

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	14-039
Project Title	Large-scale habitat mapping and local conservation initiatives for Jerdon's course, India
Country(ies)	India
UK Organisation	CAER, University of Reading
Collaborator(s)	University of Reading, RSPB, BNHS
Report date	October, 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	n/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).

Project milestones

1. Satellite imagery analysis

Milestones have been completed as planned. The UK post-doc responsible for imagery analysis work visited India in May to collect additional ground-truthing information. Using field data, we have now developed a method for mapping scrub habitats (where Jerdon's courser are found) based on multi-temporal satellite images, which substantially reduces classification errors. The new map has been used to identify a new area of scrub with potentially suitable habitat for Jerdon's courser that will be visited for monitoring probably early in 2007.

2. Field research programme

The BNHS field team provided logistical support for the ground-truthing work in May 06 as planned.

3. Site designation

No milestones during this reporting period. The opportunities for this depend on the identification of new sites, which is ongoing by visiting potentially new areas identified by our imagery analysis.

4. Community conservation areas

The situation is similar to that report in April 2006. Activity is affected by the ongoing canal issue, and until this is resolved it will be difficult to move these forward. In part, this reflects the fact that until the canal route is decided and building completed, it will remain difficult to decide where community-based efforts are likely to be most effective.

5. Manual development

No milestones as yet

6. Workshops

We decided to further delay the workshop re-scheduled for September 2006. This is because radio-tracking work had not progressed in the sense that although permission to tag birds had been granted efforts to catch birds in the field had been unsuccessful. At the time of writing, further attempts to catch birds are being made, and should these provide successful radio-tracking studies will follow. We plan to review this situation early in 2007 and make a revised plan for workshops for the remainder of the project.

7. Publicity material

As reported in April, the conservation of Jerdon's courser and the project has received considerable publicity over its first year. There are no new activities to report at this time.

Telugu-Ganga Canal

Discussions between the Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Department (APID), Andhra Pradesh Forestry Department (APFD) and Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS, our in-country partners) concerning the route of the canal have been ongoing since April 2006. The Central Empowered Committee (CEC) of the Supreme Court of India has ordered that a meeting should take place involving APID, APFD and BNHS to discuss the issue and agree a solution. Until this has been done no construction of the canal will take place. A proposed realignment of the canal was mapped by APID, APFD and BNHS staff in the field in May 2006, and it appears there are still issues about the proposed route and the boundary of the Sri Lankamaleswara Wildlife Sanctuary (SLWLS) in which Jerdon's courser is found. No final meeting to agree a solution, as ordered by CEC, has yet been held or scheduled. During the second week of April, representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, visited the area on a fact finding mission, and BNHS staff briefed them about the conservation issues. At the time of writing, the timetable for further progress remains unclear.

Feedback on the April 2006 report

The reviewer raised two queries. We will respond to these issues in more detail in our April 2007 report, but a brief response is given below. Our numbering follows that of the reviewer.

1. There will be no changes in output. We anticipate being able to deliver the project outputs on the satellite imagery work by October 2007. This is possible because the post-doc working on the project is very experienced and is able to progress the work much faster than the MSc student would have done. She would have required considerable training within the project.
2. This issue is difficult to address with any real certainty. The main project activity affected by the canal issue is the Community Conservation Areas. This is because there has been some conflict between the desire of local communities to be provided with water for agriculture, and the conservation interests. This has, to some extent, meant that some local people see the conservationists as a barrier to progress. Whilst this is not the case, since BNHS are heavily involved in constructive discussions about the canal, it does mean that it is sensible to consider community involvement in local conservation issues after the canal route has been resolved. Also, it is possible that the most effective way of getting the community involved would be where the canal route brings agricultural and other activities close to existing protected areas or important habitats. Until the canal route is finalised it is difficult to say where these areas might be. Lastly, as is always the case in India, timescales are impossible to guess, and there is no timetable for an agreed solution to the issue of the canal route at the moment.

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?

Not applicable

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 Secretariat directly.raised with the Darwin

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 . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**