

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2008)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	16-010
<b>Project Title</b>	Wildlife Wood Project
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Ghana and Cameroon
<b>UK Organisation</b>	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	<i>London</i> – Timbmet. <i>Ghana</i> – JCM, LLL and Samartex: timber companies; Ghana Forestry Commission; University of Ghana (Legon); KNUST <i>Cameroon</i> – Pallisco, SFID (Group Rougier): timber companies; MINFOF; University of Yaoundé I, CRESA; CIFOR; ECOFAC
<b>Project Leader(s)</b>	<i>Mr Chris Ransom and Dr Noelle Kumpel</i>
<b>Report date</b>	<i>1 Apr 2008 to 30 Sept 2008</i>
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	<i>HYR 2</i>
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.zsl.org/wildlifewoodproject">www.zsl.org/wildlifewoodproject</a>

## 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

**Ghana.** During this reporting period there has been a change in Project Manager with Dr Paul Buzzard leaving the project in May and Dr Nico Dauphiné being recruited to replace him, taking up the position in September. During this period Nathaniel Annorbah, an MPhil student from the University of Ghana in Accra, who is carrying out his research as part of WWP, served as interim project manager and continued to carry out his research. The field work component of his thesis is due to finish in October and data analysis and writing up is due to be concluded in the next four months. He will therefore graduate later than expected due to unforeseen problems at the university. A second MPhil student due to carry out his research over the same period did not join WWP due to a change of project on his side.

With the employment of Dr Dauphiné, field surveys have expanded from focusing mainly on mammals to include understory birds. Discussions are also underway with Prof. William Oduro of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi to support two or three more MSc students over the next year who will focus their research on additional taxa as indicators of the effects of logging on wildlife.

The inclusion of more taxa in the research has necessitated the use of a wider range of survey methods and in September Dr Dauphiné initiated mist net sampling of understory birds using mark-recapture methods in Suhuma Forest Reserve (FR). Fieldwork on birds will be carried out by mist net sampling and transect surveys, large mammal surveys will continue using transects and from November the use of camera traps will be piloted.

All research continues to be carried out with a team from the Wildlife Division's Bio-monitoring Unit and community field workers who receive on-the-job training in survey techniques and data collection. As yet no timber company workers from JCM or LLM have participated in field work due to a lack of available personnel. However, Samartex timber company have expressed their willing to establish a 'wildlife monitoring team' who will take part in WWP activities in their concession. This team will be set up shortly and a monitoring and data collection protocol established in one of their concessions.

In addition to the wildlife surveys, PhD student Bjorn Schulte-Herbruggen, has continued to collect data on the socio-economics of a village in the Sui River Forest Reserve to provide data for the WWP.

Exchange visits between WWP-Ghana and WWP-Cameroon are planned for November 2008 (to Cameroon) and January/February 2009 (to Ghana). These have been slightly delayed by the recruitment

of a new manager for WWP-Ghana.

**Cameroon.** During the reporting period, WWP-Cam's major achievement has been to complete the signing of MOUs with two commercial logging operators, Pallisco and SFID-Rougier, and to establish a wildlife monitoring program in two concessions (one from each company) in the East Province of Cameroon. In both these concessions, WWP-Cam has designed and set up a *Before-After-Control-Impact* (BACI) study of the effects of human activities on wildlife. A third site will soon be active in SFID's second sawmill site near Djoum (South Province) and discussions are taking place with the EU project ECOFAC and the Dja Faunal Reserve to establish a study site here. At the study sites a network of 40 km and 32 km of linear transects has been established to allow surveyors to monitor changes in wildlife abundance as logging operations take place.

As part of their commitment to improve wildlife management in their concessions, WWP-Cam's logging company partners have recruited technical staff whose only task is to implement biomonitoring surveys and to monitor the occurrence of illegal hunting activities within their concessions. Pallisco and SFID have created "wildlife teams" made of 5 and 9 individuals respectively. Wildlife teams are now fully operational and biomonitoring surveys are repeated every 5-6 weeks at the two sites. These wildlife teams have received theoretical and practical training in species recognition & tracking and data collection on line transects by means of *Cybertracker*. These skills are an essential prerequisite for data collection in the field and an essential component of local capacity building by the WWP.

In addition to collaborations with the private sector, MOUs were also formalised with two academic institutions in April–May 2008; The Department of Biology and Plant Physiology of the University of Yaoundé I (UYI) and the *Centre Régional d'Enseignement Spécialisé en Agriculture* (CRESA). The WWP currently supervises the fieldwork of one MSc student from UYI and will host other students in the months to come. UYI's MSc student has completed his data collection and is currently analysing his field data in order to assess the influence of sampling design on censuses of great apes and forest elephants.

Currently, WWP-Cam is focusing on surveying large-bodied mammals but will soon incorporate additional taxa, such as understory birds and butterflies, into bio-monitoring programmes. Several methods for monitoring different taxa will be tested in the field and evaluated for their efficiency to detect changes in wildlife abundances and for suitability for surveyors with lesser technical abilities. Like WWP-Ghana, WWP-Cam will also census wildlife by means of camera traps.

A complementary socio-economic study is currently being designed with the collaboration of CIFOR. Three study villages adjacent to the logging concessions have been identified and this study will start next year, most likely in conjunction with MSc student projects.

## **2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

**Ghana.** Paul Buzzard left the project in May and his replacement did not begin until late August which resulted in a partial cessation of field work during this period. Data collection has now recommenced but this is likely to result in a slight delay in some project activities such as Ghana-Cameroon exchange visits and the completion of data collection and consequently the identification of indicators and production of reports. However we still expect this to be completed within the timeframe of the project.

Before Dr Buzzard's departure from the project a decision was made to consolidate the field work by reducing the number of study sites to 3 and dropping the Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve from the study. This was partially as a response to the increased illegal logging in the area and the impacts this has had on the forest canopy which has impacted on its suitability as a replicate study site. Security of project personnel was also a consideration as there is some antagonism shown by illegal loggers to anyone perceived to be working for the Forestry Commission or timber companies. The current study sites are therefore Suhuma FR, Sui River FR and Boin River FR, managed by JCM, LLL and Samartex respectively. This will have little impact on the project as it will allow us to focus our time and resources on the other three study sites, one belonging to each partner timber company.

**Cameroon.** Activities of WWP-Cam were considerably delayed during June as a result of a car accident that occurred on a logging road. No personnel were injured but material damages to the project vehicle were significant and it did not become operational again until six weeks after the accident (it is now in full working order). Without the ability to travel to/between field sites, no field activities took place during this period and significant delays to planned activities occurred. As with WWP-Ghana this is likely to delay the completion of field work and the production of reports but not beyond the timeframe for the project.

On three independent occasions, WWP-Cam's point of contact at MINFOF has changed position or resigned thereby limiting the project's ability to establish a strong and effective relationship with the national forestry administration. This has been frustrating and prevented the agreement of an MOU but we hope to resolve this in the next months.

The agreement of a formal MOU between WWP-Cam and the logging company Alpicam-Grumcam did not go ahead. Consequently, we have identified a second concession belonging to SFID to replace the study site we had planned to locate within one of Alpicam-Grumcam's concessions, with minimal delay or disturbance to the project's implementation.

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

No

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:** no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

**Changes to the project schedule/workplan:** no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

**3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

No – apart from responses to Annual Report Review Comments below

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

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

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at [Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk). The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**