

# Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

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

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	15/012
<b>Project Title</b>	“Protecting Key South African Biodiversity Sites through Community-based Conservation”
<b>Country(ies)</b>	South Africa
<b>UK Organisation</b>	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	BirdLife South Africa
<b>Report date</b>	October 31 <sup>st</sup> , 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).

For the period of July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006, our progress against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (indicated in italics) is as follows:

*By August, 2006:*

- *Project manager recruited and in post.*

BirdLife South Africa (BLSA) has recruited Daniel Marnewick as Programme Manager: Community-based Biodiversity Conservation. He began on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006.

- *Project structures in place.*
  - Daniel works from an office at BLSA headquarters in Johannesburg, South Africa.
  - He has purchased a laptop and data projector. He has a project vehicle (a Mazda 323 1.6i), which BLSA previously purchased through the Mazda Wildlife Fund at a reduced rate. The Darwin Initiative funds for the project manager’s vehicle will be used to purchase vehicles for the project coordinators at the Wakkerstroom and Eastern Cape sites.
  - The project is subject to BLSA’s administrative policies and procedures.
- *Project stakeholder consultations and MoU preparation.*
  - Paul Buckley and Andrea Lockwood from the RSPB visited BLSA in September. An MoU was signed between the two organizations.
  - Paul and Andrea met with Daniel Marnewick to discuss project implementation.
  - Andrea visited the project sites in Soweto and Wakkerstroom, and accompanied Daniel on a trip to southern KwaZulu-Natal to identify the potential third project site. (The following section provides an explanation about this trip.)
  - Daniel has met with all stakeholders at the Wakkerstroom site. The local government has listed the project in the local economic development (LED) plan.
  - Daniel already has a relationship with a community-based NGO at the Soweto site (the Mayibuye Wetlands Programme), as he worked with them for one year prior to the beginning of this project. A preliminary meeting has taken place to discuss collaboration between Mayibuye and BLSA. The two organisations will sign an MoU in November.
  - Daniel has delivered presentations about the project to the following:
    - BLSA staff;
    - Pixely Ka Seme Municipality LED forum and the mayor (Wakkerstroom); and
    - RSPB staff (Daniel delivered two presentations at the RSPB office in the UK. The

first was at a meeting of the International Division. The second presentation was one to which all RSPB staff were invited.)

*By October, 2006:*

*UK training visit by project manager and journey back via East Africa.*

- On October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Daniel arrived at the RSPB headquarters for three weeks of project-related training. He has been meeting with RSPB staff (including staff members involved in this Darwin Initiative project) to, *inter alia*: i) brainstorm ideas about the project; ii) learn about the RSPB's experiences with other international projects (including some supported by the Darwin Initiative); iii) enhance his skills in project management and the training of trainers; and iv) plan training workshops to be held at each project site (for example, training related to socio-economic assessment, project management and ecological monitoring).
- Daniel will travel to Kenya on November the 3<sup>rd</sup> with Andrea Lockwood. Hosted by Nature Kenya (the BirdLife International partner in Kenya), Daniel and Andrea will visit community-based projects implemented by "site-support groups" (SSGs) at Important Bird Areas. Some of these projects have been supported by the Darwin Initiative. They will also attend the annual SSG workshop in order to learn about the experiences of community-based projects at Important Bird Areas throughout Kenya.

**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.**

There are no real problems or unexpected developments to report. However, potential delays in the next six months will be as follows:

- The start-up period at each project site (i.e., the period of time during which BLSA is establishing its presence in each community) has been lengthened so that there is adequate time to engage the three communities appropriately.
- The decision on the third project site will be made in December, 2006. Our project proposal indicates that this site will be in the Eastern Cape. However, we are considering whether it will be more viable for the third site to be in southern KwaZulu-Natal (on the border of the Eastern Cape). The decision about the location of the third site will be based on the conservation needs of the Cape Parrot and its indigenous forest habitat, and on the livelihood needs of the local communities (i.e., we will seek to maximize benefits both in terms of conservation and development).
- Once we have identified the third project site, we will complete recruitment of project coordinators at each site. These project coordinators will be members of the project's advisory group. Once these project coordinators are recruited, we will hold the project start-up meeting and advisory group meeting. This will probably occur in February of 2007. (It is currently scheduled for November of 2006.)
- Training in project management and socio-economic assessment, scheduled for November of 2006, will only take place once project site coordinators have been recruited and appropriate beneficiaries identified at each site (i.e., likely in March of 2007).
- The provisional decision on the fourth project site will likely only be made in March of 2007 due to our current focus on engaging the first three sites.

Paul Buckley continues to manage this project. However, we have taken the opportunity to heavily involve Andrea Lockwood in the management of the project until June 2007. Andrea is at the RSPB on a one-year secondment from Nature Canada, a BirdLife International partner. Andrea coordinates Nature Canada's international programme. The secondment is building her capacity to develop partner support programmes in Latin America, similar to those of the RSPB in other parts of the world.

**Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? NO**

Discussed with the DI Secretariat:	NO, in..... (month/yr)
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	NO, in.....(month/yr)

**3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? NO**

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.**

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, [stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk](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.**