

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	18-011
<b>Project Title</b>	Building a future for Haiti's unique vertebrates
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Haiti
<b>UK Organisation</b>	BirdLife International
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Zoological Society London, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Société Audubon Haiti
<b>Project Leader</b>	<i>David Wege</i>
<b>Report date</b>	<i>20 October 2010</i>
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	<i>HYR 1</i>
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.birdlife.org/haiti-threatened-vertebrates/">http://www.birdlife.org/haiti-threatened-vertebrates/</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).

**Output 1.** Collaborated with herpetological/ photographic field expedition to Macaya (Philadelphia Zoo and Conservation International) leading to new data on a range of species. Inventory of relevant GIS coverages made, gaps assessed and Landsat-based vegetation map being produced of the project area. Agreement between local partner and the national GIS lab drafted. Existing locality data mapped for mammals and started for amphibians.

**Output 2.** Local partners in project area aware of the project and issues. Synergies with existing projects in the area assessed. International network of advisors and collaborators engaged and waiting to be formalised. Species data being databased ready to pass across to Haitian partners.

**Output 3.** Discussions held with *Quisqueya University* re: the formal partnership with the Environmental Masters Program. Agreement being drafted for consideration by Academic Council of the University.

**Output 4.** Attitudes and awareness questionnaire developed and being translated into Creole. International media coverage for the project achieved through 6 web articles (below). Project profile available through the Eco-Index website of conservation projects. Photographic and videographic expedition supported to provide material for "informational" films and photos for awareness raising.

<http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/americas/09/10/haiti.biodiversity/#fbid=la2fCE2pcxk&wom=false>

<http://www.eco-index.org/search/results.cfm?projectID=1427>

<http://www.durrell.org/About-Durrell/Durrell-News/Saving-unique-biodiversity-in-Haiti/>

<http://www.edgeofexistence.org/edgeblog/?p=825>

[http://www.zsl.org/science/news/building-a-future-for-haitis-unique-biodiversity\\_690\\_NS.html](http://www.zsl.org/science/news/building-a-future-for-haitis-unique-biodiversity_690_NS.html)

[http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2010/03/haiti\\_darwin.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2010/03/haiti_darwin.html)

<http://www.birdlife.org/haiti-threatened-vertebrates/>

## 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.

CNIGS (the national GIS lab) lost staff and 25% of their data in the earthquake. This has delayed the development of field survey plan. To adjust for this, funds allocated for a herpetological expert were diverted (as a result of a formal change request) to develop a vegetation map (at Bath University) and to train some Haitian staff in predictive species mapping. The Quisqueya University was destroyed in the earthquake so discussions re: formal agreements for training through Masters degrees has been slow. Also as a result of this, the development of a national database and clearing-house has been delayed although the collation of information for these has been developing well. An opportunity arose to collaborate with an expedition facilitated our local partner (Haiti Audubon) and Philadelphia Zoo/ Conservation International. The expedition searched for the threatened frogs in our project area and (in

