

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

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

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	15/002
<b>Project Title</b>	Integrating Crane Conservation with Sustainable Habitat Utilisation
<b>Country(ies)</b>	South Africa
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Zoological Society of London
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Principal: South African Crane Working Group, Endangered Wildlife Trust
<b>Report date</b>	1 December 2006
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	1
<b>Project website</b>	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).**

The project officially began on 1 July 2006, although Raj Amin & I flew out to SA one week early to interview candidates for the GIS post. Leon Theron (Manager, SACWG), had short-listed 4 candidates, two of whom were excellent. We offered the post to one of these, but she had agreed to an interview elsewhere at a later date, and subsequently turned the post down. We therefore offered the post to the other candidate, but he was looking at a salary roughly double that which we had requested. As we had explicitly intended this post as a “first job” for a post-grad (with commensurate salary), we decided to wait until this year’s tranche of students graduated. Leon readvertised this October, & we are in the process of shortlisting (closing date 30 Nov 06). This has potential repercussions for our proposal (discussed below).

A Workshop was held at EWT HQ (Johannesburg Zoo) for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of July. Leon & I went through the proposal in considerable detail with all the SACWG field team, concentrating on deliverables which we considered essential for delivery of the DI proposal. We also had meetings with our other partners, including DEAT representatives, SANBI & Working for Wetlands (plus CSIR). Raj Amin also spent considerable time with South African colleagues determining what remotely-sensed data was available and who held it.

Raj & I held Introductory Talks & Overviews of, separately, Relational Databases, Remotely Sensed Data and GIS, and Population Dynamics. These sessions were open to all EWT members & attended by 25+ people.

The remaining two weeks that I spent in SA were devoted to detailed working & delivery plans with Leon Theron, & forward projections of budgets with Sharon Magro (SACWG Administrator). In addition, meetings were held with John Dini (Director, Working for Wetlands) to ensure relevant wetland data were collected for ground-truthing, and with EWT’s Conservation Leadership Group (especially Ed Farrell, manager), thus ensuring that the Environmental Education side of our work would continue despite restructuring of this group within EWT.

Fieldwork has been ongoing, thus ensuring that the relevant data are collected, and new fieldworkers (under the DI Programme) were put in post as of 1 November for the start of the breeding season. In addition, the outreach/educational awareness side of being in the field and working with the respective land-owners has continued as planned. A further week-long visit to

Leon Theron by RAP in October ensured teething problems were being ironed out & that the 2006/07 budget was on target.

**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 failure to appoint a GIS person at the start of the project potentially delays us by 6 months (assuming we manage to appoint a suitably qualified person to start on 1 January). This post was specifically created with a recent graduate in mind, hence the salary. One additional (but unforeseen circumstance) is that well trained GIS graduates, especially those from the previously disadvantaged communities, are picked up by the mining companies and others at a salary that would entail payment of a salary not far off our total DI income! However, the three co-PIs (RAP, L-JT & Raj Amin, and especially Raj) have put in a lot of additional work to ensure that at least the relational database model is fit for purpose for current & future data collected by the field workers. In addition, we have made key contacts with those individuals actually holding remotely-sensed data relevant to our project.

Therefore, at this stage, I am keeping an open mind as to whether there will be knock-on consequences on either the budget or delivery schedules, at least until we have a person in post. For example, based on the current applicants for this post, there are at least two excellent candidates (on paper): because of the competition for their skills we may need to up our salary offered, possibly by providing the 3 year sum over 2.5 years. Similarly, a well-qualified person may get on top of the spatial analyses far faster than we had anticipated. Raj Amin will be going out to SA in January to bring the person appointed up to speed. If there is any need to bring these issues to the notice of the Darwin Secretariat we will do so upon his return.

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

**NO: see 2) above**

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no**

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no**

**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](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.**