

Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Darwin Project Information

Project Ref Number	15/022
Project Title	Government-civil society partnerships for protected areas in Timor-Leste
Country	Timor-Leste
UK Contract Holder Institution	BirdLife International
UK Partner Institution	n/a
Host country Partner Institutions	Government of Timor-Leste, The National University of Timor-Leste, Santalum and Halarae (NGOs)
Darwin Grant Value	£215,780
Start/End dates of Project	1 May 2006 - 30 April 2009
Reporting period	1 Apr 2007 to 31 Mar 2008, Annual Report 2
Project Leader Name	Roger Safford
Project website	None, but major news on www.birdlife.org
Author, date	Roger Safford (BirdLife, UK) Cathy Molnar (based in Govt of Timor-Leste, liaising with Timorese staff) 29 April 2008

1. Project Background

Timor-Leste, a new country independent since 2002, has no effective Protected Area Network. However, the Government is strongly committed to establishing one, applying best practice under guidance of IUCN Protected Area categories and principles of community-based management to deliver local and national benefits alongside conservation of its biodiversity, and natural and cultural heritage. These principles must be applied to the processes of both establishment of the network, and its management. Several civil society institutions and local communities wish and are well placed to participate in the process, but currently there are no effective mechanisms to facilitate engagement between civil society and Government on Protected Area establishment and management. The project uses the experience of BirdLife International and collaborating organisations to develop Government-civil society partnerships as such a mechanism, and facilitate their contribution to establishment and management of a Protected Area Network (PAN) in Timor-Leste.

Timor-Leste has remained a challenging country to work in. The report needs to be read with the following events in mind.

1. Following disturbances in March 2007, the PAN Advisor returned to her post in early April and no further evacuations were necessary in the reporting year.
2. Presidential and parliamentary elections were held in mid 2007, and a new government formed in August. Government was restructured, and for some months it was uncertain where the Department of Protected Areas and National Parks (DPANP) would be based, and therefore who had decision-making authority.
3. The security situation from March to September 2007 was very delicate, and many NGOs suspended programmes throughout the period.
4. The attempted assassination of the President and Prime Minister in February 2008 was a further setback but did not result in severe breakdown of law and order.
5. Many people, including some government staff in Dili who work on the project, remain in Internally Displaced Persons camps.

6. Basic infrastructure remains very poor with frequent, long power cuts and energy rationing, even in government offices in Dili.

As last year, consequences were a slowing of progress overall, and ongoing (or increasing) difficulty in developing partnerships between Government and Civil Society partners. The foremost approach to solving these difficulties is to set priorities and realistic goals, building systemic capacity at all levels and working with other institutions such as UNDP with more resources to do this. This is reflected in the proposals in preparation under output 5, and in the planning for the remainder of the Darwin project.

For year 3, no change to logframe outputs 1-5 is needed. However, some activities are delayed to year 3, and a few suggested to be deleted (seen most clearly in Annex 1). The same applies to standard output measures (Table 2). We propose (and seek approval) to assess these, together with the currently planned year 3 activities and output measures, in relation to reviewers' comments on this report and the imminent mid-term review, and submit to ECTF/DEFRA a revised final year activity schedule and standard output list (?June, but earlier if preferred by ECTF/DEFRA).

2. Project Partnerships

Government — The key partner in Timor-Leste is the DPANP, National Directorate of Forestry, in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF), located in the capital, Dili. BirdLife continues to support a Protected Area Network (PAN) Advisor, Cathy Molnar, based in DPANP. The Partnerships with government have remained strong and productive, as last year, with even the President contributing a foreword to one biodiversity publication (see 8).

CBD and GEF Focal Points — Following Timor-Leste's accession to the CBD in January 2007, the project quickly made links with the CBD Focal Point, Sr Augusto Pinto in the National Directorate for Environmental Management, part of the Secretariat of State for Environmental Coordination, Territorial Ordering and Physical Development, directly under the Prime Minister. The project also worked with GEF Operational Focal Point, Sr Carlos Ximenes. These initiatives have also resulted in better communication with the very important Secretariat of State, which is outside MAF. They were particularly engaged through development of an application to the UNDP/GEF/UNOPS global project *Supporting Country Action for the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas*; both focal points approved this (see output 5). Through the same process, the UNDP country office was well engaged, an important step because UNDP has a wide-ranging environmental program in Timor-Leste and is the main supporting agency for policy-level implementation of CBD and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Timorese civil society — involving these stakeholders is an explicit objective of the project and is therefore covered under 3 (Project Progress).

Regional partnerships — BirdLife remains the only international NGO directly supporting terrestrial biodiversity conservation in Timor-Leste. It is using its contacts to form regional partnerships with individuals and organisations with appropriate experience closer to hand than UK. These include Charles Darwin University (Northern Territory, Australia), especially C.R. Trainor, and other experts on biodiversity in the Wallacea region, such as Dr Ian Cowie of the Northern Territory herbarium (Australia) and I W. Mudita of Nusa Cendana University (Kupang, in Indonesian west Timor). Indonesian specialists in Protected Areas in the Moluccas and Lesser Sundas (including those who worked there as BirdLife staff) have also been involved, and one visited to assess and advise on PA management planning. Progress with the marine component of the first National Park (outside the boundaries of the Darwin project, but assisted by an Australian consortium), has been slower than the terrestrial side, but communication continues between the Darwin project and those involved in Timor.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

1. Government-civil society partnerships developed and working effectively

The main activities towards this output have been:

- Frequent (almost daily) discussions between the Protected Area Network (PAN) Advisor and the DPANP as well as higher (up to Minister) levels in MAF
- meetings between visiting specialists and all Timorese partner institutions
- recommendations on project governance from management and livelihoods specialists

- draft Terms of References for steering and working groups exchanged between BirdLife, PAN Advisor and Timorese staff of Government of Timor-Leste, but not finalised.

2. Location and conservation requirements of priority sites for protected area establishment determined, building on preliminary surveys and assessments already carried out.

Production of the Key Sites Directory formed a set of activities, and was far from simple. Languages chosen by Timorese audiences were Indonesian (the most widely spoken technical language) and English, and so the book is bilingual. A first draft was prepared and translated, and then a format developed, noting the difference in length of equivalent text between English and Indonesian. Modifications were made by both Indonesian and English speakers, which needed to be integrated, translated as appropriate, and both language texts harmonised. The same process was needed for proof stage corrections. The result was very pleasing and a tribute to the attention to detail of the UK (BirdLife), Timorese (DPANP) and Indonesian (Rudyanto, then of BirdLife in Indonesia) staff concerned.

To build capacity and regional partnerships in support of this output, a visit was arranged to Northern Territory, Australia, for two Timorese staff on the DPANP accompanied by the PAN Advisor, to learn about botanical specimen curation and identification, and vegetation survey by scientific institutions in Northern Territory: the Northern Territory Herbarium, Land and Vegetation Dept and Biodiversity Conservation Dept. The plan for the visit was developed jointly between UK, Timor and Australian staff; it was much valued by the Timorese, and relationships developed are likely to be a great value in future, as this is the closest centre of biodiversity expertise to Timor-Leste.

Colin Trainor visited to plan the biodiversity surveys and training programmes, to contribute to the detailed site profiles and identify priority sites for profiling. A database was established to house the existing and future biodiversity data. Fieldwork began in April 2008, and a first phase successfully carried out. I W. Mudita of Kupang visited to assess the needs for vegetation survey in the new national park. Further work by both these specialists will take place later in 2008.

3. Management guidelines including strong local community involvement developed and being implemented in first protected area, and proposed for additional areas.

The main work under this output was to ensure the declaration of the first National Park, a milestone repeatedly delayed by political factors, and again threatened by the situation in mid 2007. Frequent interventions were necessary, which took up much of the PAN Advisor's time and often required rapid inputs from BirdLife, for example regarding the content of the Declaration itself. The declaration was published on 1 August; the original and a translation are attached.

To move toward long-term management planning, input in several fields of expertise are needed, especially: socio-cultural survey, socio-economic survey, vegetation survey and mapping, livelihoods development and information management. To begin to meet these needs, visits to Timor-Leste by international experts including a protected area management specialist to develop a process for management planning, a socio-economist with special expertise in livelihoods to assess livelihoods options and the capacity of partners to deliver them, and a plant mapping specialist to review available information on land cover to inform management.

4. National awareness, especially in civil society organisations, for conservation and sustainable natural resource management through protected areas is increased

Detailed discussions were held with one local and 4 national NGOs (output 1) so that all are aware of the project and the potential to participate in the national park programme. The declaration of the new National Park was marked by a strong media campaign, with press releases issued in Timor-Leste, UK and Australia. A launch was also held for the key biodiversity sites book, led by the Minister (MAF) and well attended by the Press, following a national press release.

5. Concept developed for long-term funding to establish and manage Protected Area Network, and other donor interest developed

Following ratification of the CBD, and recognising the opportunities this brings, the project made contact with GEF and CBD focal points, and with the UNDP/GEF/UNOPS office (Bratislava) managing the global project *Supporting Country Action on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas*. This resulted in a proposal under the CBD project for an (obligatory) initial study, which is currently

approved (April 2008) but in contract negotiation. Engagement with UNDP on this and other MEA-related matters continues, much reinforced by the introduction provided by this proposal.

Timing and manner of implementation.

As last year, activities have followed plans as conditions have allowed. The two major milestones hoped for — declaration of the first National Park and publication of the Key Sites directory — were passed. The main delayed activities were the longer consultations and training inputs in connection with management planning. The biological surveys have now begun, with a second visit to follow in 2008; socio-economic surveys will be part of the planning process in 2008-9.

3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

1. Government-civil society partnerships developed and working effectively:

Progress in developing partnerships has been introduced under 2 above. Developing government-civil society partnerships has been particularly difficult under conditions of political instability. However, five NGOs, as well as the University, have continued to be involved and participating in surveys and other project events. The most relevant national NGOs (those focusing on forestry and environmentally sustainable development; there are no NGOs focused in biodiversity *per se*) are now engaged in the project: in addition to Santalum and Halarae, named in the proposal, the project has had discussions with Haburas and Permatil (national NGOs), and Natureza, a local NGO in the area of the first National Park.

Formalising the creation of steering and advisory groups, necessary to achieve the indicators for this output, is accepted in principle by national stakeholders, but has not proven possible under the political climate this year. Discussions have stalled for a range of reasons, including mutual mistrust and uncertainty over who has authority to act. In the absence of such groups, the project has been guided by high-level government officials and through meetings with NGO leaders; the groups are very much needed, in order to gain consensus rather than fragmentary and uncoordinated advice, and because the first National Park has been established as an IUCN Management Category V Protected Area and so clearly needs well-linked national and local institutions to ensure effective management. This is a priority, and challenge, for the final year.

2. Location and conservation requirements of priority sites for protected area establishment determined, building on preliminary surveys and assessments already carried out.

The Directory of Key Sites for Biodiversity Conservation was published in 2007 as the book *Important Bird Areas in Timor-Leste*, with authorship including 4 Timorese, all providing significant inputs in the field and to the book content. All available information on biodiversity, including forest cover, was taken into account, but only on birds are the biogeography and systematics sufficiently well understood to make comparisons across the country. The book was designed and edited in UK, led by Mike Crosby following established BirdLife models, with overall management of the process by Roger Safford. It therefore represents a very successful case of UK expertise guiding and facilitating a process with Timorese and other appropriate international input. It was extremely well received, being one of extremely few books ever written specifically about Timor-Leste (and most such books concern colonial history). It is to be made available also in pdf format.

Consultation among Timorese and international biodiversity specialists concerning identified and potential Key Sites led to the identification of six sites for further investigation. These include the three sites in the E that now compose Nino Konis Santana National Park. Fieldwork to fill information gaps at these sites is underway at the time of writing.

3. Management guidelines including strong local community involvement developed and being implemented in first protected area, and proposed for additional areas.

Following declaration of the first protected area (a purpose level indicator), a programme began with a view to refining the Conservation Proposal (last year's output), to provide interim management guidelines in a form also appropriate for publication and international dissemination (as also recommended in the review of AR1). This work began with visits to Timor-Leste by three international experts (see 3.1) whose work will be integrated to produce the publishable management document.

4. National awareness, especially in civil society organisations, for conservation and sustainable natural resource management through protected areas is increased.

Awareness has been greatly increased throughout Timorese society, particularly by the strong publicity surrounding the National Park declaration and the Key Sites Directory launch. Work will continue to try to achieve the desired inclusion of PA work in other institutional programmes (i.e. mainstreaming of protected areas), as well as achieving more collaboration in the final year of the Darwin project; Government is planning a Park declaration ceremony (made impossible in 2007 by political factors) which provides an excellent advocacy opportunity.

5. Concept developed for long-term funding to establish and manage Protected Area Network, and other donor interest developed.

BirdLife's knowledge of CBD processes has helped the Government to apply for funding under the UNDP/GEF/UNOPS project *Supporting Country Action on the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas*, and successfully, at least for the initial study phase. This presents an opportunity for Timor-Leste to develop its PAN in a systemic way, and improve PAs functioning at national and local levels as sites in a network.

Funding has been secured by Government from AusAID to develop Protected Area policy and legislation; this will go to tender, and BirdLife is investigating eligibility, possibly as part of a consortium. The Government of Timor-Leste has endorsed UNDP to assist it to seek funding for a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. BirdLife is assisting, through the PAN advisor, in all these processes. Other funding leads are being pursued with a European Foundation with a special interest in Timor Leste; see section 6 regarding a possible Darwin post-project funding application.

3.3 Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	TOTAL
4A	15 undergraduates receive training	-	-			-
4B	12 weeks training provided	-	-			-
4C	5 postgraduates receive training	-	-			-
4D	12 weeks training provided	-	-			-
6A	15 people receiving other forms of training (Govt and NGO staff)	2	4			6
6B	12 weeks training provided	1	2			3
7	6 training manuals produced for use in Timor-Leste	-	-			-
8	20 weeks spent by UK project staff in Timor-Leste	3	4			7
11B	2 papers to be submitted to peer-reviewed journals	-	-			-
12A	1 computer based database to be established and handed over to the host country (Timor Leste biodiversity sites database)	-	1			1
14A	3 conferences/seminars/ workshops to be organised to present/disseminate findings	-	1			-
14B	2 conferences/seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/	2	2			4

	disseminated					
15A	3 national press releases in host country	-	2			-
15C	3 national press releases in UK	-	1			-
18A	9 national TV programmes/features in host country	-	2			-
19A	9 national radio interviews/features in host country	-	2			-
19C	18 local radio interviews/features in host country	-	-			-
20	£5200 worth of physical assets to be handed over to host country (Fauna and flora survey equipment, personal field equipment, laptop & desktop computers, laser printer; value as new)	£2,250	£1,685			£3,935
23	£68,317 worth of resources raised from other sources (i.e. in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	£30,200	£13,329			£43,529
New	National Directory of Key Sites for Biodiversity Conservation published and disseminated	-	✓			✓
New	Detailed site profiles published and launched	-	-			-
New	Field Guides to Birds of Timor-Leste disseminated	-	-			-
New	Management guidelines for new protected areas published and disseminated	-	-			-

Table 2 Publications

Type	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
Book, in English and Indonesian hard copy sent	<i>Important Bird Areas in Timor-Leste</i> . C.R. Trainor, F. Santana, Rudyanto, A.F. Xavier, P. Pinto, G. Fernandes da Oliveira (2007)	BirdLife International	On sale from Natural History Book Service www.nhbs.org.uk	£15
Magazine pdf attached	A young nation protects its natural riches. <i>World Birdwatch</i> , March 2008, pp 14-16. By Nick Langley, based on telephone interviews with Government staff.	BirdLife International	BirdLife International (pdf from project leader)	-
Web news story pdf attached	Timor-Leste (formerly East Timor) declares first national park ¹	BirdLife International	www.birdlife.org , story still available in news archive	-
www site ²	"Datazone" of www.birdlife.org : data sheets for species and sites in Timor-Leste (latest information added for 2008 update)	BirdLife International	open access website, updated and to be launched May 08	-

Notes¹http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2007/08/timor-leste_np.html

²updated Red List with datasheets including Darwin project information is to be launched on 19 May 2008, and so is not available at time of writing.

3.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

The project purpose is *Government-civil society partnerships contribute to establishment and management of a Protected Area Network in Timor-Leste*. The two components of the purpose are the outcomes: establishment of the PAN, and development of Govt-Civil Society partnerships.

The indicator for the first outcome is "one or more PAs formally declared". The first National Park for Timor-Leste was declared on 1 August, published in the Government Gazette (attached as MoV; in Portuguese). Nino Konis Santana National Park protects and connects three of the 16 Key Sites. Much effort is now needed to make management successful and sustainable, and it is unlikely that more Protected Areas will be declared before the Darwin Project is complete.

Govt-Civil Society partnerships are more problematic; collaboration is occurring, but permanent working partnerships have not been established. This should remain an important target for the final year, with the creation of multi-stakeholder frameworks on Park management the key, to back up the more informal collaboration.

Concerning assumptions, CBD ratification has been completed, but policy and legislation have not although AusAID funding has now been secured to rectify this; perhaps surprisingly, neither was integral to achieving the purpose indicators as they stand. However, the value of CBD ratification and legislation/policy are more in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the PAN, as is also the case of the government-civil society Partnerships. Therefore, there might have been an indicator of "significant progress towards financial sustainability for the PAN", verified by "ongoing funding raised and potentially sustainable funding sources identified", and backed by the existing assumptions.

3.5 Progress towards impact on biodiversity, sustainable use or equitable sharing of biodiversity benefits

The resolution to establish the National Park (attached) includes prohibitions of various damaging activities (Article 7) and conditions for the operation of any large-scale developments that might take place in the Park area with an overriding national importance (Articles 9-10). The site is now generally seen as off-limits to damaging developments, despite many being proposed elsewhere, although a long-established plan for an underground hydro power development in a cave system inside the Park remains in preparation, and its impact is still being assessed. No major biodiversity loss is suspected in the last year in the Park, although local infractions occur. Development and implementation of a full management plan, and monitoring of its impacts, is needed to demonstrate conservation impact; progress but not completion are expected in the final year of the project. Concerning sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing, visiting specialists have begun assessing the needs and developing a programme to replace unsustainable uses while offering more sustainable livelihoods options and reducing costs stemming from conservation and sustainable use.

4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

This is largely covered in section 3, with comments on the validity of process indicators also in last year's report. As noted last year, indicators are simple, objective and easily verifiable, including government decisions, membership of working groups, inclusion of certain provisions in management plans, and publications. Those achieved have included the Key Biodiversity Sites book, and the Declaration of the first National Park.

The project has continued to learn lessons, and to use those from last year, in implementing projects in post-conflict states. Much liaison work and support to the PAN Advisor was needed throughout, and again it was clear that such support, rather than temporary abandonment (as some other organisations opted for), is crucial. The development of Government-civil society partnerships suffered further setbacks with the political events of 2007 and early 2008; when organisations' main concern is to maintain their internal cohesion, they may not view building external partnerships as a high priority even if this may be essential to achieving their long-term goals. In 2008-9 we will integrate this into the process of management planning for the park, for which a visiting specialist developed a flowchart for park management that includes the development of partnerships by "focusing discussion to define

management plan objectives, establish appropriate institutions (national and local), and share roles among stakeholders".

5. Actions taken in response to previous reviews

The review was provided to the Timorese counterparts who appreciated the reviewer's praise for their achievements. The reviewer's comments are repeated below, with actions taken.

Emphasise and document work with local NGOs and community organisations in Timor-Leste

Close records are being kept of the involvement of local and national NGOs, and emphasising and strengthening this aspect of the project is one of the highest priorities for the final year, with a view to increasing support to civil society in future.

Annual Report 2 (AR2) should document the way that UK expertise is being used

BirdLife's UK expertise comes in three main forms.

- the UK office provides constant advice through daily correspondence by phone and email to the PAN Advisor, and occasional visits to Timor-Leste, including several staff (not only the Project Leader) with long experience of project and programme management in challenging conditions, linked to a large network of others with more such experience. It also supports through staff highly experienced in information management and presentation (for example the Key Sites directory), Communications (press releases and web stories) and Finance and Administration (project management and accounting systems).
- Second, the PAN advisor, based in Timor for much of the period since 2000 and now supported and advised in a full time post by BirdLife, works in Government but also has close contact with national and international civil society organisations. As a foreigner, she avoids some ethnic or political barriers that nationals may face in linking stakeholders and activities.
- Third, visiting specialists from the BirdLife network visit Timor under consultancy agreements to work on agreed aspects: management planning, livelihoods, vegetation mapping and biodiversity survey. The project has facilitated network development in the region, not simply with the UK, engaging expertise from Australia and Indonesia as well as countries further afield; further contacts have also been made through the IUCN network and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). BirdLife is the only international conservation NGO active in Timor-Leste, and its role in fostering these links is crucial.

Skills transfer takes place in several ways. Most often, direct interaction is between Timorese and the PAN Advisor through discussion and joint planning. Documents are developed by participation in drafting and exchange by email; the Key Sites Directory is an example, exchanged in draft and first and second proof stages in electronic format, allowing all staff to contribute and comment on drafts and on each other's ideas, the first time they had done this. Specialist visits have included group and individual meetings, workshops and formal training sessions in Dili and the field.

Links with the Birdlife-managed DI projects 14-042 and 15-030

Two meetings have been held with the Project Leaders of BirdLife's Darwin projects including those above. The weakness of civil society organisations may be a constraint on shared activities, but areas for lesson sharing have been found, in addition to closer consultation on general project management issues. The design of the Key Sites Directory for Timor-Leste was used to inform the similar guide currently in preparation for Palau under project 15-030 (and in turn, the Timor guide drew on lessons from Fiji BSAP project 11-022). The CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas is of prime importance to project 14-042, and consultation with this project has been important in development of the Timor-Leste concept, with a useful meeting between the CBD Focal Point and staff of project 14-042 at the CBD *Working Group on Protected Areas* meeting in Rome, Feb 2008. The guide to the CBD prepared under the same project will be of great use in Timor-Leste, for government as well as NGOs, and the possibility of its translation is being investigated.

Impact and legacy through institutional and human capacity building as well as funding the PAN

We agree with this recommendation. The PAN is important, but for it to be sustainable, individual and institutional capacity must be developed, with special attention to civil society. The head of BirdLife's Asia Division, Ms Cristi Nozawa (also regional vice-chair of WCPA), is well engaged in this project, and

will visit Timor shortly (with the project leader) to assess needs in this respect, noting that BirdLife is primarily a network of national NGOs and is well qualified in this area. Conclusions will be reported in the final report.

Lessons learnt on “Protected Areas” and “Conservation of Biodiversity in Post-Conflict States”

This remains under discussion for the final year of the project. Important lessons are being learnt, and outputs on these themes are indeed likely, in addition to the 2008 *World Birdwatch* article (Table 2).

6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Despite the challenges faced, the design of the project has not been significantly altered. A small funding carry-over was requested and agreed, resulting from illness of the PAN advisor and her enforced absence for treatment in Australia, and postponement of a biodiversity survey programme from March 2008 into April (the visit has now taken place in April 2008). Difficulties encountered during the year have been discussed above. The project faces the risk of further unrest which can halt activities completely, or slow it down seriously over a longer period.

After two years, with substantial setbacks caused by suspensions of in-country activity in 2006 and further slow-downs in 2007-8, the project has remained productive. We would like to consult DEFRA on ETCF regarding the appropriateness of an application for **Darwin Post-Project Funding** for 2009-2011, in order to maximise the results of the project, strengthen its impact and legacy and further embed results by contributing to development of the long-term management plan for the first Park, and strengthening the engagement of civil society groups in this process. Arguably the activities we are considering represent "slippage" and could be deemed ineligible, but the delays are not caused by management inefficiency, and the success achieved demonstrates effective use of available time and resources.

7. Sustainability

Elements of sustainable were enumerated in AR1 and remain valid. National awareness is good; the enthusiastic Timorese contributions to dissemination of information (see 8 below), and the strong ownership to the project outputs and surveys, clearly show increasing interest and capacity for biodiversity resulting from the project. CBD implementation is in its earliest stages in Timor-Leste, and will need much more support; the exit strategy for this project is satisfactory, with reinforced Government commitment, funding strategy and applications, and initial site priority-setting likely to be in place for future efforts. All efforts must be made to build capacity and national partnerships, and to convince other agencies to mainstream protected areas into their work areas; these would provide the best basis for sustaining project outputs, outcomes and impacts.

8. Dissemination

The Protected Areas programme is a good-news story for Timor Leste, supported by (opposing) governments before and after the elections. It has achieved much positive coverage in the national media, with two press releases from Government widely used, maps from the Key Sites Directory published in newspapers, and even IUCN protected areas categories discussed in the unlikeliest places (see *World Birdwatch* article). The press releases announcing Park declaration were picked up world-wide on websites and in newspapers (Associated Press and AFP took the story, taking it to many newspapers worldwide including the *Independent on Sunday*). The Minister spoke strongly of the importance of work at the launch of the Key Sites Directory; the event was covered on Timorese TV, radio and newspapers, with the map of key sites made reproduced in several places. President José Ramos-Horta provided a Foreword to the *Guide to the Birds of Timor-Leste*, which has been produced in Indonesian, English and Portuguese.

A larger ceremony for the Park Declaration was postponed but is planned again for mid 2008; strong efforts must be made to use this to engage other agencies (mainstreaming, see 7 above). The capacity built in government through organisation of the above events and releases, and the strong media interest, suggest that it will not be hard to ensure continued dissemination after the project is complete.

9. Project Expenditure

Table 3 Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)

Item	Budget (modified from original proposal and approved, March 2007)	Expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs (eg postage, telephone, stationery)			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment			
Others			
Salaries (specify)			
TOTAL			

*Salary contributions for Roger Safford, Richard Grimmett, Mike Crosby, Cathy Molnar and consultants were close to budget, subject to the budget carry-over (below).

A request for carry over of £3000, explaining expected underspends, was submitted to DEFRA in March 2008 and quickly approved. Briefly, Printing, conferences/seminars and travel underspends resulted from illness of the PAN advisor and postponement of a biodiversity survey and training visit. The underspend is reallocated to 2008-9 as £1,500 for staff costs, and £750 each for printing and conferences/seminars. The total budget for the final year is therefore £80,638.

When this carry-forward is applied to the 2007-8 budget, expenditure on all budget lines is close to the reduced budget and no overspend on any line is >10%.

10. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

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

The declaration of the first National Park for Timor-Leste, following international best practice for an IUCN Category 5 Protected Area, is an outstanding achievement. To have done this despite the challenging conditions, and sticking to the many important principles involved in establishing this type of Protected Area, is a tribute to the determination of a new nation to preserve its natural and cultural heritage, and to the power of the sometimes maligned Protected Area concept. Publicity for this might be combined with the multilingual publications, among the first books specifically on Timor-Leste in any language: the Key Sites Directory, and (World Bank funded) *Guide to the Birds of Timor-Leste*.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2007/08

Activities are those in the rescheduled list approved by DEFRA in March 2007, rather than those in the original proposal, with one additional activity marked with *, proposed in AR1.

Comment repeated from section 1: No change to outputs is needed. However, some activities are delayed to year 3, and a few suggested to be deleted. The same applies to standard output measures (Table 2). We propose to assess these, and the currently planned year 3 activities, in relation to reviewers' comments on this report, and submit to ECTF/DEFRA a revised final year activity and standard output list when the review is received (?May/June, but earlier if preferred by ECTF/DEFRA).

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>		Forest, wetland and coastal & marine zone of the Lore-Mount Paitchau-Lake Iralalero-Jaco Island areas protected in Nino Konis Santana National Park.	<i>(do not fill not applicable)</i>
<p><i>Purpose</i> Government-civil society partnerships contribute to establishment and management of a Protected Area Network in Timor-Leste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One or more PAs formally declared - PA(s) managed under joint Govt-civil society framework including formal representation of local communities 	First Protected Area declared. Collaboration or involvement of 5 national or local NGOs and university, but formal Partnerships to be developed. All assumptions holding.	Develop and agree formal proposals on NGO and university roles, and formalise partnerships through concrete activities under Park management planning process.
Output 1. Government-civil society partnerships developed and working effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Steering Committee, National Working Group (wider ToR and membership), and Local Advisory Committees established with formal Local community involvement - All groups meeting regularly, with decreasing external facilitation - Partnership roles for NGOs and universities determined 	Govt-BirdLife Partnership is strong. Govt (MAF) - local community relations are good but remain sensitive. Govt-NGO partnership (<i>Santalum</i> and <i>Halarae</i> continuing, new discussions with <i>Haburas</i> , <i>Permatil</i> and <i>Natureza</i>) through involvement in planning and/or biological surveys. Indicators remain appropriate and the assumption (Government and Civil Society willing to work together) apparently valid; output is challenging but needs to be pursued.	
1.2 Consultation groups (Steering Committee, Working Group, Local Advisory)		Not achieved; consultations have remained informal, parties lacking confidence to	

established; then, regular (3-6 monthly) meetings of consultation groups throughout		develop formal agreements. Activity carried forward to 2008-9.
1.3 Workshop to define roles of NGOs and university		As above. Activity carried forward to 2008-9.
1.4 Mid-term review		Request to delay to Apr-Jun 2008, when Cristi Nozawa will visit Timor Leste to evaluate and develop long term strategy especially for civil society involvement and PA development; given the challenges to in-country activity in 2006-8, this is not far beyond the halfway point of project implementation.
Output 2. Location and conservation requirements of priority sites for protected area establishment determined, building on preliminary surveys and assessments already carried out.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directory of Key Sites for Biodiversity Conservation published, with recommendations for the Protected Area Network - Detailed site profiles including key biodiversity information, with conservation recommendations, published for highest priority sites for Protected Area status - National co-authorship of directory and site profiles 	<p>Good progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Sites Directory published. • Approach for preparation of Detailed Site Profiles agreed, sites determined, plans for visits made. • Directory has 4 Timorese co-authors, all making significant contributions and strong ownership; published in Indonesian which is the most widely spoken international language in Timor-Leste. <p>Further fieldwork and training and production of detailed site profiles planned for 2008-9.</p>
2.6 National Directory of Key Sites for Biodiversity Conservation published and launched		Done
2.7 Site priorities for detailed profiles defined		Done through formal process during visit by C. Trainor.
2.8 Survey plan and protocols developed for site visits to prepare detailed profiles		Done in the form of detailed Terms of Reference and survey plan — all agreed.
2.9 Training delivered in site assessments and data analysis		Delayed from March to April 2008 (when carried out successfully and will be reported in Final Report)
2.10 Collaborative research & site visits with training: surveys of birds, mammals, reptiles and vegetation (site data sheets prepared within 1 month)		Delayed from March to April 2008 (when carried out successfully and will be reported in Final Report); data sheets in preparation at time of writing.
Output 3. Management guidelines including strong local community involvement developed and being implemented in first protected area, and proposed for additional areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidelines available in Timorese languages - National co-authorship of guidelines - Endorsement by local community representatives 	<p>First protected area (Nino Konis Santana National Park) declared.</p> <p>Conservation Proposal (developed last year) reviewed and programme proposed for long-term management planning, with formal output to be published at end of project.</p> <p>Process for establishment of second Protected Area, Tilomar Reserve, placed 'on</p>

	- Guidelines being implemented in first area	hold', to allow emphasis on National Park, and further progress not expected in 2008-9.
3.4 First National Park in Timor Leste declared (ceremony and government resolution)		Declaration process completed and resolution published but ceremony delayed. Extra activity for 2008-9: ceremony to mark declaration of first National Park and engage more supporters and donors.
3.5 Training programmes on community-based PA management and awareness-raising		Delayed to 2008-9. Must be part of management plan development.
3.6 First and second reviews of implementation of National Park management		Review of progress took place Dec 2007 with visits from livelihoods and management planning specialists; on-ground implementation not taking place, because of delays common to all government programmes in 2007, but Park manager identified.
3.7 Socio-economic assessment and consultation at new sites		Not done; necessary emphasis on first Park may make this lower priority, and suggest deletion of this activity; it will be needed in future before progress with additional protected areas can be expected.
3.8 Consultation on appropriate management measures at each site		Not done; necessary emphasis on first Park may make this lower priority, and suggest deletion of this activity; it will be needed in future before progress with additional protected areas can be expected.
3.9 Training to local communities on institutional development and alternative livelihoods		Delayed to 2008-9. Must be part of management plan development.
Output 4. National awareness, especially in civil society organisations, for conservation and sustainable natural resource management through protected areas is increased	- Principles of community-based PA management integrated into strategies/programmes of 2 or more national civil society organisations, and institutions representing all villages within first protected area - Project outputs disseminated	Discussions held but no new programme or strategy documents to demonstrate this form of 'mainstreaming'. Media campaigns for Park declaration and Key Sites Directory launch; copies shipped to Timor, launched and disseminated in Dili; national programme of dissemination to follow.
4.1 Consultation with other institutions in Timor to promote their involvement in Protected Areas programme (*New activity proposed in AR1)		Discussions held with 5 national civil society organisations, all interested in becoming involved in first Park; discussions documented in livelihoods specialist report.
Output 5. Concept developed for long-term funding to establish and manage protected area network, and other	- Concept developed and submitted - Other donor interest developed	Concept developed for a project to implement CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas, submitted to UNOPS/UNDP/GEF and approved; contracting negotiations (Govt-UNOPS) now underway. UNDP Timor-Leste well engaged

donor interest developed		and interested in further supporting PAs. Approaches also made to European Foundations and European Union.
5.1 Targeted site visits with project planning and development workshop and training, donor consultation (in particular GEF)		UNDP Timor-Leste, and CBD and GEF focal points now well engaged; workshops and targeted site visit to take place under 'initial study' phase of UNOPS-UNDP-GEF project and Mid-term Review in 2008-9 .

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<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>Government-civil society partnerships contribute to establishment and management of a Protected Area Network in Timor-Leste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One or more PAs formally declared - PA(s) managed under joint Govt–civil society framework including formal representation of local communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Govt declaration - Management plans and guidelines - participatory management arrangements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Related initiatives to develop legislation and ratify CBD are completed - Govt support for PAs is maintained - govt continues to be supportive of civil society involvement
<p>Outputs</p>			
<p>1. Government-civil society partnerships developed and working effectively</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - National Steering Committee, National Working Group (wider ToR and membership), and Local Advisory Committees established with formal local community involvement - All groups meeting regularly, with decreasing external facilitation - Partnership roles for NGOs and universities determined 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MoUs between main stakeholders - Terms of Reference - Membership lists - Minutes of meetings - agreements and activity reports of NGOs and universities 	<p>Govt and civil society willing to work together</p>

<p>2. Location and conservation requirements of priority sites for protected area establishment determined, building on preliminary surveys and assessments already carried out.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directory of Key Sites for Biodiversity Conservation published, with recommendations for the Protected Area Network - Detailed site profiles including key biodiversity information, with conservation recommendations, published for highest priority sites for Protected Area status - National co-authorship of directory and site profiles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published document in Timorese languages - records of Timorese staff inputs 	<p>Creation of PAs at highest priority sites is not blocked by external factors</p>
<p>3. Management guidelines including strong local community involvement developed and being implemented in first protected area, and proposed for additional areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guidelines available in Timorese languages - National co-authorship of guidelines - Endorsement by local community representatives - Guidelines being implemented in first area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guideline document - Local launch ceremony/declaration for guidelines - Implementation reports of local staff 	<p>Local stakeholders at key sites remain supportive of conservation measures</p>
<p>4. National awareness, especially in civil society organisations, for conservation and sustainable natural resource management through protected areas is increased</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principles of community-based PA management integrated into strategies/programmes of 2 or more national civil society organisations, and institutions representing all villages within first protected area - Project outputs disseminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategy and programme documents of civil society organisations - Project reports indicating engagement of civil society organisations - Circulation lists 	
<p>5. Concept developed for long-term funding to establish and manage protected area network, and other donor interest developed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept developed and submitted - Other donor interest developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Concept submitted by Govt - Correspondence with potential donors 	<p>Timor-Leste eligible for GEF or other major donor funding</p>

Activities	Activity Milestones (*modifications to timings only, as shown in Annex 1)	Assumptions
Seminars, workshops, briefings	Seminars, workshops, briefings for Govt and Civil Society Organisations (local and national). Capacity development plan and methodology developed within 6 months. Training programmes (linked to fieldwork periods, Yrs 1-3) on community-based PA management, biodiversity assessment, awareness-raising, livelihoods and institutional capacity. Partnership roles for NGOs and universities identified Yr 2.	Trainees remain available to apply expertise
Field surveys and research	Gaps in information identified for immediate survey, followed by rapid site assessments to fill information gaps in site directory within 9 months, Yr 1. Survey plan and protocols for more detailed site assessments agreed within 9 months. Collaborative research & site visits: 6-monthly surveys of birds, mammals, reptiles and vegetation; data sheets for each site prepared within 1 month of each visit; Existing material compiled (databases, maps) Yr 1. Site priorities defined Yr 2. Targeted surveys to collect missing data Yr 3.	Human and other resources to carry out surveys available in Timor-Leste
Community consultation and planning	Consultation groups (Steering Committee, Working Group, Local Advisory) established Yr 2; expanded and ToR modified as necessary Yr 3. Local community consultation framework and methodology developed Yr 1. Consultation on appropriate conservation measures at each site combined with surveys. Regular (3-6 monthly) meetings of consultation groups throughout. Training courses linked to site visits.	Traditional and Govt management systems can be reconciled
Publication of materials	Site directory drafted and peer-reviewed nationally and internationally Yr 1, revised, completed and published Yr 2. Detailed site profiles based on site data sheets with introductory text Yr 3 (end of project). Management guidelines for first PA drafted and boundaries (zones and perimeter) proposed Yr 1. Implementation trials for guidelines Yr 3. Refinement of guidelines and further implementation trials Yr 3.	- Evolving land tenure policy compatible with zonation and PA boundary systems. - Resources available for implementation trials.
Long-term funding strategy development	Targeted site visits, project planning workshop, donor consultation (in particular GEF) Yr 2. Preparation of project concept, consolidation of donor interest Yr 3.	Timor-Leste eligible for GEF or other major donor funding

Annex 3 – supplementary material

Attached:

Important Bird Areas in Timor-Leste/Daerah Penting Bagi Burung di Timor-Leste. C.R. Trainor, F. Santana, Rudyanto, A.F. Xavier, P. Pinto, G. Fernandes da Oliveira (2007). BirdLife International (2 hard copies; more available on request)

A young nation protects its natural riches. *World Birdwatch*, March 2008, pp 14-16. By Nick Langley (pdf, with hard copy to Darwin)

Timor-Leste (formerly East Timor) declares first national park.
pdf version, from www.birdlife.org, story still available in news archive

"Datazone" of www.birdlife.org: data sheets for species and sites in Timor-Leste (latest information added for 2008 update) BirdLife International. Open access website, already updated and to be launched 19 May 2008 (not attached; suggested to be consulted after update launched in May)

RESOLUTION NO. 8/2007 Of 1 August, *Creating the Nino Konis Santana National Park*. *Jornal da República* série 1, no. 21, p. 1805-1807. Portuguese original and English translation (pdf).