

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2007)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	14_061
<b>Project Title</b>	Important Bird Area conservation and capacity building in Central Asia
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan
<b>UK Organisation</b>	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), UK
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	<b>Kazakhstan:</b> The Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Kazakhstan (ACBK) <b>Uzbekistan:</b> The Uzbekistan Zoological Society (UZS) <b>Turkmenistan:</b> Ministry of Nature Protection of Turkmenistan / Turkmenistan Society for Nature Conservation
<b>Project Leader</b>	Michael Brombacher
<b>Report date</b>	31/10/2007
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 2 (project start was 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2005)
<b>Project website</b>	For Uzbekistan: <a href="http://www.iba.uz">www.iba.uz</a> (For Kazakhstan: <a href="http://www.acbk.kz">www.acbk.kz</a> is still under construction)

## 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).

In the past 6 months the project continued to develop as planned and all activities have been implemented according to the baseline timetable for the project.

- Large-scale fieldwork has been conducted throughout all seasons of 2007 to complete gaps of knowledge on IBA candidate sites delivering high-quality new data. Fieldwork will be completed in January 2008.
- About 60 Percent (120 sites out of 215 potential) Important Bird Area candidate sites are currently officially confirmed by BirdLife International and 100 Percent confirmation anticipated by March 2008
- Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan have completed GIS digitisation of all IBA boundaries to inform national protected areas and conservation planning. Kazakhstan expected to be completed by end of March 2008.
- The current estimate of the area that will be covered by all 215 IBAs in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan is 18 Million hectares (!). Already now (see next point below) but intensively after the completion and publication of the IBA inventory books in autumn 2008 negotiations will be started with the national governments on how to protect these sites legally.
- Kazakhstan has included the first three confirmed IBAs in their National Protected Areas Development Plan. ACBK, RSPB and the Kazakh government currently develop

these first sites as Protected Areas. They cover 500,000 ha of steppes and steppe wetlands – both of global importance. This initiative will be represented at a site event during the CBD COP 9 in May 2008.

- Two high level inaugurations ceremonies of officially confirmed IBAs have been held in Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan with Deputy-Ministers, UK Ambassadors and press attending. In both cases very good country wide coverage in press and internet. This Darwin project will also be presented by the governments of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan at a site event during the CBD COP 9 in May 2008.
- 50 students are part of a regular training programme and 20 of them already take part in professional fieldwork in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan
- As part of the project 12 student wildlife/birdwatching clubs have been set up. The clubs have a membership of 5 to 10 students as average. Many students regularly take part in IBA fieldwork but also in the Darwin funded project on Sociable lapwing. The student clubs are regularly equipped with optics, outdoor gear and literature but also provided with education and training material and guidance on how to conduct useful group session and trainings.

**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.**

As in the previous project year the implementation is going ahead as planned and no notable problems or unexpected developments have occurred or are foreseen.

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

No issues have been discussed.

**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?**

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](mailto: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**