fortnightly, as a month is sometimes too long a gap. Twice yearly (Sep and Apr) the project director returned to UK to review project progress with ZSL programme directors. In March, ECN team reviewed progress in Thailand with Dr Tim Wacher of ZSL when he came to help modify survey methods and with Dr Matt Walpole (FFI), a project advisor. In future, we must establish a system of cross reference reporting to ensure that we are recording all crop-raiding events and, in the socio-economic survey, we have built in questions to assess attitude towards elephants and their conservation.

The main lessons learned are that most activities take longer than anticipated, that forest surveys must be led by a project team member and that a project team working on 50% time is not effective and raises all kinds of management headaches. From May 06, all Thai project staff will be full-time.

**Annex 1** Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2005/2006

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2005-Mar 2006	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal:</b> 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"> <li>• The conservation of biological diversity,</li> <li>• The sustainable use of its components, and</li> <li>• The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</li> </ul>			
<p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>Through Afro-Asian exchange and technical co-operation, to establish a community-based elephant conservation and conflict resolution initiative in west Thailand, that will serve as a model for participatory conservation &amp; sustainable development in Indo-China/S.E. Asia.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Monitoring &amp; mitigation system functioning + new knowledge being used for conservation / sustainable use.</li> <li>o Increased capacity and co-operation, reduced conflict, improved local benefits, reduced threats to elephants.</li> <li>o Better communication &amp; lesson sharing between sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Pilot forest survey report, Tim Wachter's report, forest survey &amp; HEC information all logged into ECN database &amp; stored on CDs and external hard-drives.</li> <li>o Training certificates to rangers from MIKE Thailand programme, regular communication between project staff, VMs, and protected area personnel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Additional funds sought to raise project team salaries to 100%</li> <li>o Must recruit researcher with GIS skills &amp; experience to improve data processing</li> </ul>
<p><b>Outputs (for Year 1)</b></p>			
<p>1. Local capacity to monitor &amp; mitigate human-elephant conflict improved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 25+ partners &amp; community members trained as relevant, one MSc from UK</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o project staff participated in / contributed to MIKE programme ranger training done by WCS Thailand (8-12 August)</li> <li>o 14 village monitors &amp; 14 assistants trained in HEC monitoring methods</li> </ul>	
<p>2. Monitoring &amp; mitigation programme established &amp; functioning, implemented by local communities and partner organisations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Relevant data collected in 14 villages &amp; protected area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 26 HEC monitoring forms with data</li> <li>o pilot survey report, Tim Wachter's report</li> <li>o database established for all data</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Rangers cannot, at present, do surveys alone so ECN must lead forest teams</li> <li>o Village monitors need supervision to fill out HEC data forms, at least at first</li> </ul>
<p>5. Lessons learned and best practice disseminated</p> <p>(Outputs 3-4 not scheduled in Year 1)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 1<sup>st</sup> community feedback meeting put forward to June 2006 after first surveys</li> <li>o Introductory press releases await official government permission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o No feedback as yet, but plenty of local awareness about the project aim, plans and activities to date</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o First feedback meeting planned for June (postponed from Jan)</li> <li>o Press releases drafted for dissemination once permission received (ETA Aug 06)</li> </ul>