

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2011)

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	31 st October 2011
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR3
Project website	http://www.madagasikara-voakajy.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16%3Aeducation-initiatives-for-bat-conservation&catid=39%3Aprojects&Itemid=61&lang=en-GB

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).

Field Data Collection-following disturbing revelations earlier in the project on the extent of hunting of illegal species we have been applying methods developed to improve our understanding of the problem

- We assessed the consumption of bushmeat and peoples' knowledge of wildlife laws in forested areas managed by a mining company and a comparison area. In total we completed 483 household interviews and 313 interviews with mine staff (using specialist methods for asking sensitive questions developed earlier in the project). NB this work was co-funded by the mine.
- We assessed the consumption of seven species, including the Critically Endangered lemur *Haplemur alaotrensis*, in Lake Alaotra in collaboration with the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. A total of 682 interviews were completed.
- We assessed the hunting pressure on the Madagascar flying fox, and six other endemic species, in forests subject to different levels of conservation. Interviews were conducted in 342 households.
- We completed a hunting survey, focussing on lemur traps, in the provisional new protected area of Ambatofotsy.
- We organised meetings with Madagascar National Parks and Conservation International to present our results and community feedback from our field studies at Analamazaoatra and Lakato respectively.

Analyses, Report Writing

- We submitted two publications to scientific journals (Animal Conservation, Biological Conservation) based on the primary results obtained in YR 1 and Y2. Our paper 'Analysis of patterns of bushmeat consumption reveals extensive exploitation of protected species in eastern Madagascar' was accepted for publication in PLOS ONE
- Our review on the legal framework of hunting in Madagascar was published in Madagascar Conservation and Development.
- We produced a poster for the Menabe Region featuring tenrecs. It is part of a campaign to inform people about best practice hunting techniques which are also featured in thrice-monthly on radio broadcasts in the region.

Blood Sampling & Screening of Flying Foxes

- We collected 28 samples of *Pteropus rufus* and 11 of *Eidolon dupreanum* from Menabe in June 2011.

Malagasy Students

- Two students funded by the project; Acyl Randrianarison and Eunicia Mamilaza started the taught component of the DEA degrees at ESSA-Forêts.
- Fetra A. Rakotondrazanany (funded in Y2) was awarded his DEA on methods of monitoring hunted bat roosts (Department of Animal Biology, University of Antananarivo).
- Sariaka Rakotomamonjy completed her field research component for her DEA at ESSA-Forêts, whilst Cynthia Raveloson will have her viva on 28 October 2011.

Additional Activities to Original Timetable

- The project coordinator, Julie Razafimanahaka, in the host country partner (Madagasikara Voakajy) attended a month-long leadership training program in the US during July with the Kinship Conservation Fellowship.
- Julie Razafimanahaka visited the UK in September where she was hosted by Bangor University and presented the results of the bushmeat work to Chester Zoo, British Ecological Society Annual Conference, Fauna and Flora International, Bangor University, the University of East Anglia and the Imperial College of London.
- Dr. Julia Jones completed a 10-day visit to Madagascar in June, during which time meetings were held with project partners.

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.

Richard Jenkins has accepted a job at IUCN and will leave the project six weeks early (in March 2012). There has been an open competition to replace him as director of Madagasikara Voakajy (a role he has filled since MV was developed out of a Darwin Initiative Follow-Up grant). Julie Razafimanahaka, the coordinator of this project and someone trained by Darwin projects since 2003 (including a Darwin Fellowship for her MSC) has been appointed as the new director and will begin on 1 November 2011. This is a very positive development for the long term legacy of Darwin's investment in MV as an important Malagasy conservation organisation (the strategic plan was always for MV to have a Malagasy director). However the loss of Richard in the final months and the promotion of Julie will of course leave a major hole in the project at a crucial time. Julia Jones has arranged with Bangor University to release her from many of her teaching commitments in the next semester to allow her to spend more time on the project in the final months. The salary underspend (from Richard Jenkins and Aidan Keane) be used to cover this. It would not be possible to bring anyone else in at this stage.

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

We have discussed this with Eilidh Young over a series of emails.

Discussed with LTS: **yes, in October 2010**

Formal change request submitted: **no**

Eilidh suggested as because this is just a transfer within a budget line (Bangor University salary), no formal request need be made

Received confirmation of change acceptance **no/yes in.....(month/yr)**

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

4. 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 LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**