

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

Project Ref. No.	17-006
Project Title	Bushmeat hunting in Madagascar: linking science, policy and local livelihoods
Country(ies)	Madagascar
UK Organisation	Bangor University
Collaborator(s)	Madagasikara Voakajy
Project Leader	Dr Julia Jones
Report date	19/10/09
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 1
Project website	None yet

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).

Project team and communication: This project began on 1st May 2009 and a Bangor University (BU) staff member, Richard Jenkins, has been based in the host country partner's office (Madagasikara Voakajy: MV) Madagascar since 20th May. The MV project team is led by Julie Razafimanahaka and consists of five other Malagasy staff members (four of whom are ex-Darwin Initiative trainees) as well as students and trainees. Communication between PI Julia Jones and the team in Madagascar has been excellent with very regular emails discussing general strategy as well as the technical details of the work. Julia spent 2 weeks in Madagascar in September. **Training and capacity building:** Two Diplôme d'Etude Approfondies and one Diplôme d'Ingénieur en Sciences Agronomiques student from Essa-Forêt have joined the project to conduct field research as part of their degrees. In September 2009 we held a 'bushmeat training week' at MV when Julia visited Madagascar. This week included detailed discussions of the projects objectives and prioritising activities for the next six months as well as training sessions in questionnaire techniques. MV used the opportunity of having two people from BU present to develop their draft 'Bushmeat Strategy' and Julia and Richard were able to contribute to this. Julia gave a lecture at the University to project partner Essa-Forêt as well as a series of lectures to MV staff and one-to-one sessions working with MV staff on their data. MV staff have been trained in the field by Institute Pasteur (IP) to sample blood from fruit bats safely and store the samples correctly so they can be screened for viruses. **Project activities:** Field surveys looking at consumption and preferences of bushmeat species were conducted in July and August in the two regions of Madagascar. Blood samples have been taken from two fruit bat species and these have been screened for viruses in the IP laboratory in Antananarivo. A new method for uncovering the frequency of illegal hunting has been trialled in the field and surveys to investigate knowledge of wildlife rules developed. The project has also carried out a review of the laws which apply to hunting of bushmeat species. This was done through collaboration with the government of Madagascar in Antananarivo (Direction for the Valorisation of Natural Resources, Ministry of the Environment and Forests). We have maintained regular contact with other project partners (Conservation International, IP) through regular meetings in Antananarivo. **Outputs so far:** One scientific paper on bushmeat use in western Madagascar is in press with the journal Oryx. MV and BU have worked together to produce a document in English and Malagasy outlining ethical considerations for carrying out research with human subjects. All MV staff have signed this document to confirm that they understand and will follow the guidelines. MV and BU signed a protocol of collaboration that specifies the legal, technical and financial scope of the project. MV also signed a similar protocol with IP, another project partner. MV also signed a protocol with the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the District of Moramanga and Anosibe An'ala where much of its bushmeat work is planned. MV and Bangor University staff gave presentations on bushmeat to Conservation International and a large mining company. The project's objectives were also presented to Katy Ransome of the

British Embassy to Madagascar (Mauritius) when she visited MV's office in Antananarivo during September. **Matched funding:** we have raised \$2,500 from Philadelphia Zoo to support our studies of illegal lemur hunting and we have submitted a proposal to Conservation International.

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.

Nothing to report

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

Nothing to report

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

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 . 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**