

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	14-049
Project Title	Participatory Management of Priority Biodiversity Sites in Taraba State
Country(ies)	Nigeria
UK Organisation	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Collaborator(s)	Nigerian Conservation Foundation (NCF) Taraba State Government, Nigeria
Report date	7th November 2006
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
Project website	None. NCF is however in the process of updating its website and will add the project to it.

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).

General progress

Despite start-up delays of the project in the first year the NCF project team has worked hard to catch up on activities and has done remarkably well in doing so.

Steering Committee

The second Steering Committee Meeting held in June 06 where the project manager and key staff presented their first annual report to the committee. The meeting was attended by the State Director of Forest and was very useful in agreeing to the commitment to the continuation of the state government support to community forest guards at the critical Ngel Nyaki forest site.

Outline monitoring plan developed

A draft of a project monitoring and evaluation plan was developed in May, details of the monitoring techniques, roles and responsibilities and data collection is still being worked on.

Participatory Forest Assessment designed and being implemented

Consultants were invited to bid for this work, for which there seem to be few local consultants suitably qualified. This delayed implementation somewhat. The assessment is being conducted at all project sites and community members are being trained in simple biodiversity monitoring techniques.

Forest Management Committees and Forest User groups functioning and being trained in all project sites.

The project is operational at all sites and Forest management committees are all operational. Committees and forest user groups are receiving capacity building training in their own administration and in biological monitoring techniques. Training programmes have been

developed from the Training Needs assessment conducted in the last reporting period.

All biodiversity studies completed

All of the studies have been completed, reports are still being compiled by the consultants and should be delivered to the next reporting period.

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.

Community level conflicts and community disharmony continue to slow the progress of the programme. Conflicts arise from both within communities where there is mistrust of abuse of power and funds and between tribes in particular sites. Much work needs to be done to build such trust otherwise these conflicts could delay project implementation, however these conflicts are key to the projects interventions and are not unusual in the area.

No response from Darwin on request to carry over £5,000 from last FY for Biodiversity Surveys.

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

Request to Darwin for the carry over made and not response given.

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