

## *Darwin Initiative Annual Report*

### Darwin Project Information

Project Ref Number	15030
Project Title	Strengthening scientific capacity of conservation NGOs working with the CBD
Country(ies)	Bolivia, Botswana, Lebanon, Nepal, Palau, Russia and various partners in the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Pacific
UK Contract Holder Institution	BirdLife International
UK Partner Institution(s)	n/a
Host country Partner Institution(s)	Armonia (Bolivia), BirdLife Botswana, Society for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources in Lebanon (SPNL), Bird Conservation Nepal (BCN), Palau Conservation Society (PCS), Russian Bird Conservation Union (RBCU)
Darwin Grant Value	£136,950
Start/End dates of Project	August 2006 – July 2009
Reporting period	1 April 2007 – 31 March 2008, Annual Report 2
Project Leader Name	Leon Bennun
Project website	see <a href="http://www.birdlife.org">www.birdlife.org</a> , <a href="http://www.birdlifenepal.org">www.birdlifenepal.org</a>
Author(s), date	Alison Stattersfield, 16 May 2008 with input from host country coordinators and members of UK team

### 1. Project Background

This project is assisting national conservation NGOs in developing countries to contribute to the implementation and impact of the CBD by **strengthening their scientific capacity**. It is designed to capitalise on BirdLife International's unique Partnership structure, extensive datasets, and long experience in providing relevant information to decision-makers. Initial training centres on staff from six BirdLife Partner Organisations. These individuals in turn train staff within their organisations and from other national NGOs within their region, facilitating collective lesson-learning across the BirdLife Partnership in the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. The project has four main components: 1) **Training** via science internships to enhance knowledge and skills in priority data-gathering and analyses; 2) **Demonstration Projects** linking scientific results to policy mechanisms to improve the implementation of the CBD; 3) **Sharing experience** in developing national, regional and global conservation datasets and information; and 4) **Communicating** through a variety of different outputs to reach key target audiences.

## 2. Project Partnerships

During this second year of the project, the UK and host country teams have continued to work closely together. Specifically, four internships have been held at the BirdLife Secretariat offices in Cambridge and four regional meetings have been jointly attended. This face-to-face contact has helped to coordinate the work in addition to regular e-mail exchange, and kept the momentum going on individual projects.

The UK team has continued to build its own capacity as a project partner by sharing experiences with other BirdLife staff also coordinating Darwin Projects. During the year, two meetings were held at the BirdLife Secretariat to discuss progress, challenges, budgeting and reporting between four BirdLife/Darwin projects (14042 'Supporting southern conservation NGOs to work with the CBD; 14044 'Building a bird conservation and environmental network in China'; 15022 'Government-civil society partnerships for protected areas in Timor-Leste'; and this project).

On 20<sup>th</sup> June, UK team member, Alison Stattersfield, attended a Darwin Workshop in London which provided a timely opportunity to meet key Darwin Secretariat staff and fellow Darwin Project Leaders/Coordinators, and learn more about the Darwin Initiative firsthand, most usefully on aspects relating to project management, reporting and evaluation. Also, during 9<sup>th</sup>–13<sup>th</sup> July, she attended the second (CBD) meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-2) in Paris. This was helpful in improving understanding of how the project might directly support the needs of host-country Governments, specifically in contributing to 4<sup>th</sup> National Reports and the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the CBD's periodic report on biodiversity, Global Biodiversity Outlook.

The project has a particularly strong programmatic link to the BirdLife Darwin Project 14042 'Supporting southern conservation NGOs to work with the CBD'. As noted in the review of our Annual Report 1, "the ultimate barrier to delivering the [science] project targets remains the potential for NGOs to increase limited participation in international policy development, even with an increased scientific capacity". Thus we are keen to feed off the experiences of the previous project, and the two project coordinators (Alison Stattersfield and Muhtari Aminu-Kano) have been working closely together on this issue (e.g. attending CBD meetings, planning internship programmes, exchanging information).

In relation to the CBD itself, the original project proposal highlighted the importance of liaison with the CBD national focal points. A good example this year of progress on this front comes from BirdLife Botswana: they have continued to build on the relationship established last year and has been approached to provide technical input to Botswana's 4<sup>th</sup> National Report. They are particularly interested in a Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism initiative that has recently been instigated by their Department of Environmental Affairs, to which they would like to contribute. In addition, they have secured funds to enable a staff member to participate at the forthcoming CBD CoP9 and are in dialogue with their Government delegation regarding areas where they might contribute their expertise. BCN has also worked hard to maintain regular contact with their CBD focal point but note that these efforts have been somewhat thwarted owing to the rapid turn-over of focal points in their country.

### 3. Project progress

#### 3.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

##### **Output 1. Staff of national NGOs improve their skills in data-gathering & analysis**

*Internships:* The second intern—Lukes Isechal/PCS—was hosted at the BirdLife Secretariat Office in Cambridge 18<sup>th</sup> August–8<sup>th</sup> September at the same time as Elizabeth Matthews/PCS, an intern from the BirdLife Darwin Project 14042 ‘Supporting southern conservation NGOs to work with the CBD’. For the science internship, we organised a training programme relevant to PCS’s Demonstration Project on Important Bird Areas (IBAs), including the use of GIS to map IBA boundaries, how to identify marine IBAs, and protocols for setting up a monitoring framework for IBAs. We also provided input and guidance to the drafting of a “Directory of IBAs in Palau” (see Scientific reports below). For the latter, PCS drew on the experiences of other BirdLife Darwin projects that have also produced IBA directories (namely, 15022 ‘Government-civil society partnerships for protected areas in Timor-Leste’ and 15019 ‘Community-based conservation groups at Fiji’s key conservation sites’).

The third intern—Kabelo Senyatso/BirdLife Botswana—was hosted 10<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> September. The focus of this internship was on developing skills in technical report writing and data analysis. During this time, we worked together (also with the RSPB) to ‘Africanise’ guidelines for establishing bird population monitoring (see Scientific reports below), based on work already underway in Europe and building on BirdLife Botswana’s experiences of gathering data on ‘Birds of Concern’. As a result of his experiences, Kabelo plans to organise a training session for the rest of the BirdLife Botswana staff during 2008 (funds are currently being sought for this).

The fourth intern—Nada Farah/SPNL—was hosted 25<sup>th</sup> October–7<sup>th</sup> November. The emphasis this time was on how to enter inventory and monitoring data on IBAs into BirdLife’s new web-based database (see Datasets below). An introduction was also given to Google Earth and digitization techniques.

The fifth intern—Dev Ghimire/BCN—was hosted 2<sup>nd</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> March. For this we organised a comprehensive training programme covering all aspects of IBA conservation from scientific data collection and analysis including monitoring, through to national policy and advocacy work (see information sent separately on CD [Docs 1,2,3]; also Annex 3).

*Other training:* Following her internship, Nada Farah, attended an IBA monitoring workshop in Azraq Nature Reserve, Jordan, 7<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup> November, supported by UK team member, Mike Evans. In addition, Shree Ram/BCN was funded to attend a workshop in Mumbai, 29<sup>th</sup> February–5<sup>th</sup> March organised by the RSPB Darwin Project 14041 ‘Strengthening the Indian Bird Conservation Network to Safeguard Key Sites’. The focus of this workshop was to share experiences of Local Conservation Groups (LCGs) and to examine the potential for emerging legislation for Community Conservation Areas in several Asian countries—an approach to site management being promoted under the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas.

*IBA toolkit.* In 2007, the BirdLife Secretariat undertook a major piece of work to develop a dedicated ‘IBA toolkit’ to provide background materials and guidance for BirdLife Partners (see [www.birdlife.org/ibas/](http://www.birdlife.org/ibas/); also acknowledgement to Darwin at the bottom of the home page), and to ensure easier continuity in the event of staff turnover. During their internships, Lukes, Nada and Dev tested the toolkit and provided valuable feedback and suggestions for its improvement. The toolkit provides information on all aspects of IBA conservation from identification and monitoring to advocacy, and building support and creating alliances.

*E group:* All the host country coordinators have joined the BirdLife ‘Extranet’ ([www.birdlife.net](http://www.birdlife.net), but note that this is a private site for staff only with password protection) and have access to documents and discussions forums, including on ‘Citizen science projects’, ‘IBA conservation’, ‘Information management’, and ‘Policy and advocacy’.

## **Output 2. Scientific information from demonstration projects linked to policy mechanisms is produced**

*Data sets:* Data sets continue to be developed and improved at national and global levels. For example, SPNL has invested considerable effort in revising the data for most of its declared IBAs in the new BirdLife web-based IBA database (work started during the internship; see [www.globalconservation.info/wbdb](http://www.globalconservation.info/wbdb), but note that access to this database is restricted; outputs included on CD [Docs 4,5,6]) and have established monitoring baselines for 11 of these IBAs. In addition, SPNL is the first BirdLife Partner in the Middle East region to collect data on three LCGs (known as 'himas' in the region). Similarly, BCN have entered data on 27 IBAs and LCGs and PCS are also working on their IBA dataset. At the global level, during 2007, the UK team coordinated a major review of the status of the world's birds (results to be released as part of the 2008 IUCN Red List on 19 May 2008; see [www.birdlife.org/news/news/2008/04/redlist\\_teaser.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2008/04/redlist_teaser.html)).

*Scientific reports* (see Table 2): Three key publications have advanced this year: (1) "Important Bird Areas in Palau: protecting Palau's natural heritage" which Lukes Isechal/PCS worked on during her internship (see CD [Doc 7]); (2) "Guidelines for the development of Common Bird Monitoring in Africa" (see CD [Doc 8]) produced by Kabelo Senyatso/BB during his internship (and circulated to >20 other African partners); and (3) a global report entitled "State of the world's birds 2008" coordinated by the UK team with global, regional and national case studies (including one produced by Melvin Gastanaga and Dev Ghimire during their internships). In addition, BirdLife Botswana has submitted four abstracts on their scientific work to the forthcoming Pan African Ornithological Congress, 7<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> September 2008, and they plan to develop some of these into peer-reviewed papers. SPNL (with Arocha Lebanon) are also planning to publish an updated version of the IBA booklet for Lebanon and are working on some scientific papers relating to their IBA research.

## **Output 3. Lessons learned in developing & analysing conservation datasets & information are shared nationally, regionally & globally**

*Regional meetings:* a regional workshop (for the Pacific region) was hosted in Koror, Palau, 14<sup>th</sup>–18<sup>th</sup> May by the host country coordinator, Tiare Holme (PCS). Some 30 people participated in total, including representatives from eight national conservation NGOs. Lincoln Fishpool from the UK team was booked to support the workshop but had to withdraw at the last minute for family reasons. However, the meeting had input from BirdLife's Director and Chief Executive, Mike Rands, and from three staff from BirdLife's Pacific Secretariat. A presentation was given on the work of PCS including on developing an Important Bird Area inventory and follow-on advocacy strategy. In addition, the project funded Liz Matthews/PCS to attend the 8<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Alotau, Papua New Guinea, 22<sup>nd</sup>–26<sup>th</sup> October. At this meeting, BirdLife and the inter-governmental organisation, the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), hosted a joint workshop to review the status of bird species, IBAs/Protected Areas, and the current resourcing and investment in terrestrial conservation. The meeting was attended by six Regional BirdLife Partners and Governmental and civil society representatives from 12 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICT). The results of this work have been integrated into the conference's "Action Strategy for Nature Conservation 2007–2012".

A regional workshop (for the Americas region) was attended in Monterrey, Mexico, 25<sup>th</sup>–29<sup>th</sup> June by host country coordinator, Bennett Hennesey (Armonia) and UK team member, Stuart Butchart. Some 50 people participated in total, including representatives from 16 national conservation NGOs. A joint presentation on initiating conservation action for the most threatened bird species (relating to Armonia's Demonstration Project) was given by Bennett and Stuart (=regional 'training the trainers' toolkit; see CD [Doc 9]). The presentation and follow-up discussions covered an update on evaluating threat status, a new BirdLife Initiative focused on preventing extinctions (and its application to four Americas bird species), and Melvin Gastanaga's internship work on Species Action Plans.

A regional workshop (for the African region) was attended in Nairobi, Kenya, 10<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> September by host country coordinator, Kabelo Senyatso and UK team members, Leon Bennun and Stuart Butchart. Some 80 people participated in total, including representatives from 23 national conservation NGOs. A presentation on Common Bird Monitoring was given by Kabelo (=regional ‘training the trainers’ toolkit; see CD [Doc10]), who with Stuart then facilitated a session to assess capacity to undertake such monitoring (as a precursor to establishing a couple of national pilot projects).

*National meetings:* BirdLife Botswana organised a workshop 8<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> November to expose their partner community-based groups (Site Support Groups) to a new environmental policy passed earlier in the year by Botswana parliament (Community Based Natural Resources Management Policy) and to share experiences in the management of natural resources (report of the workshop included on CD [Doc 11]).

SPNL held three workshops, one in Kahhaleh on 27<sup>th</sup>–28<sup>th</sup> October and two in Ammiq 9<sup>th</sup>–10<sup>th</sup> May and 5<sup>th</sup>–6<sup>th</sup> June to promote the society and its aims, with a particular focus on its IBA programme and the Darwin Project. The latter two workshops included representatives from three government departments (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment) and covered bird identification skills, conservation issues and hunting law. These workshops were attended by around 50 people covering a wide variety of target groups.

RBCU held a national meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February involving 73 participants from 33 regional branches. The Russian version of the Worldbirds Project was presented at this meeting and the UK government’s support for this work through the Darwin Initiative was acknowledged.

BCN organised a national seminar and training workshop jointly funded by the Ramsar Bureau and the Darwin Project in Lumbini 6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup> December, attended by 26 participants.

Output 4. Scientific materials are widely disseminated

*Websites:* RBCU has undertaken preliminary work for the preparation of the Russian version of the Worldbirds project website (see [www.worldbirds.org/v3/russia.php](http://www.worldbirds.org/v3/russia.php)). BCN have revised their website which now includes an interactive forum for members and non members (see [www.birdlifefenepal.org](http://www.birdlifefenepal.org)).

*Press releases and media:* Information on the BCN workshop was broadcasted over local radio channels and covered in the Tilottama National Daily newspaper.

## 3.2 Progress towards Project Outputs

### **Output 1. Staff of national NGOs improve their skills in data-gathering & analysis**

We have made **very good progress** with improving skills in data-gathering and analysis, providing training opportunities for five staff through the internship scheme and attendance at regional training workshops (total trained to date: 13), and are on track to achieve Output 1 satisfactorily. The main indicator (18 staff trained) provides a good goal to aim for (but note that we have already exceeded the number of person training weeks planned (25 to date, 24 planned). Following feedback from our reviewer, we have paid greater attention to planning the content of the training provided by the internships and are confident that these have been valuable experiences, helping to advance some key products (notably “IBAs in Palau” and “Guidelines for the development of Common Bird Monitoring in Africa”). The assumption that trained staff will effectively pass on their experience is holding true as shown by the follow up work and exchange of information through regional and national meetings.

### **Output 2. Scientific information from demonstration projects linked to policy mechanisms is produced**

We have made **good progress** with developing datasets and producing scientific information and are on track to achieve Output 2. The six Demonstration Projects are advancing well and are already serving as models and flagships for other partners in the regions. A range of national and global reports are taking shape covering documentation (threatened bird booklets, IBA directories), peer review (scientific papers, e.g. on the Russian Worldbirds Project), guidance (Species Action Plans, bird population monitoring) and advocacy (State of the world's birds, with possibilities for national publications too). The indicators (6 national and 1 global report, 1 Analysis Guide, 6 scientific papers, 12 datasets, 6 reference collections) provide a good goal to aim for, but may be ambitious. We are already starting to link scientific information produced as a result of this project to policy mechanisms, for example through CBD processes, regional initiatives (input to the SPREP action plan) and national opportunities (linking to environmental policy in Botswana and legislation on Community Conservation Areas in Asia).

### **Output 3. Lessons learned in developing & analysing conservation datasets & information are shared nationally, regionally & globally**

We have made **very good progress** with sharing lessons through four regional meetings in the Pacific, Americas, Africa and Middle East regions (total to date: 5), and through national meetings in Botswana, Lebanon, Russia and Nepal (total to date: 14), and are on track to achieve Output 3. The indicators are appropriate (6 regional workshops each with 10 NGOs, 1 global workshop, 18 national workshops). The assumption that lessons learned translate well between organisations, and other BirdLife Partners are willing to participate and able to participate, continues to hold true, as demonstrated by the numbers of partners attending the regional meetings.

### **Output 4. Scientific materials are widely disseminated**

We have made **some progress** with disseminating information on the project and expect to focus on this output more in the latter stages. The indicator (6 national websites linked to the CBD) remains ambitious for most partners. It is too early to tell whether the assumption that scientific information is taken up and acted upon within and outside the participating organisations holds true.

## Standard Measures

**Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures**

Code No.	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Year 4 Total	Total to date	Total planned from application
4C	No. host country project staff trained	8	5			13	18
4D	Person training weeks	11	14			25	24
7	No. of training materials produced	3	8			11	14
8	No. weeks spent by UK project staff on project work overseas	2	5			7	18
9	No. species/habitat management plans (or action plans) produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country						6
10	No. individual field guides/manuals produced to assist work related to species identification, classification & recording						0
11B	No. papers published in peer-reviewed journals	1				1	6
12B	No. computer based databases enhanced & handed over to the host country		3			3	12
13B	No. species reference collections enhanced & handed over to the host country(ies)		1			1	6
14B	No. regional meetings/workshops attended at which Darwin Project presented	1	4			5	7
14B	No. national meetings/workshops attended at which Darwin Project presented	8	6			14	18
15A	No. national press releases in host countries	3	1			4	18
15C	No. national press releases in UK	1				1	2
17A	No. dissemination networks established		1				1
Web-sites	No. websites developed/enhanced & disseminating project findings		1			1	7

4C/4D **Year 1:** Bennett Hennesey/Armonia (Canadian/resident in Bolivia, Inaugural Workshop UK 06 x 1 week); Kabelo Senyatso/BirdLife Botswana (Botswanan, Inaugural Workshop UK 06 x 1 week); Soumar Dakdouk/SPNL (Lebanese; Inaugural Workshop UK 06 x 1 week); Hem Sagar Baral/BCN (Nepali, Inaugural Workshop UK 06 x 1 week); Tiare Holm/PCS (Palaun, Inaugural Workshop UK 06 x 1 week); Natalia Nikolaeva/RBCU (Russian, Inaugural Workshop UK 06 x 1 week); Ishana Thapa/BCN (Nepali, IBA Monitoring Workshop Malaysia 06 x 1 week); Melvin Gastanaga/Armonia (Peruvian, Internship UK 07 x 4 weeks). **Year 2:** Lukes Isechal/PCS (Palaun, internship UK 07 x 3 weeks); Kabelo Senyatso/BirdLife Botswana (Botswanan, internship UK 07 x 3 weeks); Nada Farah/SPNL (Lebanese, internship UK 07 x 2 weeks, IBA Monitoring Workshop x 1 week); Dev Ghimire/BCN (Nepali, internship UK 08 x 4 weeks); Shree Ram/BCN (Nepali, LCG Workshop India 08 x 1 week)

7 **Year 1:** Global 'training the trainers' tool kit (for Inaugural Workshop); individual training programme for Melvin Gastanaga; Arabic translation of IBA monitoring guidelines. **Year 2:** individual training programmes for Lukes Isechal, Kabelo Senyatso, Nada Farah, Dev Ghimire; regional 'training the trainers' tool kit (for Americas and African regional meetings); IBA toolkit; Guidelines for the development of Common Bird Monitoring in Africa

8 **Year 1:** Lincoln Fishpool (IBA Monitoring Workshop, Malaysia 06 x 1 week), Mike Evans (Middle East regional meeting, Yemen 06 x 1 week). **Year 2:** Alison Stattersfield (CBD meeting, France 07 x 1 week); Stuart Butchart (Americas regional meeting, Mexico 07 x 1 week, African regional meeting Kenya 07 x 1 week); Leon Bennun (African regional meeting Kenya 07 x 1 week); Mike Evans (IBA monitoring workshop Jordan 07 x 1 week)

11B **Year 1:** RBCU paper in conference proceedings

12B **Year 2:** PCS IBA dataset; BCN IBA dataset; SPNL IBA dataset

13B **Year 2:** Copies of Nepali literature held in BirdLife Library in Cambridge handed over to BCN

14B (r) **Year 1:** BirdLife Middle East Regional Partnership Meeting, Yemen. **Year 2:** BirdLife Pacific Regional Partnership Meeting, Palau; 8<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas; BirdLife Americas Regional Partnership Meeting, Mexico; BirdLife African Regional Partnership Meeting

14B (n) **Year 1:** BB x 1, RBCU x 3, SPNL x 3, BCN x 1. **Year 2:** BB x 1, SPNL x 3, RBCU x 1, BCN x 1

15A **Year 1:** BB x 2, SPNL x 1. **Year 2:** BCN x 1.

17A **Year 2:** BirdLife Extranet active

Web **Year 2:** BCN website



**Table 2 Publications**

Type	Detail	Publishers	Available from	Cost £
Booklet	Threatened birds of Bolivia (in prep.)		Currently being updated to reflect 2008 Red List status	
Booklet	Threatened birds of Peru (in prep.)		Currently being updated to reflect 2008 Red List status	
Manual	Species Action Plans in the Americas (in prep.)		Currently being formatted for publication	
Journal article	Nikolaeva, N. (2007) 'World of Birds of Russia' Project	Ecological Bulletin of Republic of Chuvashiya 57: 53-56 (in Russian)	Natalia Nikolaeva <a href="mailto:education@rbcu.ru">education@rbcu.ru</a> (full paper) or Alison Stattersfield (front cover only)	free
Book	Holm, T. <i>et al.</i> eds (2008) Important in Palau: protecting Palau's natural heritage	Palau Conservation Society	Currently being printed	
Report	Senyatso, K. (2007) Guidelines for the development of common bird monitoring in Africa	BirdLife International	BirdLife International	free
Booklet	State of the world's birds 2008 (in prep.)	BirdLife International	BirdLife International	free
Book	Important Bird Areas in Lebanon	SPNL and Arocha Lebanon	Early stages of preparation	
Journal article	Results of IBA research	SPNL	Early stages of preparation	

### 3.3 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

We are making **good progress** towards enhancing national NGO contributions to the implementation and impact of the CBD through the project outcomes, and specifically through the developing relationships with CBD focal points and increasing understanding of CBD and other related mechanisms and opportunities. The main indicator is challenging (all 6 national NGOs contribute and advocate their scientific information to CBD implementation) but the forthcoming 4<sup>th</sup> National Reports provide a timely focus to tackle this.

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

All BirdLife Partners are engaged in local level species/site actions as well as seeking to influence national policy mechanisms. Key conservation objectives for all BirdLife Partners are 'Saving species from extinction' and 'Safeguarding important sites for biodiversity'. It is too early to tell what impact this project is having on biodiversity conservation at the national level—however, baseline monitoring data are being collected for species and at IBAs which will inform on progress in the future. An important development during the last year has been the increasing focus on working with local communities to support sustainable use and conservation of natural resources.

#### **4. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons**

We have continued to monitor the project through the relevant indicators identified in the logical framework. We have responded to the feedback received from our first review (see below). We have more proactively shared experiences between other in-house Darwin Projects.

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

For the half-year report we dealt with issues relating to missing CVs, and a mis-understanding regarding the SPNL coordinator (note, however, that the SPNL coordinator has subsequently changed for a second time). In terms of improving poor internet access to our growing web-based databases, this is an issue that we continue to review. We have kept the databases "simple" to reduce this problem, but we are aware that the IBA module functions faster using broadband rather than modem access, and that this can therefore present problems for some partners. Our Information Management team are considering moving the hosting of the database from an external service provider to our own servers which should make improve access. For some Partners, we will seek funding to improve their access.

For this annual report, it was suggested that perhaps we could develop a guide to the global 'training the trainers' toolkit. Whilst this would have been an excellent idea at the time, we felt there was less value in spending time on this retrospectively. In terms of the toolkits generally, we have become aware that our generic idea of producing regional toolkits through the internships to feed into the regional meetings was not always appropriate, although the concept worked well for the Americas and African meetings. For this reason, we decided to focus our efforts on developing one IBA toolkit relevant to all BirdLife Partners' needs and, if this proves to be useful, will develop a toolkit for species conservation along similar lines.

In terms of the internships, we have attempted to outline the content more specifically, as requested. The internships have varied according to the participant, experience and needs of the demonstration project. Activities have included some specific training and practise (for example on GIS techniques, use of databases), discussion of scientific methodology (IBA criteria, census techniques), opportunities to learn more about conservation practice generally (including from a range of staff individually, attending meetings, visits to other organisations), plus time to undertake work relevant to the demonstration projects with guidance as needed.

One of the comments made by our reviewer was "it is difficult to disentangle the project outputs from ongoing activities at BirdLife ..... plus, if all the training of host country partnership staff is using in-house expertise, it is unclear why it is costing the Darwin Initiative £XXXK". Certainly, one of the attractive aspects of this project as noted below under Sustainability is that it is well embedded in the BirdLife programme. However, the project is providing us with a novel focus in terms of developing global-regional-national scientific training through the internship programme (i.e. additional to any previous work) and is specifically attempting to address the issue of using scientific information to impact conservation politics (an increased emphasis). Furthermore, small funding across six partners is providing a range of opportunities (from attending meetings to producing materials) and has catalysed new activities as well as contributed to ongoing ones.

As requested, we have attempted to provide more detail in this report (and on CD) relating to various outputs, although keeping abreast of (and documenting) all relevant aspects remains a challenge and the report could become unwieldy and over-complex. We have also provided a guide to the supplementary material.

## **6. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

No other comments.

## **7. Sustainability**

This project is well embedded in the new BirdLife programme (2008–1012) and thus the activities started will continue as part of on-going and evolving work, supported by other funding sources, once the Darwin funds end. As noted by our reviewer, we have invested training in and development of BirdLife resources and databases which will also help to guarantee the legacy of the project. We are also investing in dedicated training materials that will be of value beyond the immediate needs and meetings of the project (specifically the IBA toolkit, and the Guidelines for the development of common bird monitoring in Africa).

## **8. Dissemination**

Dissemination activities have been largely focused on presentations at regional and national meetings where the target audiences have been staff and/or technical/professional colleagues, but also key individuals from governmental departments.

## 9. Project Expenditure

### 10. Project expenditure during the reporting period

Item	Budget*	Expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars			
Capital items/equipment			
Others			
Salaries			
TOTAL			

\*On 21<sup>st</sup> December we requested a re-allocation of funds (£300) from 'Salaries' to 'Others' to cover BCN web expenses (approved by Lisa Spencer 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008).

\*\*Many invoices for the last internship and expenses for attendances at four regional matters came in during the last quarter (Jan-Mar), and thus we were somewhat precautionary earlier on to ensure that we remained within budget.

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

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2007 - March 2008	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal:</b> <i>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>It is too early to tell what impact this project is having on biodiversity at the national level—baseline monitoring data are being collected for species and at IBAs which will inform on progress in the future. An important development has been the increasing focus on working with local communities to support sustainable use and conservation of natural resources.</p>	<p><i>(do not fill not applicable)</i></p>
<p><b>Purpose</b> Developing country (national) NGOs contributions to the implementation and impact of the CBD are enhanced through strengthening their scientific capacity</p>	<p>All (6) national NGOs contribute and advocate their scientific information to CBD implementation (by end of Yr 3)</p>	<p>We are making good progress towards enhancing national NGO contributions to the implementation and impact of the CBD through the project outcomes, specifically through developing relationships with CBD focal points and increasing understanding of CBD and other related mechanisms. The main indicator remains challenging.</p>	<p>Key actions planned for the next period include: 1 internship, 1 regional workshop, 1 global workshop (attendance by UK team and all host country coordinators), publication of a range of materials including the global report "State of the world's birds 2008" and input to CBD 4<sup>th</sup> National Reports and Global Biodiversity Outlook 3</p>
<p><b>Output 1.</b> Staff of national NGOs improve their skills in data-gathering &amp; analysis</p>	<p>Minimum of 6 staff from 6 national NGOs trained, and have each trained 3 others (by Yr 3); 'e' group active (by end of Yr 1)</p>	<p>We have made very good progress with improving skills in data-gathering and analysis, providing training opportunities for five staff during the second year of the project, and paying greater attention to planning the content of the training provided. There has been good follow up and sharing of information at regional and national meetings. The main indicator provides a good goal to aim for.</p>	
<p>Activity 1. Science internships set up in UK, collaborations built &amp; 'e' group established</p>		<p>Four internships were hosted at the BirdLife Global Office in Cambridge. In addition, an IBA monitoring workshop and LCG workshop was attended. We plan</p>	

		to hold the final internship in June 2008 and to continue to develop the 'e' group.
<b>Output 2.</b> Scientific information from demo projects linked to policy mechanisms is produced	Minimum of 6 national & 1 global scientific reports produced, plus one "Analysis Guide"(Yrs 2 -3)	We have made good progress with developing datasets and producing scientific information. The six Demonstration Projects are advancing well and are already serving as models and flagships for other partners in the regions. We are starting to link scientific information to policy mechanisms at national, regional and global levels. The indicators provide a good goal to aim for, but may be ambitious.
Activity 2. Priority data-gathering undertaken & analyses conducted		Data sets continue to be developed and improved at national and global levels, and three key publications based on these data have advanced during this second year. Further materials are planned (or will be completed) next year. The global report entitled "State of the world's birds 2008" will be launched in September 2008.
<b>Output 3.</b> Lessons learned in developing & analysing conservation datasets & information are shared nationally, regionally & globally	Minimum of 1 workshop held in each of the 6 regions involving at least 10 additional staff from other NGOs (by Yr 2) & 1 global workshop (Yr 3)	We have made very good progress with sharing lessons through regional and through national meetings. The indicators are appropriate.
Activity 3. Workshops held		Four regional workshops have been held and the work has been presented and discussed at a number of national fora. A further regional workshop is planned for next year. The global workshop will be held at BirdLife's four-yearly global Partnership Meeting and will provide an opportunity to review progress together and possible follow-up work.
<b>Output 4.</b> Scientific materials are widely disseminated	Minimum of 6 national websites with scientific information linked to CHM appropriately by Yr 3 & various other outputs	We have made some progress with disseminating information on the project. The indicator remains ambitious for most partners.
Activity 4. Scientific materials produced	Yr 1 – 3: targeted analyses appropriate for national CBD reporting produced; datasets, analyses and reports made available on the web and linked to the CHM/CBD (various dates)	Some website development and press work has been undertaken. We expect to focus on this output more in the latter stages.

## 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>Developing country (national) NGOs contributions to the implementation and impact of the CBD are enhanced through strengthening their scientific capacity</p>	<p>All (6) national NGOs contribute and advocate their scientific information to CBD implementation (by end of Yr 3)</p>	<p>NGO reports; government reports including CBD National Reports</p>	<p>BirdLife Partner Organisations involved in the project remain viable</p>
<p>Outputs</p> <p>1. Staff of national NGOs improve their skills in data-gathering &amp; analysis</p>	<p>Minimum of 6 staff from 6 national NGOs trained, and have each trained 3 others (by Yr 3); 'e' group active (by end of Yr 1)</p>	<p>Training programmes; trainees' reports; postings on web-based discussion forum; seminar presentations; workplans</p>	<p>Trained staff effectively pass on their experience</p>
<p>2. Scientific information from demo projects linked to policy mechanisms is produced</p>	<p>Minimum of 6 national &amp; 1 global scientific reports produced, plus one "Analysis Guide"(Yrs 2 -3)</p>	<p>New/enhanced datasets, analyses &amp; case studies; scientific reports (copies sent to the Darwin Initiative); peer reviewed papers</p>	<p>Scientific reports can be used to take advantage of timely policy opportunities</p>
<p>3. Lessons learned in developing &amp; analysing conservation datasets &amp; information are shared nationally, regionally &amp; globally</p>	<p>Minimum of 1 workshop held in each of the 6 regions involving at least 10 additional staff from other NGOs (by Yr 2) &amp; 1 global workshop (Yr 3)</p>	<p>Workshop presentations &amp; reports; BirdLife Regional Partnership Meeting reports</p>	<p>Lessons learned translate well between organisations, &amp; other BirdLife Partners are willing &amp; able to participate</p>
<p>4. Scientific materials are widely disseminated</p>	<p>Minimum of 6 national websites with scientific information linked to CHM appropriately by Yr 3 &amp; various other outputs</p>	<p>Websites; various other publications; reviews of these materials, hits on websites; press releases</p>	<p>Scientific information is taken up and acted upon within &amp; outside the participating organisations</p>

Activities	Activity Milestones	Assumptions
1. Science internships set up in UK, collaborations built & 'e' group established	Yrs 1 – 3: one staff member from each of the six collaborating institutions visits the UK and works with conservation science experts for up to 4 weeks (various dates); Yr 1: 'e' group established	
2. Priority data-gathering undertaken & analyses conducted	Yrs 1 – 3: at national, regional and global levels, drawing on data-sets and expertise developed above (throughout)	Relevant data are accessible in the time
3. Workshops held	Yr 1: project inception workshop held in the UK (3 days, Sept 06); Yrs 1 – 2: 6 regional workshops held in each of the six regions (3 days, various dates); Yr 3: global review workshop hosted by one of the regions (3 days, Sept 08)	Participating staff are able to attend workshops
4. Scientific materials produced	Yr 1 – 3: targeted analyses appropriate for national CBD reporting produced; datasets, analyses and reports made available on the web and linked to the CHM/CBD (various dates)	Materials are effectively used

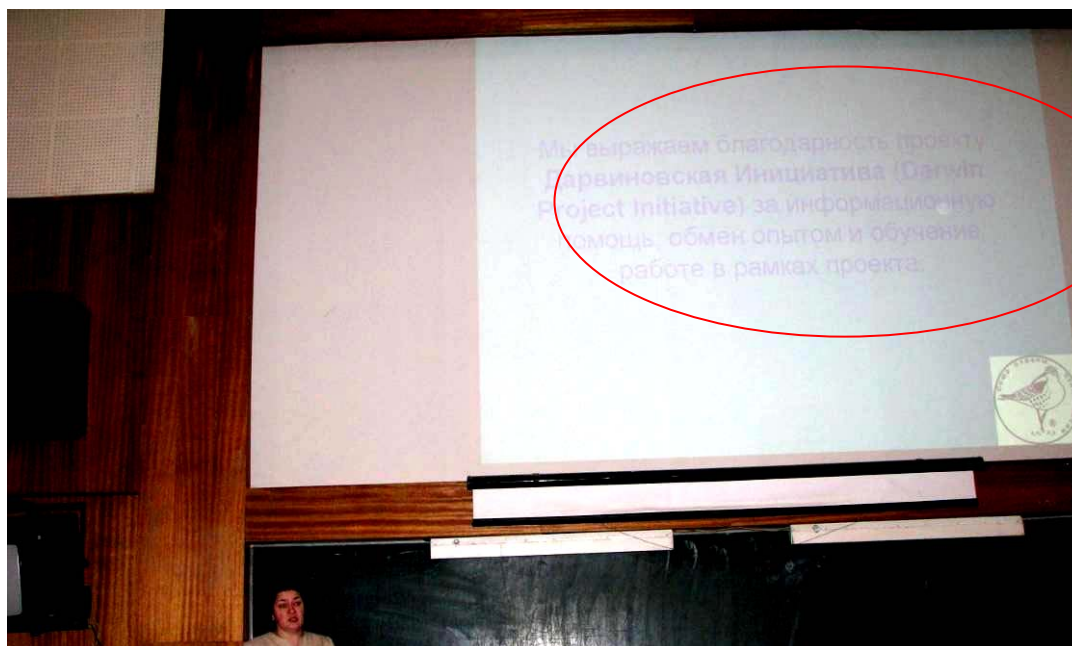


## Annex 3 onwards – supplementary material (optional)

Dev Ghimire (BCN) with Lincoln Fishpool outside the BirdLife Offices in Cambridge, UK, at the end of his internship



Natalia Nikolaeva (RBCU) acknowledges the support of the Darwin Initiative during her presentation of the Russian version of Worldbirds to regional branches of RBCU



Darwin Project Initiative Acknowledgment

Supplementary material sent separately on CD (referred to in report above)

Doc 1 Internship training programme for Dev Ghimire March 2008

Doc 2 Dev Ghimire's internship diary

Doc 3 Dev Ghimire's presentation on the work of BCN

Doc 4 Lebanon IBAs inventory data

Doc 5 Lebanon IBAs monitoring data

Doc 6 Lebanon IBAs LCG data

Doc 7 IBAs in Palau final draft

Doc 8 Guidelines for common bird monitoring in Africa

Doc 9 Presentation for Monterrey workshop June 2007

Doc 10 Presentation for Nairobi workshop October 2007

Doc 11 Botswana Site Support Group workshop