



Darwin Initiative Annual Report



Darwin Project Information

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| Project Ref Number | 15/012 |
| Project Title | Protecting Key South African Biodiversity Sites through Community-based Conservation |
| Country(ies) | South Africa |
| UK Contract Holder Institution | The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) |
| Host country Partner Institution(s) | The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) |
| Other Partner Institution(s) | BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) |
| Darwin Grant Value | £169,077 |
| Start/End dates of Project | 1 July, 2006 to 30 September, 2009 |
| Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..) | 1 April 2008 to 31 March, 2009 Annual report number 3 |
| Project Leader Name | Paul Buckley |
| Project website | http://www.blsacommunityconservation.org.za/ |
| Author(s) and main contributors, date | Paul Buckley, Head, Global Country Programmes, RSPB Daniel Marnewick, Division Manager, Community Based Conservation, BLSA April 2009 |

1. Project Background



Figure 1: South African Map depicting the 4 Darwin project sites (Cata, Ongoye, Wakkerstroom, and Soweto).

The RSPB has collaborated with BLSA since 1995. Once focused on bird watching and surveys, BLSA has broadened enormously the scope of its activities to include conservation, advocacy and education work during this time. In March of 2007, BLSA created a new division that focuses on community-based conservation projects. Daniel Marnewick, the manager of the current RSPB/BLSA Darwin project, is the manager of this Community Based Conservation Division. The current project is the division's flagship project.

Community-based conservation is internationally recognised as a critical conservation intervention. There has been considerable work in this area in South Africa since 1994, although it has mainly focused on communities around large protected areas. In implementing this project, BLSA is building on experiences and lessons learned elsewhere in the country and sub-region, primarily through membership to IUCN and WWF-SA. It is also building on models developed by BirdLife International, the RSPB and their country partners in Africa. These models offer dynamic and resilient multi-pronged approaches to the integration of conservation and development. These approaches are founded upon BirdLife International's site-support group (SSG) model, which engages local communities in conserving and monitoring critical sites for birds. Daniel has extensive knowledge of community-based conservation practices, particularly through his prior work with communities living around the Kruger National Park.

The project has thus far been implemented at four sites in Soweto (Gauteng Province), Wakkerstroom (Mpumalanga Province), Cata (Eastern Cape Province) and Ongoye Forest Reserve (Kwa-Zulu Natal). BLSA had already been active in the Soweto and Wakkerstroom areas prior to initiation of the current project. However, the focus of its activities was rather different. The sites in Wakkerstroom, Ongoye and Cata are Important Bird Areas (IBAs). BirdLife International has identified over 10,000 of these IBAs worldwide. Criteria used to designate IBAs are internationally agreed, standardised, quantitative and scientifically defensible. These criteria are based on the occurrence of key bird species that are vulnerable to global extinction or whose populations are otherwise irreplaceable (<http://www.birdlife.org/action/science/sites/index.html>). This project aims to develop links between the conservation of critical bird habitat at the three sites and the livelihoods of local people. Key to the development of these links will be the creation of income-generating activities (IGAs) around the development of small local enterprises and ecotourism, and developing institutions to facilitate the inclusion of all resource users in management and decision making processes around these natural resources.

The Klipspruit Wetland in Soweto in south-west Johannesburg is heavily polluted by the goldmines and industries of the Witwatersrand. At the same time, informal settlements on the banks of the wetland in an area of Soweto called Kliptown are a source of human, livestock and solid waste, which empties into the wetland. Despite this there is a wide array of bird life, of interest to visitors. Residents of these informal settlements do not benefit from the tourism industry in Soweto, or enjoy opportunities to market locally produced goods.

The small town of Wakkerstroom, situated about three hours east of Johannesburg in Mpumalanga, is well known as one of the best birding destinations in South Africa. Its large wetland (IBA ZA016) is home to a number of globally threatened bird species, such as the white-winged flufftail, the grey crowned crane and the blue crane. Inns and Bed & Breakfasts have sprung up to cater for the growing influx of tourists. However, impoverished residents of Wakkerstroom's black township (eSizamaleni) enjoy minimal benefit from the tourist trade. Three of the threats to the wetland include uncontrolled cattle grazing, hunting of birds for protein by residents of eSizamaleni and ad-hoc, unplanned and uncontrolled fires. Threats are expected to increase over time as the impoverished township population grows and exerts increasing pressure on local natural resources.

The Xhosa community of Cata is approximately an hour and a half north of East London in the Eastern Cape. Indigenous forests (IBA ZA071) in this area provides habitat for the Cape Parrot, one of the most threatened birds in South Africa. There are only approximately 1,300 individuals of this species remaining in the wild. The Cape Parrot depends on yellowwood trees of the *Podocarpus* genus for nesting sites and as a source of food. Diminishing *Podocarpus* forests due to historical illegal commercial harvesting, and indiscriminate harvesting by impoverished local people for timber and firewood, threaten the Cape Parrot with certain extinction. Cape Parrots are also targeted by the illegal bird trade in South Africa. The Cata community is exploring opportunities to develop an indigenous tree nursery and avitourism industry that enhances their livelihoods, while enabling them to conserve their local indigenous forest and the Cape Parrots that depend upon it.

Finally, the Ongoye forest is a large remnant patch of coastal forest, 3903 ha in extent and lies along a ridge of hills overlooking the Indian Ocean. Ongoye Forest is the only place to see Woodward's Barbet in southern Africa (www.zbr.co.za/sz/ongoye.htm). The Ongoye Forest also forms part of the Zululand Birding route and is an IBA (ZA049). A local bird guide was contracted to begin preliminary ground work with the local community. The objective is to evaluate the current interactions between the local communities and the forest, and begin planning interventions. One of the first resource user groups to be engaged will be the cattle owners and the medicinal plant collectors/users.

2. Project Partnerships

The very strong partnership between BirdLife South Africa and RSPB has continued in a positive vein this year. As the project leader, Paul Buckley (RSPB) has a supervisory role while Daniel Marnewick

(BLSA) is in charge of day-to-day project management. Site coordinators in Wakkerstroom, Cata, Ongoye and Soweto are responsible for on-the-ground implementation, and report regularly to Daniel. Daniel reports developments to Paul Buckley via e-mail and telephone on a regular basis.

Some other elements of the BLSA/RSPB partnership in year 3 of the project include the following:

Daniel made a poster presentation on the project at the BirdLife World Conference in Argentina in September 2008 which provided an opportunity to discuss the progress of the project with senior RSPB and BirdLife staff.

A monitoring visit by Paul Buckley in October/November 2008 which included a meeting with all of the site based managers. This also provided an opportunity to meet BLSA's new Executive Director Mark Anderson who had just started in post to discuss the progress of and future of this project.

Regular telephone meetings to discuss progress of the project and issues arising take place between Paul Buckley and Daniel Marnewick.

The partnership and management structure has not changed during this year and there have been no changes of personnel. There has been the appointment of 3 new staff members using co-funding to the project. Andre Steenkamp and Kristi Garland were employed as a management couple to manage the BirdLife SA Wakkerstroom centre. These positions are supported by co-funding from the Spanish Agency for International Co-operation and Development (AECID) and the Witwatersrand Bird Club (WBC). A part-time assistant, Mandla Tidwell, has been contracted for 10 days a month over 6 months to assist with project implementation in Wakkerstroom. This position is being funded by the Wings Over Wetlands programme.

Other Collaboration:

The project has continued attempting to engage the Department of Environment Affairs and Tourism's (DEAT) CBD officer through the WWF Community-based Natural Resources Forum, unfortunately this programme has not found its feet within DEAT. The CBD officer is aware of this project. However after several attempts to formalise a partnership, contact is only ever made at the annual WWF Community-based Natural Resource Forum meetings.

BLSA has recently developed a partnership with WWF-SA and the Botanical Society of South Africa (BotSoc). This partnership currently focuses on the conservation of the eastern Highveld grasslands area, which includes Wakkerstroom. With the imminent threat of coal mining emerging in Wakkerstroom, this partnership remains strong in attempt to prevent this mining from taking place through legal intervention.

The Wakkerstroom Tourism Association (WTA) was progressing well in 2008. Unfortunately due to politics and personal conflicts within the WTA, the current committee resigned, leaving the WTA in a lull until this is sorted out. Although BLSA is still a member of the association, we are not part of these issues and therefore will keep out of any conflict until this is sorted out.

Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Authority (MTPA). This MTPA relationship has remained strong despite new personal stepping in from MTPA. BLSA was instrumental in establishing the Wakkerstroom Wetland Reserve Management Committee, which consists of a multiple stakeholder committee and is chaired by the MTPA, vice-chaired by the Pixley Ka Seme Local Municipality, and administered by BLSA. This committee continues to meet once every two months.

The relationship with Border Rural Committee (BRC) in Cata remains strong and positive, with a MoU in place until 2010.

The UNEP/GEF Wings over Wetlands Programme. The programme has selected the wetland in Wakkerstroom as a demonstration project site, and has provided BLSA with funding in the amount of US\$248,000 (2006-2009) for work at this site. This funding serves as co-funding for the Darwin Initiative's funding. The project objectives that BLSA has developed with Wings over Wetlands complement and enhance the objectives of this project (www.wingsoverwetlands.org).

Other BirdLife International partners. At BirdLife International's annual conference in October 2008, Argentina, Daniel presented a poster on the project, and chaired a workshop session on biodiversity conservation and business. It also gave Daniel the opportunity to engage the expertise in BirdLife International and the global network of country members.

BLSA continues to develop a strong partnership with DWAF around the conservation of the endangered Cape Parrot and working with the Cata community to establish a Participatory Forest Management Committee.

The Pixley KaSeme local municipality continues to be a stumbling block for this project in Wakkerstroom. The municipality is riddled with political instability and uncertainty. Despite numerous attempts by the site manager to engage this municipality, little has come of it.

BLSA is formalising an agreement with the Endangered Wildlife Trust's (EWT) Crane Working Group (SACWG) to provide farm labourers and farm schools around Wakkerstroom with education concerning the crane species, as well as implement a crane monitoring programme in the wetland using the eco-club and bird club.

Daniel continues to sit on the IUCN specialist groups Southern Africa Sustainable Use Specialist Group (SASUSG) and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the WWF's community-based natural resource management forum (CBNRM) working group and CI's Good Food Alliance. These national and international groups have lent the necessary expertise and networks and provided a southern African platform to promote this project.

For the most part, these partnerships have added value to the project. The collaboration with the Wakkerstroom residents and concerned NGOs around the mining threat has been particularly strong and led to new alliances with BotSoc and WWF-SA. Unfortunately, BLSA's partnerships in Soweto continue to be less effective.

RSPB has continued to evolve and improve its management of international projects. Lessons learned from this and other Darwin projects are regularly reviewed and used as the basis for the development and management of new projects.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

| <i>Project Implementation Timetable</i> | | |
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| <i>Date</i> | <i>Key Milestones</i> | <i>Progress</i> |
| <i>Regular milestones (not listed here) include meetings of advisory groups and area project groups, visits by RSPB programme manager, reports to donors, annual project newsletter.</i> | | |
| Year 3 | April – March 2008/09 | |
| By July 2008 | Training in awareness raising completed and programme underway at three sites. | Joe Peu has completed Environmental Education training with teachers from schools at Soweto, Cata and Wakkerstroom. Annual programmes were developed for 2008 and 2009 to celebrate environmental days with the communities. With a larger staff component, Wakkerstroom has been most successful with the awareness raising. |

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| September 2008 | Education materials produced and school programmes established. | An environmental competition is currently being implemented in Wakkerstroom and Cata. This is a two phase competition running over 6 months. Final project assessments will take place in September 2009. An awareness calendar will be compiled displaying all the schools' projects. All projects continue to use the Eco-Schools material and the Learning for Sustainable Living material produced by BLSA. |
| September 2008 | Pan African ornithological Congress – South Africa | This congress took place. BLSA's David Mphisa and Kate Henderson attended this congress and displayed a poster on the project. |
| By October 2008 | Socio-economic assessments completed at four sites. | Paul Morling completed this assessment which is currently being used to design Income Generating Activities at the three sites, while a report on the fourth site will be completed by June 2009. Baseline Socio-economic data was also collected for the current project beneficiaries in 2008 – analysis is being completed and a report will be available soon. This Data is currently being analysed into a report. Training in PRA was cascaded down to the communities. |
| By October 2008 | Complete bird guide training programme for 10 persons and craft and other income generating programmes. | 3 bird guides were trained from Cata and 2 in Ongoye. This brings the total number of bird guides trained to 11. In April/May 2008 26 community members were trained in business management. |
| October 2008 | First consultative workshops to develop management plans and formats agreed | Geoff Welch RSPB visited the three sites in September 2008 (accompanied by Zul Bhatia, a reserve manager from RSPB), where he trained and helped begin the planning of management plans for the BirdLife SA Wakkerstroom wetland and the Cata forest. |
| November 2008 | Training in fundraising and business planning delivered to project coordinators and key partners. | This activity has been delayed and will be rescheduled for July 2009. |
| November 2008 | First national network meeting. | A strategic decision was taken not to establish a national network specific for this project because Daniel was able to mobilise a larger network through his membership to various existing networks. However Project managers and other representatives from the sites have met four times during the year. It was decided to rather host an experience sharing conference at the end of the project with the various stakeholders and partners. |
| December 2008 | Training in delivery of advocacy as part of developing sustainable conservation programmes and gaining government support. | The BLSA Policy and Advocacy division provided training to stakeholders in Wakkerstroom regarding environmental rights and developing advocacy skills. The same training will be provided to Soweto and Cata in June 2009. |

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| December 2008 | Management plans completed at all sites. | The management plans were to have been completed by July 2009, however it was felt from these workshops that this would be a optimistic deadline. These management plans are behind schedule due to lack of response from the various stakeholders. It is felt that later in 2009 is a more reasonable deadline for completion of these management plans. |
| December 2008 | Local community group governance structures in place at three sites. | These structures have developed for each of the resource user groups and income generating groups at each site. |
| June 2008 | Training in group operations and project management completed at three sites. | This training was completed by Daniel Marnewick with all project managers. |
| March 2009 | Local stakeholder meetings and awareness raising activities continue. | A total of 18 Workshops/training took place, and 16 important meetings with stakeholders took place. |
| March 2009 | Monitoring programmes in place at all sites. | In March 2009 the BLSA conservation manager conducted a 3 day training programme with the site managers on using the Important Bird Area Monitoring tool kit. The site managers will conduct this training with their site support groups in June 2009. The Cata site also uses the Cape Parrot counting day, and Wakkerstroom the Co-ordinated Water Bird Count as monitoring programmes. All sites also use the Big Birding Day results. |
| March 2009 | Income generating pilot programmes in place at three sites. | Thus far 17 IGAs are established, with 109 direct and many more indirect beneficiaries, earning R167,800 in total and 53% have a business plan in place. |
| March 2009 | Community based fora in place and functioning and regular programme of activities at all four sites. | Complete. |
| March 2009 | Business plans completed at all sites. | Business plans have been focused at the level of individual enterprises formed to generate sustainable natural resource based incomes. At present 53% off all IGAs have business plans. |
| March 2009 | Meeting to agree future priorities for conservation at additional sites | BLSA is developing an IBA strategy to identify, raise funds for and conserve priority IBAs around South Africa. |
| March 2009 | Project proposals submitted to continue appropriate work at all four sites | 10 funding proposals have so far been submitted for further funding at these sites post this Darwin project. Thus far none have been successful. |

Ongoye forest was selected as site 4 in 2008. This site received additional funding from the IUCN and has completed a resource use assessment with the local communities. BirdLife has also assisted with establishing a community birding lodge in the forest and trained 2 bird guides. The communities are in support of BLSA's efforts to engage them, however they remain negative about their interactions with KwaZulu Natal Wildlife. The project has identified a number of other IGA's for this site and will apply to the district municipality, who have shown a lot of support, for financial support.

Certain activities planned for year 3 were delayed for various reasons, below are the issues and the responses developed to these delays:

Soweto:

Lack of cooperation from the Johannesburg City Parks (JCP is a local government agency) continues to hamper BLSA implementing its project objectives in Soweto. There seems little that can be done to expedite this besides continued engagement, which now happens on a monthly basis through the site forum meetings taking place in Soweto.

The socio/political atmosphere in Soweto is highly complex. This is due to the social importance of Soweto and the high level of interest from government and other organisations in the area. Community Based Organisations are continually approached by national and foreign aid and academic agencies wanting to 'get involved' in a project. These are seldom coordinated or well managed within Soweto and often all these efforts are contradicting one another. Understandably the community representatives also tend to grab any opportunities promising benefits, and little thought is given to long term planning. BLSA's efforts have been high-jacked twice by other initiatives moving into the area of Kliptown, and community support normally favours the one with the higher short term benefits.

Wakkerstroom:

The battle over mining prospecting permits in Wakkerstroom continues to create unrest among political and community role players, albeit more of an undercurrent now. This does still caused divisions within the local population, although the impact of this on the project has been less severe in year 3 compared to year 2.

This mining issue is still resulting in closer collaboration between key role players and partner organisations (WWFSA, EWT, BotSoc), and has strengthened the contribution of BLSA's Policy and Advocacy team in this project.

The Pixley KaSeme local municipality continues to be the biggest stumbling block for this site. They municipality is uncooperative and evasive. The project manager is still busy trying to establish a link with the 'right' person and it seems he may have achieved this in March, but time will tell.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

Progress in year was much smoother than year two, with most of the activity targets being met. The biggest challenge for all four sites remains local and national government. South Africa's national government elections also took place in April 2009, resulting in much government lobbying but also municipal inactivity as politicians waited the results of the elections. It is also noted that interacting with government is a skill that needs to be learnt, and that delays – especially around elections – are inevitable. This should be built into any project planning of this nature.

Specific areas of progress towards the project outputs include the following:

Wakkerstroom:

The Site Support Group forum in Wakkerstroom has grown strong, especially among the previously excluded residents. The Indwe Eco-Club has been through training and regularly takes part in wetland management and monitoring. The Wakkerstroom Bird Club dissolved in 2008, but has managed to resurrect itself in 2009 and plans are for the eco-club and bird club to work together on regular wetland monitoring, using programmes such as the Co-ordinated Water bird Count and the IBA monitoring programme. Unfortunately the Wakkerstroom Tourism Association and the Wakkerstroom Natural Heritage Association has become riddled with local politics and are presently rather ineffective. There is the larger Wakkerstroom Wetland Reserve Management Committee (WWRMC) which includes all role players and has been meeting regularly. The municipality is the land owner of the wetland, and it is therefore critical to have them attend these meetings and make necessary decisions. Unfortunately this has not happened and often the WWRMC is handicapped by the lack of the support from the municipality. Nonetheless, the conservation efforts around the wetland have been far better coordinated and inclusive than hitherto.

Environmental Education and awareness has been a strong point for this site. The BLSA Wakkerstroom centre has also provided an ideal platform to host and run education and awareness programmes with the local schools. With the appointment of the new management couple at this centre, the environmental education has grown from strength to strength. Currently a joint environmental education competition is being run, in collaboration between three BLSA divisions (Education, Policy & Advocacy and Community Conservation), for three school higher grades in 20 schools around wetland conservation.

This site has also produced the most media impact of all the sites. The site has received much media around the mining issue, but additional media was received around the positive community work being done by this project.

There have been many opportunities to develop income generating activities (IGAs) at this site, and consequently the site manager tried to develop too many before getting the existing IGA's up and running correctly. After a refocusing workshop, the IGA's have been reduced to 5, namely beadwork, grass & reeds, wood craft, cultural dances, vegetable growers and the bird guides. All these IGAs are linked to the conservation of the wetland either directly or indirectly. The vegetable growers for example have an indirect link as they supply food to the local bed & breakfast establishment who intern rely on ecotourism. These links are made clear to the IGAs to reinforce this bond.

The main resource user groups being engaged up till now have been the reed cutters and cattle owners. The medicinal plant users have also been engaged recently with positive results. The two former groups have been organised and constituted. A number of awareness and training workshops have taken place with them to sensitise them towards wetland conservation. These groups fully support conservation of the wetland, but believe they need to be properly consulted around wetland management issues. Bearing in mind there are many years of history between those who manage and those who were excluded, it is time to build new bridges although this process is well under way.

Pixley KaSeme local municipality continues to hamper this site. This municipality has seen a reshuffling of ward councillors, managers and mayors more often than any of the other sites. In 2008 some in the eZisamaleni township rioted over poor service delivery, resulting in the mayors vehicle being burnt and the ward councillors house being burnt to the ground. The site manager continues to try to engage this municipality, however we have realised that working with the provincial government departments is more fruitful, so this will continue being our focus for the remainder of the project,

Soweto:

The environmental education component was taken over by Nosiphiwo Mbambo, after Martin Ramothibe became the site manager for this project. Luckily Martin has continued to support Nosiphiwo, and three schools continue to work towards obtaining their Eco-Schools flag. Lakeview has been especially supportive, even offering to give Martin office space, as well as hosting the food garden project.

The birding trail has been planned and established on paper. The physical implementation is dependant on the City Parks department of the Johannesburg Municipality giving the directive. Nonetheless, local bird guides have been using the trail-route to take visitors. This route incorporates heritage and culture with eco tourism, a concept that is well supported by all stakeholders and the tourism market. The route is also being used to market the beadwork project.

The Beadwork & Food Gardens are thus far the only well established IGA's. Both have a business plan and have received training in their areas of need. Further training is planned for May 2009.

The Ubuntu Eco-club remains the strongest of the three sites. This group still take part in regular birding weekends, wetland surveys and awareness campaigns. The group consists of 30 youth from the poorest parts of Soweto. This is the main body of the SSG thus far.

Cata:

The Cata Birding Trail has progressed well, with the three routes cut and marked in the forest. The sign boards are currently being designed and made. These chalets link in the with the larger tourism initiative in Cata, which is a joint partnership between BLSA and the Border Rural Committee. A proposal to further develop this trail was sent to a European Union programme and managed to get to the second call. We await a final outcome.

Three bird guides have been trained from the community. Mnedi has been especially successful in earning income from guiding, as well as honing his entrepreneurial skills (gained from the entrepreneurial course offered in this programme) by also starting his own horse trails business. This birding trail will be managed by the Communal Property Associations Cata Tourism Association, which is established and operational.

This Eco-club is the newest of the three, nonetheless they have been on a number of excursions and taken part in Cape Parrot Counting day two years in a row.

The Participatory Forest Management committee was established in September 2008, with representation from the community, the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry and other local private stakeholders. After the workshop in Management Plan development, this PFM committee is developing a management plan for the Cata forest. This committee will form the basis of site support group work.

As in Wakkerstroom, there is currently a joint environmental education competition is being run, in collaboration between three BLSA divisions (Education, Policy & Advocacy and Community Conservation), for three school higher grades in the 2 schools around forest conservation.

Ongoye:

The current site manager is Michael Blose, a BLSA employee who has been responsible for managing the Zulu Land birding route. Hansco Banda from Wakkerstroom has assisted Michael to engage the communities around Ongoye regarding their use of the forest and their feelings towards forest conservation. The biggest problem at this time is the conflict and tension which exists between the local communities and the KZN Wildlife authorities.

A resource use assessment was conducted by Michael Blose and Hansco Banda with the surrounding communities. According to these findings, Michael has planned appropriate projects for this site to mitigate human impact and develop inclusive management regimes, such as the PFM model established at Cata.

Currently there are 2 bird guides and a birders chalet situated in the forest. This is a community owned project.

3.3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

| Code No. | Description | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Y 4 | Total to date | Total planned from application |
|----------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 6A | 1 project manager trained. RSPB training covered the following areas: project management; training of trainers; socio-economic assessment; participatory rural appraisal (PRA); ecological monitoring; environmental education; management plans; engaging with local people near conservation areas; design and construction of bird hides; setting up community-based fora; and managing a Darwin Initiative budget. | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 |
| 6A | People from project sites trained in: (Time units in brackets - in weeks) | | | | | | |
| | Socio-Economic Assessments (1wk); | | 9 | 5 | | 14 | 12 |
| | Participatory Rural Appraisals (1wk); | | 9 | 58 | | 67 | 0 |
| | Media & Fundraising (0.5wk); | | 3 | 3 | | 3 | 12 |
| | Project management (0.5wk); | | 9 | 15 | | 12 | 12 |
| | Site monitoring (0.5wk); | | 9 | 60 | | 34.5 | 50 |
| | Environmental education (0.5wk): | | 20 | 145 | | 82.5 | 50 |
| | Site management planning (0.5 wk) | | 0 | 8 | | 4 | 0 |
| | Policy and advocacy (0.5wk) | | 0 | 20 | | 10 | 0 |
| | Business management | | 0 | 26 | | 13 | 0 |
| | Bird Guide training (1mnth) | 4 | 2 | 5 | | 44 | 40 |
| 6B | Total training weeks above | 22 | 46.5 | 219.5 | | 288 | 284 |
| 7 | 1 education resource book | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 2 |
| 8 | Paul Morling (economist) spent 2 weeks over April 07 in South Africa | | 2 | | | 2 | 18 |
| | Geoff Welsh spent two weeks in South Africa giving Management plan workshops at all three sites | | | 2 | | 2 | |
| | Andrea Lockwood/Paul Buckley spent 1 week in South Africa | 2.3 | 4 | 1 | | 7.3 | |

| Code No. | Description | Year 1 Total | Year 2 Total | Year 3 Total | Y 4 | Total to date | Total planned from application |
|----------|---|--|--|---|-----|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 14A | Annual seminars to discuss project outcomes | | 2 | 1 | | 3 | |
| 14B | The Wakkerstroom site manager and assistant project manager attended the Wings Over Wetlands exchange programme, October 08. The project manager attended the BirdLife International Conference in Argentina in October 08. The project manager attended the CBD conference in Bonn, Germany, May 08. | | 2 1 1 | 2 1 1 | | 9 | 6 |
| 15A | 1 national article. | 1 | | 1 | | 2 | 4 |
| 15B | 3 local articles | 3 | 1 | 2 | | 6 | 4 |
| 16A | 1 project Division newsletter & 1 Wakkerstroom site newsletter produced. | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 4 | 4 |
| 16B | Approximate circulation of African Birds & Birding popular magazine in South Africa: 22 000. | 17,000 | 22,000 | 22,000 | | 22,000 | 10,000 |
| 16C | Approximate circulation of BLSA newsletter in the UK: 500. | 500 | 500 | 500 | | 500 | 500 |
| 18A | TV features | | 1 | 3 | | 4 | 3 |
| 19A | 3xnational & 1xlocal radio interview. | 1 | 1 | 4 | | 6 | 4 |
| 20 | Physical assets | £14,884 | £1,498 | | | £15,982 | £13,500 |
| 23 | Amount leveraged from other funding sources by the RSPB and BLSA. | RSPB: £18,858 BLSA: approx. £25,915 | RSPB: Approx £14,900 BLSA/ Wings Over W'lands : approx £43,100 BirdLife N'ands: approx. £17,800 WWF-SA £9,000 | RSPB: £22,012 BLSA/ Wings Over W'lands : approx £41,325 AECID: €25,159 WWF-SA: £10,000 | | £228,069 | £154,000 |

Table 2 Publications

| Type (eg journals, manual, CDs) | Detail (title, author, year) | Publishers (name, city) | Available from (eg contact address, website) | Cost £ |
|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|---|--------|
| Popular magazine* | Local Swazi Chief a pro-conservationist, Hansco Banda, Oct - Nov 2008 | Africa Bird and Birding Magazine | Africa Geographic (pty) Ltd, 1 st Floor, Devonshire Court, 20 Devonshire Road, Wynberg 7800, Cape Town, South Africa. www.africageographic.com | £3 |
| Popular magazine* | How community development is affected by imminent threats, Daniel Marnewick June-July 2008 | Africa Bird and Birding Magazine | Africa Geographic (pty) Ltd, 1 st Floor, Devonshire Court, 20 Devonshire Road, Wynberg 7800, Cape Town, South Africa. www.africageographic.com | £3 |
| Popular magazine* | Flyway conservation, Daniel Marnewick August-September 2008 | Africa Bird and Birding Magazine | Africa Geographic (pty) Ltd, 1 st Floor, Devonshire Court, 20 Devonshire Road, Wynberg 7800, Cape Town, South Africa. www.africageographic.com | £3 |
| Television | Birds conservation and tourism in Wakkerstroom, Hansco Banda, August 2008 | Africa Awake - DSTV Chanel | MultiChoice SMS PTY (Ltd) Reg No 1994/009083/07 Physical address: 251 Oak Avenue, Ferndale Randburg, 2194 South Africa webenquiries@multichoice.co.za | |
| Radio | Mining threat and the importance of the Wetland in Wakkerstroom for local livelihoods, Hansco Banda, Carolyn Ah Shene, Daniel Marnewick, March 2008, | Radio 702 | Primedia House 2nd Floor 5 Gwen Lane (Corner Gwen Lane & Fredman Drive), Sandown www.702.co.za | |

| Type (eg journals, manual, CDs) | Detail (title, author, year) | Publishers (name, city) | Available from (eg contact address, website) | Cost £ |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---|--------|
| Television | Mining threat in Wakkerstroom District, Hansco Banda, Carolyn Ah Shene, 20 and 27 April 2009 | SABC TV2 Chanel | TV Programmes - Obtain a DVD recording of a television programme: Tel 011-714-3827. Email address: enterpri@sabc.co.za www.sabc2.co.za | |
| Newspaper | Battle lines drawn in the wetland, Hansco Banda, 15 June 08. | The Post | The Post +2731 308 2022 | £6 |
| Radio | Sasol Birds and Birding Fair in Soweto, Martin Ramothibe, 2 April 2009, | SAFM | P.O. Box 91162 Auckland Park, 2006 www.safm.co.za | |
| Television | National Lottery Insert about Soweto site, August 2008, | E-TV | CALL CENTRE : +27 83 1222 EMAIL : info@etv.co.za | |
| Newspaper* | Masithandane Beads publicity, Martin Ramothibe, 11 September 2008, | Daily Sun | www.dailysun.co.za | £7 |
| Newsletter | Wits Bird club news letter/2008 national bird week, May 2008, | Wits Bird Club | Delta Park, Road No. 3 Victory Park, Johannesburg, South Africa www.wbc.co.za | |
| Newsletter* | 3 National Community Conservation newsletters and 1 for Soweto | BirdLife South Africa | community@birdlife.or g.za | |

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

We believe the project is making excellent progress towards achieving the project purpose and outcomes. In spite of some delays to specific activities, we now have in place four varied community based projects at important sites. They enjoy well trained staff and other stakeholders, strong community support and awareness and are making a difference to local people in relation to their ability to participate in and benefit from natural resource management. The threat status at each site is generally reduced when compared with the onset of the project, with the exception of Wakkerstroom

where major commercial mining proposals have emerged since the project began. Better management is evident at all four sites and there are strong local fora at two sites.

The project enjoys a high profile in South Africa and will provide many lessons and experiences for similar programmes in future.

Unfortunately intensive effort (at least ten proposals submitted) to ensure funding to continue the work of the project has not so far yielded any success. This places in doubt BLSA's ability to continue work at these sites or indeed in community conservation as a whole. In the remaining time of this project we will do what we can to ensure that project structures are in place to enable the work at each site to continue, even if only at a basic level.

The assumptions at the beginning of the project still hold true. However we over-estimated the capacity of the local government structures in particular to contribute to the project. At Wakkerstroom an external threat (mining) has impacted on the project although a majority of local stakeholders remain opposed to this development despite its supposed economic 'benefits'. The indicators are adequate to measure impact.

Through the Site Support Group Structures at each site, the project has increased its ability to monitor the biodiversity at each site, using the different and established data collection mechanism. At Wakkerstroom the project uses the Co-ordinated Water Bird Count (CWAC) programme to count water birds, which are currently being carried out by the Wakkerstroom Bird Club and the Indwe Eco-Club. The Wings Over Wetlands programme has also developed a website portal that captures data from global programmes and organizations (BirdLife International, RAMSAR, Wetlands International) and provides this information in one organized and easily accessible programme.

Cata currently uses the BirdLife SA Bird Atlas to organize bird distribution data. All BirdLife SA members are able to contribute to this programme. The Cata Participatory Forest Management (PFM) committee is currently developing a management plan for this section of the forest which includes a monitoring component. The PFM committee has also completed a Important Bird Area Assessment for the forest which has been captured by BirdLife SA. The Cata community take part in the Cape Parrot Counting day every year, and this data is sent to and captured by the Cape Parrot Working Group (based at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal).

Soweto uses the Ubumthu Eco-Club to capture bird data every weekend, as well as do water testing on a monthly basis. This data is fed into an IBA Assessment data sheet (even though it is not a IBA, the template is still used). This Data will soon also be captured into the CWAC programme.

Ongoye is not yet at a stage where the community or SSG can take part in site monitoring.

At all three of the above sites where site monitoring is ongoing, it should be noted that black community members and resource users had never taken part in site monitoring before the start of this project. Unfortunately after only two years, it would be too soon to assume that any change in the status of biodiversity at the sites is due to this project's intervention. In the future however BirdLife SA will however compare data from 2007-2010 to establish trends.

Overall the pressures on the sites have reduced since the beginning of the project, in large part due to the improved perceptions of the local people rather than to official new protection. This is most evident in Wakkerstroom where the wetland and grassland has not been set on fire for nearly two years (unplanned burning was an yearly occurrence) and in Cata where the community see themselves as Cape Parrot custodians (where previously youth used to shoot the bird). In all four sites members of the community are now gaining direct benefits from ecotourism and thus there are strong local advocates for the continued health of those sites and their biodiversity. Other economic benefits are also apparent. We have engaged local people in active environmental protection measures such as pollution control and clean ups, fire prevention and control and bird population monitoring. If new official protection is proposed then this support will greatly assist these processes. At present the only site where new protection is likely is at Wakkerstroom where Ramsar listing is proposed.

The obvious exception to this is at Wakkerstroom where coal mining threats affect a large area close to and impacting on the wetland and encompassing grassland favoured by globally threatened species. This threat by a UK owned company was supported by sections of the government (and opposed by others) in spite of a totally flawed EIA and a failure to consult affected parties including the owners of the land themselves. BLSA is involved with most of the affected landowners in legal action to try to prevent this mining from going ahead and we remain confident of success.

The success of the community benefits and the longer term trends in status and threats to the important biodiversity of these sites will only be truly apparent in the longer term. We have put in place measures to ensure that both of these parameters continue to be monitored beyond the length of the project.

Table 2: Income Generating Activities Data

| Wakkerstroom Wetland | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Name of I.G.A | No. Members | Business plan | Constitution | Bank account | Products | Earned to date |
| 1. Igugulethu Community Vegetable Garden Project | 15 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Produce vegetables e.g. carrots, beetroot, spinach, onions etc | |
| 2. Indalo Curving and Nests Project | 01 (to be increased) | No | No (in process) | No (in process) | Curve birds using invasive trees and sell to the tourists | |
| 3. Ubunye Beadwork Project | 08 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Produce beads products e.g. Birds, Key holders, earrings etc. | |
| 4. Ubuntu Cultural Dance Group | 15 | No | Yes | Yes | Offer cultural Zulu dance to the tourists and perform to the locals. | |
| 5. Eyethu Grass & Reeds Project | 03 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Produce cultural products from different types of grass species and construct reed fences. | |
| 6. Bird Guides | 6 | No | No | No | Guide bird tourist. All operate as individual entities. | |
| Ukukhanya Poultry Project | Cancelled | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 42 | 3/6 | 4/6 | 4/6 | | R76,000+ |

| Cata Forest | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|--|--------------|--------------|---|----------------|
| Name of I.G.A | No. Members | Business plan | Constitution | Bank account | Products | Earned |
| 1.Hat Makers | 2 | Yes | No | No | Grass hats & baskets | |
| 2. Broom Makers | 5 | Yes | No | Yes | Grass brooms | |
| 3. Walking Sticks | 1 | No | No | No | Wooden walking sticks. | |
| 4. Thatching grass | 10 | No | No | No | Sell thatching grass for thatching | |
| 5. Bead work | 3 | No | No | No | Produce wire bead work but still undergoing training. | |
| 6. Indigenous tree nursery & pecan nut trees | 3 | Still sourcing funding for this large scale project. | | | Indigenous trees Cape Parrot Friendly Pecan Nuts | |
| 7. Bird Guides | 3 | No | No | No | Guide Bird tourists | |
| TOTALS | 27 | 2/7 | 0/7 | 1/7 | | R53,100 |
| Soweto Wetland | | | | | | |
| Name of I.G.A | No. Members | Business plan | Constitution | Bank account | Products | Earned |
| 1. Masithandane (UTHANDO) Women Project – Beadwork project | 8 | Yes | No | Yes | Bead work (birds) | |
| 2. Kgothlang Community Food Gardens | 6 | Yes | No | No | Vegetables | |
| 3. Soweto Heritage Birding Trail | 25 | Yes | Yes | No | Bird Guides, Ubuntu Eco-Club guiding tourists and visitors along the tourist trail linking heritage with birding. | |
| TOTAL | 39 | 3/3 | 1/3 | 1/3 | | R2,700 |

| Ongoye Forest | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|---------------|
| Name of I.G.A | No. Members | Business plan | Constitution | Bank account | Products | Earned |
| 1. Bird Guides | 1 | Yes | No | Yes | Guides bird tourists through forest. Earns a regular salary from BLSA plus additional guiding income. | |
| TOTAL | 1 | 1/1 | 0/1 | 1/1 | | |

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

The monitoring system in previous years has continued. Each Site Officer's workplan is reviewed regularly by the Project Manager, who then reports to both RSPB and BLSA Council and Conservation Committee. RSPB monitoring staff made one visit to the project during the reporting year in November 2008, although other staff also visited or interacted with the project manager at other events and discussed progress, notably at the BirdLife World Conference in September 2008.

Meetings and telephone conferences between RSPB and BLSA have provided the main opportunities to discuss progress against logframe and associated indicators. These continue to be the primary formal mechanism through which to monitor progress against outputs and necessary information is being collected by project staff. Progress against these is outlined in Annex 1.

We will undertake an end of project evaluation, currently scheduled for September 2009.

Previous lessons learned hold true although we feel that in Year three we have made excellent progress on establishing income generating activities, helped in part by the slow but steady progress made on stakeholder engagement and capacity building in the first two years.

We have learned through implementing this project that the capacity of local government in South Africa to work collaboratively is low and probably decreasing. This unfortunately seems to be a systemic problem which is experienced also by many other projects and is particularly hard to solve in a short project. We have tried to work with this constraint, improve it where we can and by pass it in a diplomatic manner where we cannot. BirdLife has learnt that engaging government departments is only successful when the right person is contacted, i.e. not necessarily the person in the correct position, but the person who would be supportive of the projects objectives and who has substantial authority in the department. The wider problem is not one that will be resolved by single projects.

We have mentioned before that we selected four very different and challenging sites for this programme. This has led both to longer preparatory times to engage stakeholders but has also meant that we need to continue to be flexible as to our activities in response to local opinion, tensions and to changing social and economic situations.

It is frustrating that the end of the project looms just as things are really taking off. Perhaps a rather unfortunate but valid lesson from this is to be more realistic in the original project aspirations. We can then demonstrably achieve all project outcomes even if they are pitched at a lower level than the more ambitious project we presented. This may improve the chances of further funding success.

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

Each project site has progressed at different rates mainly due to the ability of the site manager and level of cooperation from local government bodies. Nonetheless substantial progress has been made at each of the sites in year 3. Most notably are the Site Support Groups developed at the Wakkerstroom and Cata sites. Not only have these become inclusive groups of environmental enthusiasts, but they are also far more involved in site monitoring. The additional spin off for the youth eco-clubs is that birding has offered them a safe extramural activity and hobby.

BirdLife SA has identified Wakkerstroom, Cata (and surrounding forests) and Ongoye sites as critically important IBA's that require long-term conservation intervention. Engaging the local communities will play a critical part of this conservation intervention, and BirdLife is currently vigorously trying to raise funds to continue its work at these three sites.

Project outputs have cascaded down to the local community more in year 3 mainly through the 3 youth eco-clubs active participation in conservation action and monitoring at their sites, the organization of the resource users into associations and their participation in the management of the ecosystem through the larger management committees, and through the establishment of 17 income generating activities, with 109 direct and ±400 indirect beneficiaries.

The litigation battle with Delta Mining Corporation and the Department of Energy and Minerals is on going. Although the 'hype' around this issue has died down some, there remain undercurrents of tension while people await the court decision. What needs to be kept in mind is that if this battle is won for BirdLife and its partners, then it will be a major success story for the area and possible similar cases on the eastern grasslands around the country.

The Pecan Nut project in Cata has been postponed due to the long period it takes to cultivate pecan nuts (±9 years) and the high cost of buying the necessary trees and volume to sell this product commercially while meeting the needs of the Cape Parrot and Cata community. Although this project is still a viable project, BLSA is currently sourcing more funding for this and the Indigenous Tree Nursery project.

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The biggest risk the project faces is that of funding post the Darwin funding. There is no confirmed follow-up funding for any of the sites for 2010 onwards. The only site with funding until December 2009 is Wakkerstroom. A European Union proposal for Cata was asked to submit to call 2, and we are awaiting the outcome. Ongoye has co-funding from the IUCN until the end of 2009 and there is a positive signal from the local tourism authority for future support, but these proposals need to be submitted in June 2009. Soweto currently has no further funding post Darwin, however there are three funding possibilities currently being explored.

Both RSPB and BLSA have a long term commitment to ensuring the long term conservation of these areas. As per our year 2 report, RSPB and BLSA continue to believe that the project contains a number of elements which will help to ensure the achievements of the project are maintained

Wakkerstroom is a high conservation priority for BLSA and BirdLife International and they have a nature reserve, visitor centre and permanent staff based in the town. The site is in the process of being formally proposed as a RAMSAR site and has an established management committee.

In all sites we have made intense efforts to partner with other local institutions who have a permanent presence in the area – local government institutions, community associations or NGOs such as Border Rural Community. In the unlikely event that BLSA ceased to operate at one or more of the sites, we intend that core activities will be integrated into the operations of such organisations.

We have or will establish fora to broaden and strengthen ownership of the conservation programmes. To date this is working most effectively in Wakkerstroom and Cata. Soweto has established such a

forum but the conservation inputs remain lower than at the other two sites. Ongoye will have such a forum established by the end of 2009.

We have already secured co-financing at all three existing sites – through GEF Wings Over Wetlands and the Spanish Government (AECID) at Wakkerstroom, from BirdLife Netherlands at Cata, from WWF in Soweto and from IUCN for Ongoye Forest. We will need to continue to work on securing further support for the core programme and have not yet secured any significant support from Corporate partners. All of the existing funding will also come to an end during 2009. The Division manager is therefore focusing substantial time on securing funds for all four sites beyond 2009.

7. Dissemination

BLSA attracts regular media publicity and a number of radio and TV features this year have featured either the work of the Community Conservation Division or related issues such as the mining threat in Wakkerstroom. These are included in Table 1 above. Published articles and newsletters are listed in Table 2 and some excerpts from these are included in Annex 3. The Division produces a Division Newsletter highlighting all three sites.

The project continues to attract considerable attention for its innovative nature both through South Africa and among the BirdLife International partners around the world. The Project Manager has had a number of opportunities to disseminate the lessons learned from the project. He attended the CBD conference in Bonn, where he presented the Wakkerstroom project at a side event to ±40 delegates. He also attended the BirdLife International conference in Argentina where he presented a poster and chaired a workshop. The Wakkerstroom site manager and assistant manager attended the Wings Over Wetlands exchange programme in Kenya, October 2009, where they made a presentation of the Wakkerstroom site. The Wakkerstroom site manager also attended a project meeting in Tanzania, October 2009, for the Spanish funded AECID programme in Wakkerstroom, along with projects from Tanzania and Ethiopia. There he presented the outputs of the project. The project manager also attended the WWF regional office CBNRM workshop in Namibia, May 2008.

Since this project is BLSA's flagship conservation project, other BLSA staff also discuss its progress frequently in a range of fora and conferences. This will continue beyond the length of the Darwin funding since BLSA's other staff and their media operation are not dependent on Darwin funding for their continuation.

8. Project Expenditure

Table 3 Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009)

| Item | Budget ¹ | Expenditure | Variance |
|---|---------------------|-------------|----------|
| Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc | | | |
| Office costs (eg postage, telephone, stationery) | | | |
| Travel and subsistence | | | |
| Printing | | | |
| Conferences, seminars, etc | | | |
| Capital items/equipment | | | |
| Others (see below) | | | |
| <i>Audit costs</i> | | | |
| <i>Socio economic analysis costs</i> | | | |
| <i>Management plan costs</i> | | | |
| <i>Craft initiative costs</i> | | | |
| <i>Income generating initiatives costs</i> | | | |
| Salaries (see below) | | | |
| <i>D Marnewick – Project Manager</i> | | | |
| <i>M Ntshudu – E Cape Coordinator</i> | | | |
| <i>M Ramothibe / N Hlela – Soweto Coordinators</i> | | | |
| <i>Carolyn Ah Shene – Policy & Advocacy Manager</i> | | | |
| <i>Income Tax (UIF) / WCA / Skills Levy</i> | | | |
| TOTAL | | | |

Note 1 – Carry forward of £1,150 into 09/10 approved by LTS on 12th March 2009

Both the Conferences and Other Costs budget lines verged on significant underspends against budget for the year. This was mainly due to lower-than-expected costs against these expenditure categories. These variances caused no detrimental effect to the overall budget variance, and thus it was not deemed necessary to raise their occurrence with LTS.

9. Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period

The project 'Protecting key South African biodiversity sites through community based conservation' has completed three years of building community support for conservation at four important biodiversity sites across South Africa – in Wakkerstroom wetlands and grasslands in Mpumalanga, the wetlands of Soweto and, Cata Escarpment forest in Eastern Cape and Ongoye Forest in KwaZulu natal. Following solid training and people engagement activities in the first phase of the projects we have solid conservation progress and managed to significantly increase the benefits cascading down to the communities on three main levels.

Firstly the community, especially the youth, have benefitted from the environment being presented as a recreational and educational opportunity. This has benefitted especially the youth eco-clubs who have been engaging the environment through both learning, wildlife viewing activities and active participation in conservation projects.

Secondly through income generation, the income generated by these income generating activities has increased throughout the year, i.e. it rose from a total of £5,000 in October 2008 to around £15,000 in March 2009. This is benefiting 109 direct and 400+ indirect beneficiaries. Among the activities showing particular promise are ecotourism at all four sites,

Thirdly through resource management. The resource management structures (Site Support Groups) are all established and playing a vital part, especially in Wakkerstroom and Cata, in resource and biodiversity conservation and monitoring. For the first time these SSG's are representative of the broader community.

Lastly the project has managed to raise the profile of each of the four sites at both local and provincial levels. This has developed interest in the sites for their biodiversity importance and their showcasing of conservation linked community development. The communities are actively engaged in species and habitat monitoring and we are confident that over time this will show improving trends in their conservation status and the level of pressure facing them. At Wakkerstroom the process of listing the wider wetland under the Ramsar Convention is well underway, a process assisted by this project.

[I agree for LTS and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section](#)

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2008/09

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Progress and Achievements April 2006 - March 2007 | Actions required/planned for next period |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p><i>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources to achieve</i></p> <p><i>The conservation of biological diversity,</i></p> <p><i>The sustainable use of its components, and</i></p> <p><i>The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</i></p> | | <p>Stronger protection at two sites through enhanced community support and active for a, as well as planned official listing.</p> <p>Stronger community support at all four sites</p> <p>Income generating activities gaining revenues of c £15,000 to date</p> <p>Better monitoring of sites and their biodiversity</p> | <p><i>(do not fill not applicable)</i></p> |
| <p>Purpose: Community-focused programmes are significantly enhancing the status of important biodiversity sites and the capacity to manage them for the future.</p> | <p>Programmes in the four project sites are effectively managed by local stakeholders by end of project.</p> <p>Threat status and pressures on each area show improvement from beginning to end of project.</p> | <p>Active and well supported programmes in place at 4 sites with well respected project managers.</p> <p>Effective for a in place at two sites.</p> <p>Threat status is generally reduced (except mining at Wakkerstroom)</p> | <p>Firm up local structures at Soweto and Ongoye. Strengthen governance structures at all sites.</p> <p>Ensure realistic management plans in place by end of project.</p> <p>Fundraising (more project proposals) and institutional measures to maintain project achievements.</p> <p>Strengthen project monitoring processes and recruit more volunteers.</p> |

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|---|---|---|---|
| | | | <p>Try to attain at least limited government support for ongoing conservation programmes.</p> <p>Continue awareness programmes and complete eco-schools certification.</p> <p>Complete business plans for all successful income generating activities at 4 sites.</p> |
| | <p>Three other projects at important biodiversity sites being established with leveraged funds by the project end.</p> | <p>Initial work done at other IBAs – Ndumu and KwaZulu Natal Mistbelt Grasslands. However priority will be on ensuring sustainability of existing sites.</p> | <p>IBA prioritisation and conservation strategy in place. Initial feasibility work and fundraising for new sites as resources allow.</p> <p>Complete fundraising training for all officers.</p> <p>End of project national conference to disseminate lessons learned and plan future interventions.</p> |
| <p>Output 1. Local site support groups/fora in place at each site establish a firm basis for project sustainability.</p> | <p>Funding for further work at each site achieved by end of June, 2009.</p> <p>All key stakeholders contribute to effective group management.</p> | <p>Good progress. Indicators are appropriate. Key stakeholders are all involved and fora in place at 2 sites. Fora in Soweto will need to be thematic and focused otherwise too unwieldy.</p> <p>Co-finance already in place at all sites for current project period which has scaled up activities. However we need to find funds to sustain achievements beyond the project period.</p> | |
| <p>Activity 1.1. Develop four local fora</p> | | <p>The local fora in Wakkerstroom and Cata have continued to work very well and have enhanced the width and effectiveness of stakeholder involvement. In Soweto community groups are very divided and a forum approach has not proved viable, although it does currently exist with minimal functionality. We have worked with the groups who offer most constructive working relations but we have tried and been successful in bringing some members of the community</p> | |

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| | | and associated groups more closer together. In Ongoye we will develop a forum in the next period if the barriers of trust between community and government can be reduced to a workable level. |
| Activity 1.2. Regular programme of activities | | The four site coordinators have been very active in their communities and numerous activities undertaken including bird walks, clean ups, awareness raising initiatives, tree planting. School work has also been fruitful and of course many established resource user groups now have their own programme of activities. |
| Activity 1.3 Set group governance structures in place | | Governance work has focused firstly on the fora established and working well at Cata and Wakkerstroom who now have comprehensive internal terms of reference and operational practices. Secondly on the resource user groups who are implementing income generating activities. These are at varying levels of development but 53% now have business plans. |
| Activity 1.4 Prepare additional project proposals for each site | | We have been able to do quite a lot of additional work at some of the sites as a result of co-finance leveraged especially from the AEWA Wings over Wetlands programme, WWF-SA and the Spanish Agency for International Development and Cooperation. This has included substantial wetland management work at Wakkerstroom and additional income generating activities including on tourism at three sites, education in Soweto and development of the pecan nut programme at Cata. 10 Proposals to funders have been prepared and submitted over 2008/2009, but to date none have been positive. We await response to our EU proposal for Cata. |
| Output 2. Training and capacity-building programme for national and local stakeholders implemented. | <p>Recommendations for ongoing support from training courses implemented.</p> <p>Training cascaded down at all four sites.</p> | <p>Good progress. Indicators are appropriate.</p> <p>The training programme has been largely completed although some catch-up still required at Ongoye. Formal fundraising will take place in July 2009 although much has been done informally.</p> <p>The project managers have actively followed up in cascading information from training to local stakeholders. Recommendations and follow up from training have been implemented.</p> |

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| <p>Activity 2.1. Training programmes in project management, socio-economic analysis, training for trainers, site monitoring</p> | <p>The project manager completed training in project management and socio-economic analysis following up earlier actions. All officers additionally trained in site monitoring in March 2009. Training for trainers previously completed.</p> <p>Additionally management plan training provided for all officers in September 2008. Three more bird guides were trained in Cata.</p> | | |
| <p>Activity 2.2. Training in awareness raising, group operations, advocacy and fundraising</p> | <p>Awareness raising training completed and cascaded. Additional training given by Project Manager in group operations. Policy and Advocacy training provided in Wakkerstroom and will be provided in next 2 months at other sites. Fundraising scheduled for July 2009.</p> <p>Additionally 26 community members were given training in business plans and management.</p> | | |
| <p>Output 3. Participatory plans for conservation monitoring and action in place and under implementation at each site.</p> | <table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="607 639 1093 935"> <p>Three plans adopted by key stakeholders by June, 2008. The fourth adopted by June, 2009.</p> <p>80% of priority actions underway by June, 2009.</p> <p>Greater formal protection at one site by June, 2009.</p> </td> <td data-bbox="1093 639 2078 935"> <p>Implementation has been delayed. Indicators are appropriate.</p> <p>Plan in place at Wakkerstroom. A plan is underway at Cata following training. The plan for Soweto will focus on visitor facilities only at this stage. Priority actions are in case underway at all sites.</p> <p>RAMSAR site designation at Wakkerstroom is being pursued.</p> </td> </tr> </table> | <p>Three plans adopted by key stakeholders by June, 2008. The fourth adopted by June, 2009.</p> <p>80% of priority actions underway by June, 2009.</p> <p>Greater formal protection at one site by June, 2009.</p> | <p>Implementation has been delayed. Indicators are appropriate.</p> <p>Plan in place at Wakkerstroom. A plan is underway at Cata following training. The plan for Soweto will focus on visitor facilities only at this stage. Priority actions are in case underway at all sites.</p> <p>RAMSAR site designation at Wakkerstroom is being pursued.</p> |
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| <p>Activity 3.1. Participatory management plans in place at all four sites by month 30</p> | <p>Plan in place at Wakkerstroom. A plan focusing on participatory forest management both within and around the natural forest is underway at Cata following training. The plan for Soweto will focus on visitor facilities and management only at this stage.</p> | | |
| <p>Activity 3.2. Site monitoring programmes</p> | <p>Training has been completed and monitoring protocols are being developed. Initial threats and status monitoring at each site have been undertaken. Regular waterbird counts at Wakkerstroom and Cape parrot counts at Cata are ongoing.</p> | | |

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| Activity 3.3 Undertake priority site conservation actions | Priority conservation actions are underway at all sites. In particular at Wakkerstroom where land control is easiest has active programme of practical conservation work in the wetlands. Soweto site has regular bird counts and water quality monitoring which is bed into local government for action. Cape parrot counts at Cata are fed into national data base for further research. |
| <p>Output 4. Marketing-focused initiatives at each site are generating economic benefits for local people and assisting sustainability.</p> | <p>Analysis of socio-economic options completed at each site by end of April, 2008.</p> <p>Five new registered guides in two sites by June, 2009.</p> |
| Activity 4.1. Undertake socio-economic analysis. | <p>Good progress. Indicators are appropriate.</p> <p>Socio-economic analysis completed at three sites and analysis underway following survey at Ongoye. Very good progress on IGAs in Year 3. 109 direct and around 400 indirect beneficiaries of IGAs earning R167,800 in 2008/9 including reed cutting, beadwork and craftwork, vegetable growing and bird guiding. Cultural and ecotourism actions underway at all sites.</p> <p>Three new registered guides in place at Cata, and one on Soweto making thirteen in total.</p> |
| Activity 4.2 Develop Income Generating Activities | Paul Morling completed this assessment which is currently being used to design Income Generating Activities at the three sites, while a report on the forth site will be completed by June 2009. Baseline Socio-economic data was also collected for the current project beneficiaries in 2008 – analysis is being completed and a report will be available soon. This Data is currently being analyzed into a report. |
| Activity 4.3 Generate additional funding through these actions | Thus far 17 IGAs are established, with 109 direct and ±400 indirect beneficiaries, earning R167,800 in total and 53% have a business plan in place. |
| Activity 4.3 Generate additional funding through these actions | There is high expectations of these IGAs being maintained and growing beyond the project. They are not yet at a level where it is realistic to expect any funding to accrue back to the management of this project. |

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| <p>Output 5. National networking and experience sharing has stimulated action at additional high priority biodiversity sites.</p> | <p>Networking meeting for groups and other site protection agencies held during year 2.</p> <p>Expressions of interest from three other sites by end of June, 2009.</p> | <p>Fair progress. Indicators are appropriate.</p> <p>Representatives of the project sites have met 2 times during Year 3. Project is well known and dissemination in South Africa and elsewhere has been highly effective. Project Manager is represented on four influential Southern African natural resource for a.</p> <p>Expressions of interest not yet sought. BLSA wishes to expand this work to other sites and other stakeholders have requested their help. However priority will be given to consolidating work at existing sites.</p> |
| <p>Activity 5.1 Organise network meetings and distribute relevant materials</p> | | <p>Project managers and other site representatives have met on 4 occasions.</p> <p>3 divisional newsletters and one for Soweto have been produced during the Year.</p> |
| <p>Output 6. Awareness of conservation needs and values enhanced.</p> | <p>Attitude surveys show more favourable attitudes to conservation at all sites.</p> <p>School programmes in place at all sites by June, 2008.</p> | <p>Good progress. Indicators are appropriate.</p> <p>Joe Peu (BLSA Education Manager) has completed Environmental Education training with teachers from schools at Soweto, Cata and Wakkerstroom. Other field staff have undertaken initial activities at Ongoye. Annual programmes were developed for 2008 and 2009 to celebrate environmental days with the communities. Wakkerstroom has been most successful with the awareness raising but Cata and Soweto have also been very successful, in particular with work in and activities based around schools. Currently a large scale Environmental Education Competition is being run in Wakkerstroom and Cata with 22 local schools.</p> |
| <p>Activity 6.1. Develop schools materials.</p> | | <p>An environmental competition is currently being implemented in Wakkerstroom and Cata. This is a two phase competition running over 6 months. Final project assessments will take place in September 2009. An awareness calendar will be compiled displaying all the schools' projects. All projects continue to use the Eco-Schools material and the Learning for Sustainable Living material produced by BLSA.</p> |

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| <p>Activity 6.2. Establish programmes at ten schools in four sites.</p> | <p>Currently environmental education programmes are being run in a total of 12 schools on an intensive level, and an additional 15 schools on a less intensive level. A crane outreach programme for farm schools is also being run from May 2009 in Wakkerstroom.</p> |
| <p>Activity 6.3. Train site groups in awareness-raising techniques.</p> | <p>Project staff have been trained in and are actively implementing awareness programmes at all sites.</p> |
| <p>Activity 6.4 Implement community based awareness programme</p> | <p>An environmental competition is currently being implemented in Wakkerstroom and Cata. This is a two phase competition running over 6 months. Final project assessments will take place in September 2009. An awareness calendar will be compiled displaying all the schools' projects. All projects continue to use the Eco-Schools material and the Learning for Sustainable Living material produced by BLSA. Each site also develops an annual calendar to celebrate all environmental days in the year. These events are open to all community members and often have special guest speakers.</p> |

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

| Project summary | Measurable Indicators | Means of verification | Important Assumptions |
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| <p>Goal:</p> <p>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> <p>the conservation of biological diversity,</p> <p>the sustainable use of its components, and</p> <p>the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</p> | | | |
| <p>Purpose</p> | | | |
| <p>Community-focused programmes are significantly enhancing the status of important biodiversity sites and the capacity to manage them for the future.</p> | <p>Programmes in the four project sites are effectively managed by local stakeholders by the end of the project.</p> <p>Threat status and pressures on each area show improvement from beginning to end of project.</p> <p>Three other projects at important biodiversity sites being established with leveraged funds by the project end.</p> | <p>Project reports, future workplans</p> <p>Biological status reports from each site</p> <p>Project proposals/workplans</p> | <p>No additional unrecognised threats emerge during project period.</p> <p>Benefits accruing to communities are adequate to counter any damaging alternative economic proposals.</p> |

| Outputs | | | |
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| Local site support groups/fora in place at each site establish a firm basis for project sustainability. | <p>Funding for further work at each site achieved by end of June, 2009.</p> <p>All key stakeholders contribute to effective group management.</p> | <p>Funding agreements, project reports</p> <p>Minutes of meetings</p> <p>Constitutions/MoUs</p> | Community-focused programmes show short-term benefits through improved threat status/key species populations/job creation. |
| Training and capacity-building programme for national and local stakeholders implemented. | <p>Recommendations for ongoing support from training courses implemented.</p> <p>Training cascaded down at all four sites.</p> | <p>Training reports</p> <p>Project reports</p> | Staff and volunteers remain in post after training. |
| Participatory plans for conservation monitoring and action in place and under implementation at each site. | <p>Three plans adopted by key stakeholders by June, 2008. The fourth adopted by June, 2009.</p> <p>80% of priority actions underway by June, 2009.</p> <p>Greater formal protection at one site by June, 2009.</p> | <p>Adopted management plans and business plans</p> <p>Workplan and monitoring reports</p> | Current strong community links and stability at chosen sites are maintained. |
| Marketing-focused initiatives at each site are generating economic benefits for local people and assisting sustainability. | <p>Analysis of socio-economic options completed at each site by end of April, 2008.</p> <p>Five new registered guides in two sites by June, 2009.</p> | <p>Socio-economic reports</p> <p>Guide training reports</p> | Current favourable climate for local and international tourism is maintained. |

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| National networking and experience sharing has stimulated action at additional high priority biodiversity sites. | Networking meeting for groups and other site protection agencies held during year 2. Expressions of interest from three other sites by end of June, 2009. | Reports of network meeting Written expressions of interest from groups at other sites | |
| Awareness of conservation needs and values enhanced. | Attitude surveys show more favourable attitudes to conservation at all sites. School programmes in place at all sites by June, 2008. | Repeat surveys at start and end of project Education reports | |
| Activities | Activity Milestones (<i>m</i> = month) | | |
| Establish local site support groups/fora | Set in place project management structures and hold start up meeting by m ⁴ , develop four local fora by m ¹⁵ , regular programme of activities in place by m ¹⁸ , group governance structures in place by m ²⁴ , additional project proposals in place by m ³² | | |
| Training and capacity building programme | Project Manager recruited and initial training in UK by m ⁶ , training programmes in project management (UK input), socio-economic analysis (UK input), group operations, awareness raising, training for trainers completed at all four sites by m ¹⁸ . Training in site ecology / monitoring, advocacy, fundraising (with UK input) by m ²⁴ | | |
| Develop and implement plans for conservation action | Plan framework and process agreed by m ⁸ , first workshops held at each site by m ¹² , management with associated business plans adopted at all sites by m ³⁰ , Establish site and species monitoring by end of m ²⁴ , priority year 1 actions underway by m ³⁰ . | | |
| Establish income generating programmes | Undertake socio-economic analysis by m ⁹ , guide training completed by m ²⁴ , pilot and train in three other income generating activities by m ²⁴ , facilitate additional funding support at three sites by m ³⁶ | | |
| Establish national sites network | Hold network meetings by m ¹⁸ and m ³⁰ . Distribute materials to four projects and wider sites network at end of each year. Assess potential for further sites by m ³⁰ , organise seminar and lessons learned report by m ³⁶ | | |
| Raise awareness of conservation needs and values | Develop schools materials by m ¹² , establish programmes at 10 schools in four sites by m ¹² , train site groups in awareness raising techniques by m ¹² , implement community based awareness programme from m ¹⁵ to m ³⁶ | | |

Annex 3 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

**Press-cuttings and Newsletters
(separate Annex)**

Checklist for submission

| | Check |
|--|-------|
| Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line. | Yes |
| Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please advise Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk that the report will be send by post on CD, putting the project number in the Subject line. | No |
| Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report. | Yes |
| Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. | No |
| Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors | Yes |
| Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully? | Yes |
| Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report. | |