



Darwin Initiative Annual Report

Important note:

To be completed with reference to the Reporting Guidance Notes for Project Leaders: it is expected that this report will be about 10 pages in length, excluding annexes



Submission Deadline: 30 April 2011

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	18-014
Project Title	Ecosystem-wide forest conservation in DRC using okapi as a flagship
Host Country/ies	Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)
UK contract holder institution	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Host country partner institutions	<i>Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature (ICCN)</i>
Other partner institutions	Cardiff University, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Gilman International Conservation (GIC), Lukuru Foundation, Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), Fauna and Flora International (FFI)
Darwin Grant Value	£299,028
Start/end dates of project	1 April 2010 – 31 March 2013
Reporting period (eg Apr 2010 – Mar 2011) and number (eg Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012 Annual Report 2
Project Leader name	Dr Noëlle Kümpel
Project website	www.zsl.org/virunga
Report authors, main contributors and date	Noëlle Kümpel, Elise Queslin, John Fataki, Johanna Segal, Dave Stanton 30 May 2012

2. Project Background

The okapi (*Okapia johnstoni*) is an elusive species from the giraffidae family, endemic to the tropical forests of eastern, central and northern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Despite being a national icon, featuring on both the logo of ICCN (*Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature*; the government conservation authority) and the national currency, this charismatic, flagship species is little-studied and remains poorly known. While listed as 'Near Threatened' on the IUCN Red List¹, this status is based on the core population found in the Okapi Faunal Reserve (RFO) of the Ituri forest remaining stable, although recent surveys conducted in this relatively well-protected forest have shown that the population dropped by 43% between 1996 and 2006² following a decade of civil conflict. A ZSL-led survey³ in the Watalinga region of Virunga National Park (NP) in 2008 confirmed that while okapi were still present in the park, the population was likely to be small and fragmented. Hunted for its meat and its distinctive skin, and with increasing degradation and loss of habitat due to encroachment by an expanding and impoverished human population, there are concerns that the IUCN Red List assessment may not be representative of the current situation.

¹ IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group. *Okapia johnstoni*. In IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2009. IUCN, 2009

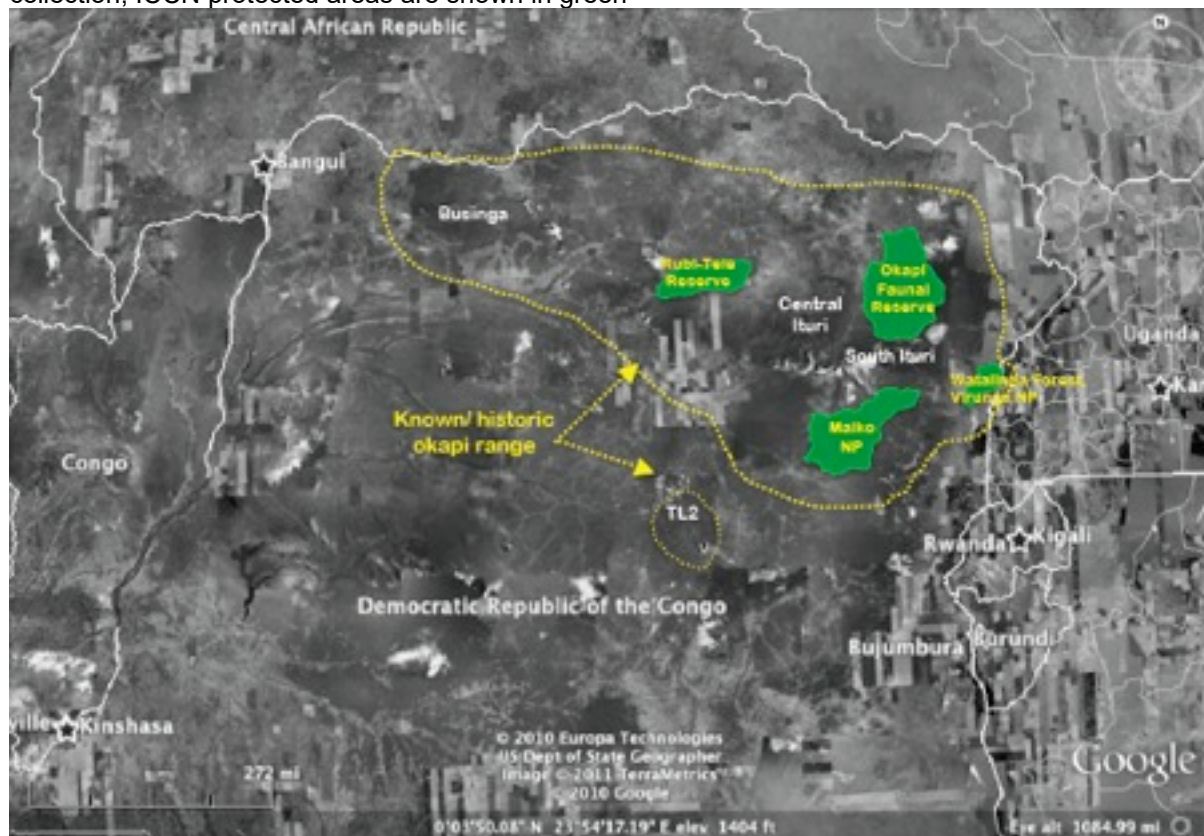
² Hart, J., Beyers, R., Grossman, F., Carbo, M., Dino, S. and Kahindo, F. (2009). *La Réserve de Faune Okapi: la distribution et la fréquence de la grande faune et des activités humaines avec une évaluation de l'impact de 10 ans de conflit : 1996-2006*. IMU Technical Report No. 9, Inventory Monitoring Unit, New York : Wildlife Conservation Society

³ Nixon, S. and Lusenge, T. (2008). Conservation status of okapi in Virunga National Park, DRC. ZSL Conservation Report No. 9, Zoological Society of London (ZSL), London

Following the Watalinga survey, a joint ZSL-ICCN multi-stakeholder workshop was held in October 2008 to disseminate and discuss the results, which led ZSL to expand its okapi conservation activities to develop a new initiative focusing on the conservation of the species across its range. It was agreed that there is a need for more accurate and up to date information on the okapi's distribution, abundance, population dynamics and threats across its range in order to reassess the conservation status of the species and determine how best to ensure its long-term persistence, assisting ICCN to define, prioritise and implement conservation efforts in key areas and to better engender community support for okapi and general forest conservation. The Darwin Initiative (DI) is now providing support for these activities.

The okapi is found in four ICCN protected areas (Okapi Faunal Reserve, Maiko National Park, Rubi Tele Reserve and Virunga National Park), community reserves (e.g. the Usala Forest north of Walikale⁴), and a vast expanse of currently unprotected area (e.g. Buta-Atiki forest and the west bank of the Lualaba river in the 'TL2' region, the area in and around the Tsuapa, Lomami and Lualaba Rivers: C. Hicks and J. Hart, pers. comm.) (see Figure 1). Officially awarded the remit by ICCN last year for developing a species action plan for okapi, ZSL is collaborating with ICCN and other partners working across the species' range as well as ex situ, including the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), White Oaks Conservation Center/Gilman International Conservation (GIC), the Lukuru Foundation, Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS) and Cardiff University, to collate and analyse previous survey data, agree priority actions, coordinate new data collection, ensure standardised/harmonised methods and where feasible collect dung and other material for genetic analysis. The latter activity will support a separately-funded okapi population genetics PhD study being carried out alongside the main DI project by a student from Cardiff University and ZSL's Institute of Zoology, which will provide valuable information on historic and current population structure, connectivity and barriers to gene flow to contribute to the species action plan.

Figure 1 The known historic range of okapi across DRC (in yellow) and key sites for surveys and data collection; ICCN protected areas are shown in green



Through this collaborative work, we have started to map the okapi's historical distribution and to implement or support new surveys across the okapi's range. Methodology has been reviewed with partners to ensure standardisation. In year 1 of this project, ZSL collaborated on FFI-led surveys in

⁴ Nixon, S.C., Mufabule, K. Bahati, A.E., and Patule, I.M. (2007). A prospection survey of the Usala Forest and proposed Usala Community Reserve, Democratic Republic of Congo, March-April 2007. Unpublished report submitted to DFGFI.

Maiko NP⁵ in 2010 and WCS-led surveys in RFO in 2010/2011, providing in-kind support, additional funds and staff expertise, which has resulted in new okapi data. Dung, skin and bone samples were acquired for genetic analysis from museum and field surveys.

Unfortunately, implementation of several activities planned for year 2 has suffered from a number of setbacks, both internal and external to the project. These include (1) delays to a major source of expected matched funds, in particular those supporting community-focused activities in the Virunga-Hoyo region, (2) insecurity throughout much of the okapi range preventing access to planned survey areas by ZSL and partners, with the national presidential elections in November 2011 necessitating a suspension of all project activities in November and December, (3) unforeseen delays to the release of the ICCN partnership contract signed in March 2011, which recognises ZSL's lead role in developing the okapi conservation action plan and permits ZSL to conduct fieldwork in ICCN protected areas, and (4) personnel issues including injury to and the subsequent departure of project coordinator Stuart Nixon in January 2012 and a delay until his replacement, Elise Queslin was in post. As a result, several of the original project objectives have been reworked in order to focus on realistic, workable outputs that will contribute more directly to the okapi conservation action plan to be developed in year 3. This includes the incorporation of new activities in more secure areas and the adoption of more cost-effective approaches, using invaluable partner support and new matched funds. See section 6 for further detail on these delays and the impact on the project. Following discussion with the DI secretariat, a formal change request form with updated logframe, list of activities and budget was submitted to the DI in February 2012.

3. Project Partnerships

Project partnerships:

The primary local partner for this project is the *Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature* (ICCN). ZSL started supporting ICCN in DRC's five natural World Heritage Sites in 2001. From 2004 ZSL began focusing on Virunga NP and this focus now incorporates Mt Hoyo Reserve, 40km to the north. ICCN is the government agency charged with the conservation of nature in DRC's protected area network, as well as enforcement of species protection laws outside protected areas. The okapi conservation action plan is therefore being developed on behalf of ICCN and is vital to build its capacity to protect okapi and plan for long-term conservation in key forest areas across the okapi's range. ZSL's lead role in okapi conservation in DRC is enshrined and outlined in its five-year partnership contract signed with ICCN in March 2011, which includes specific protected area support, training and capacity building, okapi-related data collection in several protected areas, okapi genetic sample exportation and development of an okapi conservation action plan. Over the last year, ZSL has further developed its partnership with ICCN in several ways:

- ZSL's partnership contract with ICCN at national level, while unfortunately not released for several months, resulting in a delay to planned field activities, now permits ZSL to carry out okapi-focused field surveys and research in ICCN protected areas across the okapi range. Much time has been spent discussing with ICCN site managers (in particular Virunga NP, Mt Hoyo Reserve and Okapi Faunal Reserve conservators) how best ZSL can support their respective activities at each site with a limited budget whilst contributing to ICCN's national objectives.
- Under the terms of its partnership contract, ZSL draws up an annual work plan and budget for review by ICCN and ZSL's activities in DRC are formally evaluated by ICCN's General Direction via an annual project visit.
- ZSL attends (and in the case of Mont Hoyo, co-facilitates) the CoCoSi (*Comité de Coordination du Site*) meetings held every six months for each protected area in which it works. These well-established fora enable two-way reporting of activities in the protected area and discussion of management plans and future strategic priorities between ICCN site management and partner NGOs.
- In April 2011, ZSL co-facilitated and attended a multi-stakeholder meeting hosted by MONUSCO (UN Peacekeeping Mission in DRC), UNDP and UN Habitat to help mitigate the growing conflict between ICCN and the Lesse communities living around Mont Hoyo (see section 3.6 for details).

⁵ Nixon, S. (2010) Participatory assessment of Grauer's eastern gorilla and other wildlife in the Lubutu sector of Maiko National Park and adjacent forest. Unpublished report submitted to Fauna and Flora International (FFI), Cambridge.

- In January 2012, ZSL deployed two teams in Mont Hoyo Reserve alongside ICCN rangers to map the area and find the historical boundaries of the reserve dating back to the 1947 ordinance survey. The production of a draft map of the reserve, which did not previously exist, will enable ICCN to initiate participatory discussions with the local communities regarding the proposed reserve borders (see section 3.7).
- In May 2011, ZSL participated in a forum on Virunga NP held in Goma and contributed financially and logistically towards its implementation. The forum brought together the Ministry of Environment, ICCN, the NGO partners of Virunga, national and regional MPs and local chiefs. Its mission was to open the debate and discuss the role of conservation and the benefit that people can gain in order to resolve misunderstandings and limit direct conflicts with ICCN.
- Over the course of this year, both DRC- and London-based staff from ZSL, along with other partner NGOs working in Virunga NP, have been liaising closely with ICCN regarding the threat of oil exploration in this natural World Heritage Site and how best to support ICCN's priorities at site and national level.
- Through a partnership with the ICCN site management and with matched funds from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), ZSL will carry out field-based training at the Okapi Faunal Reserve for ICCN rangers in okapi-related research and monitoring techniques, as well as general field skills. This training has been rescheduled from last year and will take place over the next months.
- ZSL continues to provide financial and logistical support to Virunga NP and Mt Hoyo Reserve (specifically, assisting with ranger salaries, equipment purchases, fuel and other running costs and training), and has agreed to provide continued funds in year 3 of the DI project to Virunga NP and Mt Hoyo Reserve, as well as some limited additional support to the Okapi Faunal Reserve.
- ZSL provides an annual contribution to ICCN for technical support at the national level, as required by all conservation NGOs in DRC.

The okapi conservation project has brought together a wide and collaborative network of NGO, academic and local partners, many of whom were previously disparate and are not specifically focused on okapi. This strong collaboration is a key aspect of the project's success and has allowed the implementation of joint field activities and the sharing of information and data:

- The 40+ members of the okapi working group created in year 1 regularly exchange information via emails, and keep each other abreast of advances in research and survey activities.
- Following numerous discussions and meetings, ZSL is collaborating closely with two partners, WCS and GIC, to implement two new activities at the Okapi Faunal Reserve: a survey methodologies comparison study and an okapi dung degradation study. The collaboration with GIC also extends to a dung production rate study utilising the captive okapi at GIC's breeding facility at Epulu as well as financial and in-kind assistance for the collection of fresh wild okapi dung.
- In partnership with the Lukuru Foundation, ZSL Monitoring Officer Kaghoma Kambale participated in two scoping missions between July and August 2011 to assess okapi presence in the TL2 region and in Rubi-Tele Reserve.
- He was accompanied by PhD student David Stanton from Cardiff University and the ZSL Institute of Zoology to collect dung samples for his okapi genetics project. Following training in sample collection by David of partner field assistants during his time in DRC, a number of samples of dung and skin were subsequently collected by field staff from different regions (TL2, Rubi Tele Reserve and Maiko NP). The appropriate export permits were obtained from ICCN through GIC and samples were sent to Cardiff in September 2011.
- More recently the Lukuru Foundation informed ZSL that new okapi skins had been confiscated in the area of Rubi Tele. Mount Hoyo ICCN guards also brought back four okapi dung samples from their area. These samples have been sent to ZSL in DRC and a new export permit is being arranged through ICCN by ZSL.
- ZSL has had discussions regarding collaboration with the Max Planck Institute (MPI) and the Lukuru Foundation on surveys in the Rubi Tele/Buta Akiti region, which would potentially start in okapi areas in early 2013. Although later than originally envisaged when developing the DI proposal, it is hoped that okapi data collected during the course of these chimpanzee/elephant-focused surveys could still be incorporated into the okapi action plan. The fieldwork is planned

for a year in total and would include camera trapping, dung collection for genetic analysis and line transect and recce surveys.

- Similarly, new gorilla-focused surveys are planned for Usala Reserve (August 2012) and neighbouring Maiko NP (October 2012) by FFI, WCS, FZS and ICCN. Similar survey methods to MPI will be employed. Following discussions with these partners it is hoped that ZSL could support these activities which could also provide relevant data from this okapi stronghold. This work follows on from the Arcus Foundation-funded Great Ape Conservation Action Plan workshop held in Goma in 2011 in which ZSL participated.

Other collaboration:

Discussions have been held with IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) Chair and members of the IUCN Antelope and Species Conservation Planning Specialist Groups (SGs), regarding a reassessment of the conservation status of okapi and the development of a species action plan as part of this project. Project Leader Noëlle Kümpel has held discussions with the SSC Chair and International Giraffe Working Group Chair regarding a new IUCN Okapi and Giraffe SG and a proposal for this, with Noëlle representing okapi within the SG as Co-Chair, is being put together. Contact has also been made with the Okapi European Endangered Species Programme (EEP) regarding its involvement in the action planning process.

4. Project Progress

4.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

The following activities were planned for year 2. Note that, unless otherwise indicated, these are the revised activities as defined in the change request submitted in February 2012.

Output 1: Biodiversity, threats and resource needs of local people documented across okapi range and management interventions for conservation of okapi and other flagship species identified and disseminated using RFO region as case study

1.3 - Standardised baseline surveys to be carried out in at least two sites

The deteriorating security situation across most of the okapi range over the past year prevented access for many planned field surveys by ZSL and partners (see also section 6). Even the relatively secure Okapi Faunal Reserve (RFO) suffered from the entry of a warlord and armed poachers soon after completion of the WCS/ICCN/ZSL wildlife inventory carried out in year 1. The TL2 landscape remained relatively safe and therefore the Lukuru Foundation team were able to continue their multi-stage (exploration-inventory-focal faunal survey) surveys there and in the nearby TLA (Tshopo-Lindi-Arumwimi) region, as well as in the Rubi Tele region, during summer 2011. ZSL's Kaghoma Kambale joined the Lukuru team in TL2 and Rubi Tele to provide technical support and to collect okapi data and dung alongside David Stanton (see section 1.7).

ZSL had planned to support WCS-led line transect and recce surveys during year 2 in South Ituri (the region south of RFO), but the area was considered too unsafe. Discussions have been had with WCS regarding alternative survey sites in Central Ituri (west of RFO), where the situation is calm and surveys would appear feasible for year 3. ZSL had insufficient funding to carry out a full baseline survey independently but used a combination of DI and matched funding for a recce survey in South Ituri and will carry out further similar recce surveys should WCS's funding/priorities change (see section 1.4).

Gorilla-focused surveys proposed some time ago by FFI/WCS/FZS in Maiko NP are still not underway, but funding now appears imminent and the security situation is improving so a pilot survey is now planned for Usala Community Reserve in August 2012 followed by a full three-month survey in Maiko NP from October 2012. The latter surveys would include camera trapping, line transects and recces. ZSL has had discussions regarding support for these surveys and assistance with standardised okapi data collection through involvement of one or more of our field team as above.

Similar, but longer term, chimpanzee/elephant-focused surveys (camera trapping, line transect, recce and dung collection) by the Max Planck Institute (MPI) and the Lukuru Foundation are also due to start in June 2012 in the Rubi Tele/Buta-Akiti region. They will be commencing north of the river Uele, where okapi are not found, but plan to survey south of the Uele from January 2013. Again, it is hoped that ZSL can lend support to these surveys and that the okapi data will contribute to the species action plan.

Finally, ZSL's planned forest surveys in the Virunga-Hoyo region have been further postponed to year 3 due to a combination of a delay in expected matched funds and insecurity; whether these are full forest surveys or interview-based/recce surveys will depend on the availability of matched funds, security and

ICCN capacity in the area (there are currently still no ICCN rangers deployed in the Watalinga forest of northern Virunga NP).

In order to assess the relative abundance of the species across space and time, it is important to improve and standardise survey methods. We have therefore introduced two new studies which will contribute to this – see new activities 1.6 and 1.6a. Additionally, during all forest surveys, data are collected on human activities (mining, presence of snares, hunting camps) and on other sympatric flagship species such as the eastern chimpanzee, the eastern lowland gorilla and forest elephant in order to support other species action plans and broader landscape-level conservation planning.

1.4 - Preliminary recce surveys carried out where possible in additional sites

In September 2011, ZSL Research Assistant Emmanuel Shabantu travelled by motorbike through a number of villages between the Okapi Faunal Reserve and Maiko NP (the South Ituri area). He conducted interviews with local leaders and chiefs to assess basic socio-economic conditions and the current and historical occurrence of okapi in the area. He then carried out reconnaissance surveys with local community members in their forests to confirm the presence of okapi and collected dung samples where possible. Unfortunately insecurity in this area has so far prevented more detailed transect surveys (see above). Similar recce surveys are planned in the central and northern parts of Ituri (west of the Okapi Faunal Reserve) in year 3.

Between July and October 2011 the same methodology was employed by ZSL's Kaghoma Kambale and David Stanton in TL2 and Rubi Tele, working with the Lukuru Foundation team (see section 1.7), also confirming the presence of okapi in these areas.

While we have been successful in obtaining additional matched funding from the USFWS and Mohammed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (MBZ), unfortunately, a number of other proposals submitted to support additional surveys across the okapi range were unsuccessful (see section 10), which, in addition to the security situation, has also limited the number of additional, ZSL-led surveys that we have been able to carry out.

1.5 – Interview-based surveys carried out to gather basic socio-economic and okapi information from communities across the okapi range

Due to the delay in Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF) funds, meaning that extensive community development work has not yet been feasible in the Virunga-Hoyo region, this activity has been altered as above, and will now mainly take place in year 3 (beyond the initial interviews carried out in South Ituri/TL2/Rubi Tele – see section 1.4). Additional data on okapi incidence and threats collected through interviews with local people will enable occupancy modelling of the okapi in core areas of its range as well as predictions of the impacts of human-induced threats on future occurrence. These methods will be employed initially in the Virunga-Hoyo region and in areas that are logistically difficult or too insecure to deploy a research team and survey comprehensively using standardised ecological monitoring techniques.

1.6 - Methodology comparison study (genetic marking, camera trapping, line transects and recces) and dung degradation/production studies undertaken

Two long-term studies will now support the project, enabling a calibration of data collected through different survey methods. Additional matched funding was secured to support this work from the USFWS in year 2 but implementation has been delayed as detailed in section 6, so activities will now commence at the start of year 3. The studies will be carried out in conjunction with GIC, WCS and ICCN at the Okapi Faunal Reserve. Methods have been discussed and agreed with these partners.

For the first study, okapi data will be collected at regular intervals for 12 months by way of line transects, recce walks, camera trapping and genetic analysis of collected dung samples in a standardised survey grid. This will enable a cost-benefit comparison of abundance estimates calculated using these different field techniques: for indirect encounters with dung, absolute density via the Distance program, relative encounter rate or a total population count via genetic mark-recapture, and for direct encounters with animals captured by camera trap, absolute abundance via mark-recapture (for individually recognisable species) or the new Random Encounter Model method⁶ (for non-individually recognisable species). To improve the accuracy of estimates based on okapi dung encounters, a dung degradation study will also be conducted nearby in the forest at the RFO alongside a dung production study using GIC's captive okapi at Epulu to establish both rates across wet and dry seasons.

⁶Rowcliffe, J.M., Field, J., Turvey, S.T., Carbone, C. (2008) Estimating animal density using camera traps without the need for individual recognition. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 45: 1228-1236

1.7 - PhD student participates in initial survey methodology meeting, and accompanies field teams to collect faecal samples, training up ZSL and GIC staff members to ensure standard process is followed
David Stanton has so far carried out two fieldwork sessions as part of his okapi genetics project. The first fieldwork session was carried out in September 2010. This involved training ZSL and GIC staff in faecal sample collection and accompanying field teams on initial sample collection in the RFO. Between the first and the second fieldwork session, David participated in survey methodology meetings with the rest of the ZSL team via email, and individually with specific partners.

David carried out a second fieldwork session in DRC, assisted by ZSL monitoring officer Kaghoma Kambale, between July and October 2011. The work was mostly conducted in the areas of Rubi Tele and TL2 where the Lukuru Foundation helped facilitate the expedition and provided men during wildlife monitoring studies and during the collection of okapi dung. The expedition served as a sample collection mission, and also included sample collection training for the Lukuru Foundation field team, to ensure a standard process is followed. David also met with project partners GIC and WCS to give feedback on the storage of samples that had already been collected.

1.8 - Field survey and genetic data from all sites analysed and mapped

The okapi data from the WCS-led wildlife inventory of the RFO which took place in 2010/2011 has been made available to ZSL. This forms part of WCS's review on the general status of wildlife in the reserve but will be reanalysed by ZSL once updated okapi dung decay and production rates are available following the studies outlined in section 1.6.

In July 2011, additional data on the historical distribution of the okapi were gathered from the Lwiro research centre based in Bukavu. ZSL's scoping surveys conducted in South Ituri confirm the presence of the okapi in the areas visited and the need to focus on the areas of Central Ituri and near Kisangani as potential okapi corridors. Current distribution of the okapi across its range will be analysed and modelled in year 3 once further survey data are available.

Genetic analysis in the lab at Cardiff has been ongoing since October 2011. Work has focused on DNA extraction from all samples collected so far (RFO surveys by WCS and ZSL and samples collected elsewhere in the range by the Lukuru Foundation). New genetic markers have been developed, and these have been tested on the samples. They have also been analysed using genetic markers already developed. Preliminary results indicate a genetic difference between two different populations of okapi on either side of a tributary of the Congo river and also that only relatively fresh dung (a few days old) contain extractable and viable genetic material.

Output 2. Training of ICCN and local communities in biological and socio-economic monitoring techniques and community participatory work

2.1 - ICCN rangers, monitoring officers and community-based field staff trained in biomonitoring theory and methods at WCS training centre in RFO, through classroom-based lessons and field training in Epulu area

A number of community-based field staff were trained in sample collection this year (see section 1.7). Some training in biomonitoring methods has already taken place in year 1, but the majority of training of ICCN rangers planned under this activity will now be implemented at the same time as the methods comparison study in RFO in year 3. A total of 16 ICCN guards will be trained in groups of four before, during and after the different field survey trips. They will receive classroom and on-the-job training and will be able to apply the methods learned at RFO (recces, line transects, camera trapping and dung collection); it was decided that this was more practical and feasible than attempting this in other protected areas of the okapi range.

2.2 - ICCN monitoring officers and community-based team leaders trained in data management, analysis and reporting

This training requires sufficient data to be collected to allow the management of large datasets and data analysis as well as report writing. Once ZSL's studies in RFO are underway in year 3 this activity will be feasible.

Output 3: Capacity of ICCN and local communities to monitor, manage and conserve forest resources increased across okapi range

[3.1 - Patrol posts constructed at Lamiya in the Watalinga forest of Virunga NP (on the Uganda border) in year 1 and in Mt Hoyo Reserve in year 2]

The construction of patrol posts was removed from the DI project budget following a review of the proposal by Defra, as the UK government is unable to fund Congolese government infrastructure. It was expected that they would be funded instead by the CBFF project. However, since submitting the DI proposal in 2008 and the arrival of a new conservator that same year, ICCN's strategy in Virunga NP has changed and the new patrol post for Virunga is no longer a priority. Construction of the patrol post in Mt Hoyo should be possible once ZSL's CBFF grant is disbursed, but this activity has been removed from the DI project due to the uncertainty in the start date for the CBFF project.

3.3 - Monthly patrols by ICCN rangers

Unfortunately, the deterioration of security in the Virunga-Hoyo region, and a limited number of rangers available for Virunga NP, has meant that ICCN rangers have still not been redeployed to the Watalinga forest of northern Virunga NP where the okapi are found (see year 1 annual report for detail). Patrols have therefore not been possible in this area, but the project continues to support ICCN to meet its core needs by assisting with ranger salaries, equipment purchases (radios and phones for communication across Virunga NP, and kitchen equipment research material for Mt Hoyo headquarters), fuel and other running costs and training, in order to gradually restore its capacity to manage these protected areas. In Mt Hoyo, salary assistance has also been provided by ZSL through matched funds from the EU.

[3.6 - Initial focus groups held in at least 4 communities each of Mbau, Watalinga and Mt Hoyo areas to discuss issues of sustainable natural resource use, options for alternative livelihoods and raise awareness of okapi and forest conservation]

This activity has been removed as it is largely CBFF-dependent, although some progress has in fact been made this year. In April 2011, ZSL co-facilitated and attended a multi-stakeholder meeting hosted by MONUSCO (UN Peacekeeping Mission in DRC), UNDP and UN Habitat. The aim was to help mitigate the growing conflict between ICCN and the Lesse communities living around Mont Hoyo, many of whom had moved into the reserve following the rehabilitation of the access road coinciding with the absence of ICCN and clearly delimited reserve boundaries. They were strongly opposed to ICCN's presence in their territories and complained that the rangers deployed were not native to their region (coming from North Kivu Province to the south rather than Orientale Province). These discussions have resolved some major issues and paved the way for improved collaboration with the local population.

Figure 2: Mont Hoyo map showing the temporary borders (to be discussed with local communities)



[3.7 - Participatory mapping with communities of key resources, land use and boundaries of community forest area]

This activity has been removed as it is largely CBFF-dependent, although some progress has in fact been made this year. The discussions detailed in section 3.6 above helped to reduce conflict and develop a greater acceptance of ICCN's presence and of conservation projects. In January 2012, the ZSL team visited Mont Hoyo to undertake the mapping of the reserve. Two teams led by ZSL of 15 people each (including ICCN rangers) were deployed and reserve boundaries dating back to the ordinance of 1947 were delimited. Thanks to the production of this map, another meeting will be held with the local communities in Q2 of year 3 to present the temporary limits of the reserve. Collective and participatory negotiation will be used to find an agreement on the placement of the Mont Hoyo Reserve boundaries.

3.8 - Regular (at least twice-yearly) radio broadcasts and newspaper articles on okapi/forest conservation across DRC and in Virunga-Hoyo region

There were no media outputs over the last year but several radio stations in Beni and Goma will be approached once the comparative research plot is set up and as results from the surveys start to come in. Discovery Channel Canada was keen to visit and report on the project in July 2012 for its Daily Planet news programme but was unable to pursue this following a security review banning travel to DRC.

[3.11 - Assistance in fundraising and access to in-country or expatriate technical support for community projects]

This activity has been removed as is CBFF-dependent, although some progress has been made this year. With technical support and expertise from ZSL, the community-based Usala Nature Reserve applied for and successfully secured a small grant (\$4000) from the International Primatological Society and the IUCN Primate Specialist Group. The proposal focusses on preliminary surveys and monitoring of Hamlyn's owl faced guenon (*Cercopithecus hamlyni*), the sole representative of a unique guenon lineage and therefore of considerable conservation value. Additionally, the Usala research team will collect data on okapi presence and threats and collect dung samples for the genetic analysis.

4.2 Progress towards project outputs

Output 1. Biodiversity, threats and resource needs of local people documented across okapi range and management interventions for conservation of okapi and other flagship species identified and disseminated using RFO region as a case study

This output is ongoing, with some surveys carried forward to year 3. Data collection from priority sites has been started, completed or is planned, and relevant partners are in regular communication. Two surveys have been completed (with reports available as means of verification; see below) and numerous other data collected and contributed from partners (e.g. first year report from genetics PhD student). Discussions have been had with partners for further collaborative surveys to be undertaken, as well as for ZSL to receive and incorporate data from partners' planned surveys over the course of the project. While planned activities in the Virunga-Hoyo region have faced some delays so have been largely removed from the logframe, ZSL has been able to focus activities towards this output in the RFO in collaboration with local partners ICCN, GIC and WCS.

Indicator 1a: Baseline biodiversity surveys carried out in at least 2 sites across the okapi known range by year 2.

Means of verification: Survey reports (RFO-WCS and Maiko-FFI available; TL2/Rubi Tele-Lukuru Foundation in prep.; other survey reports will be available in year 3 as the timeline of this activity has been extended)

Indicator 1b: Preliminary scoping visits carried out to gather information from local communities regarding okapi presence/abundance and general resource use in areas too inaccessible or insecure to permit full surveys.

Means of verification: Some ZSL survey reports available (TL2, Rubi Tele and South Ituri – all in French); other survey reports will be available in year 3 as this activity is ongoing.

Output 2. Training of ICCN and local communities in biological and socio-economic monitoring techniques and community participatory work

Biomonitoring and dung sample collection protocols have been developed and are available as a means of verification. Additional funding has been secured for an intensive training programme for ICCN which will now take place in year 3. The socio-economic and community participatory work planned for the Virunga-Hoyo region has been removed from the project due to delays and uncertainty in matched funding but it is hoped that this will still occur starting at some point in year 3.

Output 3. Capacity of ICCN and local communities to monitor, manage and conserve forest resources increased across okapi range

This output is a longer-term goal that will be reached largely through the success of Outputs 1 and 2 and the participatory development of the okapi conservation action plan by multiple stakeholders. Due to the issues listed above, the community focus of work planned for the Virunga-Hoyo region has been removed from the project. The okapi species action plan will act as a solid means of verification outlining the means by which okapi conservation will be sustained in the future.

4.3 Standard Measures

* This is reported against the updated logframe/activities as detailed in the change request submitted in February 2012 and agreed by LTS/Defra

No	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Total to date	Number planned for this reporting period*	Total planned from application
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	1 (UK)	1 (UK)	1 (same person)	1	5
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	1	6	7	8	20
5	Number of people to receive at least one year of training (which does not fall into categories 1-4 above)	0	3 (DRC)	3	3	3
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above)	6 (DRC)	6 (DRC)	12	0	[48]
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	1	1	2	0	[9]
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	1	1	2	1	3
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	40	31	71	46.5	139.5
9	Number of species/habitat management plans (or action plans) to be produced for Governments, public authorities, or other implementing agencies in the host country	0	0	0	0	1
10	Number of individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and recording	0	1	1	1	1

No	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Total to date	Number planned for this reporting period*	Total planned from application
11A	Number of papers to be published in peer reviewed journals	0	0	0	0	3
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	0	0	0	0	3
12B	Number of computer based databases to be enhanced and handed over to host country	0	0	0	0	1
14A	Number of conferences/ seminars/ workshops to be organised to present/ disseminate findings	0	0	0	0	2
14B	Number of conferences/ seminars/ workshops attended at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/ disseminated.	1	0	1	0	3
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	0	0	0	0	1
15B	Number of local press releases in host country(ies)	0	0	0	0	1
15C	Number of national press releases in UK	0	0	0	0	2
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	3	2	5	4	12
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)	35	41	41 (updated email list)	30	30
17A	Number of dissemination networks to be established	1	0	1	0	1
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	0	0	0	0	1
18B	Number of national TV programmes/features in UK	0	0	0	0	1
18C	Number of local TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	0	0	0	0	1
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	1	0	1	1	3
19C	Number of local radio interviews/features in host country(ies)	0	0	0	1	3
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	£12,584	0	£12,584	0	£14,640

No	Description	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Total to date	Number planned for this reporting period*	Total planned from application
22	Number of permanent field plots to be established during the project and continued after Darwin funding has ceased	0	0	0	0	2
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	£167,790	£115,465	£283,255	£356,025	£1,131,233

Table 2 Publications

Type (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £
Project information sheet	'Conserving okapi: Congo's forest giraffe', ZSL, 2011	ZSL	www.zsl.org/okapi	£0 (electronic version)

4.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

The revised purpose of the project is 'Forest biodiversity across okapi range conserved, through building capacity of park authorities to manage protected area'. As stated in the assumptions, this depends on ICCN being able to carry out standardised biomonitoring and patrols, through having sufficient funds, technical capacity and motivation, and continued security in the landscape. Unfortunately ICCN continues to be severely under-resourced and has struggled to recruit good, permanent staff given the risks of operating in the current insecure situation and the low salaries offered. This project will help to provide the tools required for ongoing monitoring and protection of biodiversity across the okapi's range, and will define and agree this in the okapi conservation action plan, but it is likely that the purpose will only be achieved with continued technical and financial support from partners such as ZSL in the short to medium term.

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

The ultimate goal of the project is 'Ecosystem-wide conservation of forest biodiversity in DRC using okapi as a flagship across their range, with communities integrated into and benefiting from forest conservation'. This supports the DI generic goal in (a) improving – or establishing a means of improving - the conservation status of the okapi, through developing and, following the end of the DI project, implementing an okapi conservation action plan, (b) improving the sustainability of hunting of okapi for bushmeat and skins, through evaluation of the scale and drivers of the trade, awareness-raising, support for law enforcement and developing alternative livelihoods and (c) increasing the benefits to local communities from conserving biodiversity by tying enhanced livelihoods (e.g. via agroforestry or carbon income) to conservation gains such as maintenance of okapi populations. Progress is ongoing towards achieving some part of all three of these aims by the end of the DI project, but due to the scope of the work required and the difficulty of working in DRC, the work will have to continue after this and the impact will be much longer-term. It will also require additional matched and follow-on funding. Monitoring measures will be put in place to ensure that the impact is measurable.

5. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons

To monitor the progress of the project, monthly technical reports including meetings, fieldwork, plans, results and key performance indicators are sent to ZSL's London office. The Programme Administrator and Project Manager based in DRC are responsible for local financial accounting and monitoring, with monthly field financial reports from each project's component sent to London. A UK-based Programme Administrator reviews and compiles the overall financial reports, collaborating with the DRC-based team, which are then checked by the Project Leader to ensure transparency and accountability. Finally, the London-based ZSL Finance Department is ultimately responsible for accountability of the project.

London-based acting Programme Manager, Hannah Thomas, visited DRC in February 2011, to help new Project Coordinator Elise Queslin settle in and meet the DRC-based field team and partners, and to review the project's progress. Such visits also provide the DRC and London-based staff with the opportunity to discuss the particular opportunities and challenges of working in DRC. In addition, DRC-based Project Coordinator, Stuart Nixon, visited London three times in year 2 for meetings to discuss project progress and plans with the wider Africa Programme team and UK-based project partners.

It was anticipated that success of the project will be evaluated through reduced forest loss, reduced sign of hunting and stabilisation of the okapi population over time. However, as these are long-term results, and dependent on matched funding from the CBFF to ensure community-related outputs in the model Virunga-Hoyo region, ZSL is now focusing on outputs that contribute to the successful completion of and implementation the okapi conservation action plan. We will endeavour to monitor the success of the project through short- and medium-term indicators, such as the number of people trained, number and type of surveys carried out, number of attendees at workshops, etc.

6. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Not applicable - a review of last year's report was not done.

7. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Due to a number of challenges both specific to the project and related to working in DRC, the project has unfortunately experienced some significant difficulties in executing its planned activities this year. Firstly, while ZSL has been able to raise a significant amount of matched funding to support the project, there have been unexpected difficulties regarding a major source of these funds. Anticipated matched funds from the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF), originally expected in June 2010, have been further delayed due to ongoing administrative issues with the grant and therefore we have been unable to start the majority of activities supporting field surveys and community initiatives in the Virunga-Hoyo region. (This has in fact caused additional difficulties for ZSL activities in the region, as partners' and local communities' hopes have been raised regarding a new project that has not subsequently come through.) As noted at the start of the DI project in response to the proposal reviewers' comments, it was never intended that the DI funds would cover these aspects of the project. Although we still hope that these activities will take place, we have removed these activities from the logframe due to the uncertainty regarding the CBFF project start date.

Secondly, while the level of security in areas of eastern DRC has been variable since the beginning of 2010, the situation deteriorated considerably between June and October 2011 with the approach of presidential elections held in late November 2011. Due to the high risk of insecurity during this period, all field activities were suspended during the months of November and December.

Thirdly, while the updated contract between ICCN and ZSL permitting ZSL to work in ICCN protected areas was signed in March 2011, there was a major delay in releasing the contract due to unforeseen requirements for validation and notarisation at UK and DRC embassies and ICCN offices.

Finally, changes to and issues with key project personnel in year 2 have meant a lack of continuity regarding project management. Project Leader Noëlle Kümpel was on maternity leave between June 2011 and April 2012, and Stuart Nixon, field coordinator, left ZSL in January 2012. In both cases their positions were vacant for a period before their replacements, Hannah Thomas and Elise Queslin respectively, were recruited and in position. Earlier in 2011, Stuart also suffered from an accident requiring a month off work to recuperate in the UK, which delayed fieldwork at that time and meant he was physically unable to work in the field as planned for some time after this.

We have therefore submitted a change request form to adapt activities and outputs accordingly. This includes an increased focus on research into and testing of okapi monitoring methods which will be particularly critical in developing and implementing a strong species action plan.

8. Sustainability

As a result of instigating this project, communication via the okapi working group and various meetings held over the course of the year, the five year partnership contract signed with ICCN in March 2011 authorised ZSL to take the lead on okapi research and monitoring and developing a species action plan. ZSL regularly communicates with all partners involved in the project and support for the project has been strong amongst partners since the outset. Although not the priority species for many organisations, the okapi does enjoy popular support across DRC among both the conservation community and the general public, and its relative obscurity means it has yet to suffer from 'donor fatigue'.

One major outcome of this project will be an okapi conservation action plan, which will in turn provide a platform for additional collaboration between partners, communities and government agencies for conservation planning in DRC. While additional funds will need to be sought to implement the activities recommended, the strategy, basis for fundraising and the needs will be well defined. It is envisioned that the various partner organisations will, individually and jointly, take on responsibility for particular aspects of the plan, thus ensuring a more feasible and sustainable strategy where no one organisation will be responsible for carrying out all of the recommendations.

Discussions have been had with the IUCN Species Survival Commission regarding setting up an Okapi and Giraffe Specialist Group, and a formal proposal is being developed by Project Leader Noëlle Kümpel with Julian Fennessy of the International Giraffe Working Group (IGWG). This specialist group would help to formalise and develop ongoing work on okapi and okapi conservationists would benefit from the organisation offered by the already-established IGWG.

In the medium term, additional funds have been raised by ZSL to carry out specific activities within the project between 2011 and 2014. Further fundraising will be an ongoing process to ensure that ZSL's activities are supported and implemented until other sustainable financing mechanisms, such as REDD+ carbon finance and increased central government support for protected areas, are secured.

9. Dissemination

Dissemination of the early results and activities of the project has been primarily through the okapi working group emails and partner-specific meetings and communications. The okapi email group now contains members of ICCN, partner NGOs and researchers working in DRC and internationally, and international bodies such as IUCN. Project progress is disseminated to ICCN at site level through the CoCoSi (site coordination committee) system of six-monthly ICCN-partner meetings and at national level through annual reports and evaluation visits.

Due to the issues with project personnel this year, public dissemination (e.g. media outputs) has not progressed as planned, but with the appointment of a new project coordinator in February 2012 we hope to pick this up again and ensure that this is continued by the Congolese team members.

A proposal is in preparation to set up an IUCN SSC Giraffe and Okapi Specialist Group, to be co-chaired by Project Leader Noëlle Kümpel. This would provide a long-term forum for continued efforts to conserve the okapi, in the form of raising funds for and awareness of monitoring, research, training and protection activities and the dissemination of information on okapi conservation. The okapi conservation action plan will be developed with the guidance of IUCN and will raise awareness of okapi issues both within the conservation community and to people across DRC.

10. Project Expenditure

Table 3: project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012)

Item	Budget (as detailed in 'ZSL-DRC R17 budget final revised 09-04-10.xls')	Expenditure	Variance %
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			-10%
Overheads			
Office rental, heating			
Institutional overheads			
Operating costs			37%
Communication (internet, phone, postage)			
Printing and stationery cost			
Conferences, workshop and seminars (UK&HC)			
Travel and subsistence			-30%
International Travel			
National travel (UK cost and host country)			
Fieldwork travel and subsistence (UK cost and Host Country)			
Capital items/equipment (specify)			
Internet installation			
Office equipment			
Others (specify)			57%
Sampling tubes and lab equipment			
Environment outreach material			
Fieldwork operating costs (UK&HC)			
Salaries (specify by individual)			3%
Project coordinator - Stuart Nixon / Elise Queslin			

Research Officer- Kaghoma Kambale			
Field survey assistant - Magloire Kambale			
Office security guard - Mungombe Chibichabene			
Project administrator - John Fataki			
ICCN rangers			
Community monitors			
Congolese MSc students			
Office assistant – Roger			
TOTAL			0%

As explained in section 7, the project has suffered from a delay in the arrival of expected matched funds from the Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF). One outcome has been that DI funds have had to be used to cover some administrative costs that would otherwise have fallen under this grant, such as the annual overhead payable to ICCN's General Direction (which increased from \$2400 to \$5000 per year following the signing of our new contract in March 2011), unexpected expenditure on office internet installation and salaries of the DRC Project Administrator, Office Security Guard and Office Assistant. While direct fieldwork costs have been lower than budgeted due to insecurity causing difficulty in accessing forest areas, in-country travel costs have been higher than expected due to travel by road between Goma and Beni having to be redirected via Rwanda/Uganda in order to avoid the insecure Virunga NP, increased petrol costs and high vehicle maintenance costs due to the poor road conditions and lack of access to reliable garages in DRC necessitating repairs in Uganda. These changes have been discussed with and approved by LTS, as has a reworking of the budget for year 3 to reflect new predicted expenditure in these areas.

We have been successful in obtaining additional new matched funding from the USFWS (a new grant of \$25,000 to support the okapi conservation action plan workshop, in addition to the methodology comparison surveys in RFO as reported in year 1) and MBZ (\$10,000), and are still hopeful that the CBFF grant will arrive during year 3 to support many core costs and activities in the Virunga-Hoyo region. Unfortunately, this year we learnt that a number of other proposals submitted to support this DI project were unsuccessful (those to the BBC Wildlife Fund, National Geographic Society, Nando Perretti Foundation, Prince Bernhard Fund for Nature, Wildlife Conservation Network and People's Trust for Endangered Species). Further funding is being sought from other sources to support fieldwork and the species action plan workshop and report.

11. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for LTS and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here)

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2010-2011

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and achievements April 2011 - March 2012	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: 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</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⇒ The conservation of biological diversity, ⇒ The sustainable use of its components, and ⇒ The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 		<p>Ongoing field surveys by ZSL and partners to help reassess conservation status of okapi and threats across its range and develop okapi conservation action plan; discussions regarding establishment of new IUCN SSC Okapi and Giraffe Specialist Group (SG)</p>	
<p>Sub-Goal: Ecosystem-wide conservation of forest biodiversity in DRC using okapi as a flagship across its range, with communities integrated into and benefiting from forest conservation</p>	<p>Intact and connected forest across central DRC, maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services and enabling long-term viability of populations of wide-ranging flagship species such as forest elephant and species subject to illegal cross-border trade with Uganda such as okapi, elephant, hippo, gorilla, chimpanzee and leopard</p>	<p>Okapi-focused outputs underway but delayed due to various issues described in section 7</p>	
<p>Purpose: Forest biodiversity across okapi range conserved, through building capacity of park authorities to manage protected areas</p>	<p>Biomonitoring by ICCN and local communities shows no reduction in flagship forest biodiversity indicator species within three to five years</p>	<p>Trends only feasible during project for areas where comprehensive surveys have already taken place (e.g. RFO); baseline surveys underway in various other areas and will be continued in year 3 in conjunction with partners and where security allows, with okapi results to be calibrated following activity 1.6/1.6a</p>	<p>Biodiversity monitoring training to be conducted in RFO under matched funds from USFWS; ongoing biomonitoring depends on security, financial capacity and priorities of ICCN and communities across landscape and will require ongoing external support</p>
	<p>Regular and structured ICCN anti-poaching patrols are undertaken in sensitive areas to deter illegal hunting</p>	<p>Not possible in year 2 due to insecurity and lack of trained manpower within ICCN</p>	<p>Expected to be carried out in Virunga NP and Mt Hoyo Reserve in year 3 as long as funds and security allow</p>
<p>Output 1. Biodiversity, threats and resource needs of local people documented across okapi range and management interventions for conservation of okapi and other flagship species identified and disseminated using RFO region as</p>	<p>1a. Baseline biodiversity surveys carried out in at least 2 sites across the okapi known range, using standardised population monitoring techniques (recces/transects/camera trapping), focusing on distribution/abundance of flagship species (okapi, elephant, hippo, gorilla, chimpanzee and leopard) (by yr 2)</p>	<p>Delayed by insecurity and lack of matched funding required, so target number of sites has had to be reduced</p>	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and achievements April 2011 - March 2012	Actions required/planned for next period
case study	1b. Preliminary scoping visits carried out to gather information from local communities regarding okapi presence/abundance and general resource use in areas too inaccessible or insecure to permit full surveys (by yr 3)	These are more appropriate given the size of the okapi range, challenges of access to forest areas and funding available so will be carried out to 'fill in gaps' in okapi information in year 3	
	1c. 12-month methodology comparison study, evaluating okapi density results as obtained by line and recce transects, camera trapping and genetic analysis, to develop rapid assessment techniques for forest biodiversity monitoring	This long-term study will help guide future biomonitoring efforts, in evaluating the most appropriate method(s) to use in a particular scenario and enabling calibration and therefore better use of current okapi datasets; it also focuses on RFO, where security has been better than in other areas such as Virunga-Hoyo (although the situation has also recently deteriorated in RFO)	
	1d. Genetic analysis of okapi faecal samples by PhD student to understand population structure and connectivity (by yr 3)	Progress is as envisaged, with a number of samples being provided by partners working across the okapi range; it is hoped that the study in activity 1.6 will also enable an analysis of fine-scale population structure and barriers to dispersal	
	1e. Priority areas for okapi and other flagship species mapped and management actions required for their conservation identified at multi-stakeholder (including ICCN and UWA) workshop (yr 3)	This will begin in year 3 using data collected in years 1-2 and into year 3; given delays in data collection, there is a possibility that we may need to delay this output under a no-cost extension to the project.	
Activity 1.1 Technical expert steering group formed and first meeting held		Completed	
Activity 1.2 Survey methodology for okapi and other flagships agreed by technical steering group and trialled in RFO alongside dung decay surveys		Methodology agreed	FRO trials to take place in year 3 (see activity 1.6)
Activity 1.3 Standardised baseline surveys to be carried out in at least two survey areas		Revised activity completed but further surveys will be done if possible. Full baseline biodiversity surveys in year 2 only possible by partners in TL2 and Rubi Tele region as better security; ZSL lent support to these surveys and additional okapi dung collection and interviews	Surveys to be conducted in year 3 by ZSL in RFO and partners in Rubi Tele and Maiko NP. Surveys in Virunga-Hoyo will be conducted if matched funds from CBFF are released in time
Activity 1.4 Preliminary recce surveys carried out where possible in additional sites		Deferred/combined with activity 1.5 – TL2, Rubi Tele and South Ituri completed	Virunga-Hoyo region to be surveyed in year 3, if funds not sufficient for full baseline survey as for activity 1.3
Activity 1.5 Basic socio-economic surveys carried out to gather basic okapi information in communities across the okapi range (e.g. Businga, South Ituri, Maiko)		New activity – preliminary surveys in TL2, Rubi Tele and South Ituri completed	Further surveys planned in year 3 in Central Ituri, around Kisangani and in Businga if funds allow
Activity 1.6 Undertake methodology comparison study (genetic marking, camera trapping, line and recce transect) to evaluate the efficacy of methods		Deferred to year 3	Will begin in early year 3

Project summary		Measurable Indicators	Progress and achievements April 2011 - March 2012	Actions required/planned for next period
Activity 1.6a Methodology comparison study written up and submitted to a peer-reviewed journal			Deferred to year 3	Will begin in early year 3
Activity 1.7 PhD student participates in initial survey methodology meeting, and accompanies field teams to collect faecal samples, training up ZSL and GIC staff members to ensure standard process is followed			Completed, with progress as planned. PhD student has completed a second field trip to TL2/Rubi Tele in year 2. A further 6 staff from the Lukuru Foundation (also working in other regions) have been trained in sample collection	
Activity 1.8 Field survey and genetic data from all sites analysed and mapped			170 samples from RFO collected in year currently being analysed. A further 15 useable samples have been obtained from TL2, TLA, Rubi Tele and Maiko and are being analysed, and 20 new samples from TL2, Rubi Tele and Mt Hoyo have been collected and are due to be exported in year 3	Samples will continue to be collected by ZSL and other partners in the field and exported to Cardiff for analysis. PhD student will prepare report for action planning workshop in year 3
Activity 1.9 Multi-stakeholder workshop held to discuss findings, management actions required and fundraising strategy			Not planned for year 2	To be carried out in year 3
Activity 1.10 Okapi conservation action plan written up and report produced			Not planned for year 2	To be carried out in year 3
Output 2. Training of ICCN and local communities in biological and socio-economic monitoring techniques and community participatory work	2a. 32 ICCN rangers across okapi range trained in flagship species monitoring (including camera trap data collection) via workshops and field surveys (yrs 1-2)		This has been deferred to year 3 due to delays in ICCN issuing ZSL's partnership contract resulting in lack of permission to start work in RFO, running into the presidential election period preventing all field activities; training in data analysis will follow the field training. The number of ICCN rangers to be trained has been revised to 16 (four per survey cycle) to take into account limits to the size of field teams	
	2b. Four ICCN monitoring officers from across okapi range trained in monitoring data analysis and reporting (yrs 1-2)			
Activity 2.1 ICCN rangers, monitoring officers and community-based field staff trained in biomonitoring theory and methods at WCS training centre in RFO, through classroom-based lessons and field training in Epulu area			Matched funding secured for a training course from USFWS, postponed to year 3	Training will be carried out alongside activity 1.6
Activity 2.2 ICCN monitoring officers and community-based team leaders trained in data management, analysis and reporting			Now to be conducted in year 3	Candidates for further training will be selected from the training course under activity 2.1
Output 3. Capacity of ICCN and local communities to monitor, manage and conserve forest	3a. ICCN staff trained in ecological monitoring techniques (line and recce transects, camera trapping) (by yr 3)		Field-based activities under this output have largely been postponed to year 3 due to reasons listed above and in section 7; this may impact the timing of the workshop planned for the final quarter of year 3 as all data	

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and achievements April 2011 - March 2012	Actions required/planned for next period
resources increased across okapi range	3b. Simple, long-term biomonitoring data collection and analysis protocols developed for use by ICCN/local communities (yr 1) 3c. Workshop between ICCN, UWA and partners, to facilitate transboundary monitoring of wildlife, reduce illegal trade in forest products between DRC and Uganda and produce okapi conservation action plan (yr 3)	should be analysed in advance of this (in which case we would request a no-cost extension to the project period of performance)	
Activity 3.2 Outboard engine and pirogue purchased		Not completed due to change in ICCN priorities (ICCN no longer intends to patrol the Semliki river in Virunga NP)	
Activity 3.3 Monthly patrols by ICCN rangers		Patrols have been put on hold in the okapi area of Virunga NP due to lack of available staff, insecurity and other priorities for site management, but support has been provided by ZSL for equipment and ranger salaries as requested by ICCN	Support to ICCN-Virunga NP will be continued, to assist in new, more targeted, intelligence-based patrols
Activity 3.4 Biomonitoring data collection and analysis protocols (including database) and training modules for okapi and other wildlife developed, with initial input and subsequent oversight by technical steering group		Draft protocols developed for training purposes will be updated following the RFO methodological studies	Final protocols will be discussed and agreed as part of action planning workshop in year 3
Activity 3.5 Multi-stakeholder workshop held as for activity 1.10, including discussion of transboundary monitoring and trade controls with UWA		Not planned for year 2	To be carried out in year 3
Activity 3.8 Regular (at least twice-yearly) radio broadcasts and newspaper articles on okapi/forest conservation across DRC		Not completed in year 2 due to staffing issues	Enhanced publicity planned surrounding new survey results, the okapi action planning workshop and report publication in year 3

Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Goal: Effective contribution in support of the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), as well as related targets set by countries rich in biodiversity but constrained in resources.</p>			
<p>Sub-Goal: Ecosystem-wide conservation of forest biodiversity in DRC using okapi as a flagship across their range, with communities integrated into and benefiting from forest conservation</p>	<p>Intact and connected forest across central DRC, maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services and enabling long-term viability of populations of wide-ranging flagship species such as forest elephant and species subject to illegal cross-border trade with Uganda such as okapi, elephant, hippo, gorilla, chimpanzee and leopard</p>	<p>Reports of okapi and wildlife monitoring by NGOs/ ICCN/ communities across landscape Satellite monitoring of forest cover</p>	
<p>Purpose: Forest biodiversity across okapi range conserved, through building capacity of park authorities to manage protected area</p>	<p>Biomonitoring by ICCN and local communities shows no reduction in flagship forest biodiversity indicator species within three to five years Regular and structured ICCN anti-poaching patrols are undertaken in sensitive areas to deter illegal hunting</p>	<p>Annual monitoring reports overseen by ICCN DI closed project evaluation</p>	<p>ICCN continue annual monitoring throughout protected areas Continuing security in the landscape</p>
<p>Outputs: 1. Biodiversity, threats and resource needs of local people documented across okapi range and management interventions for conservation of okapi and other flagship species identified and disseminated using RFO region as case study</p>	<p>1a. Baseline biodiversity surveys carried out in at least 2 sites across the okapi known range, using standardised population monitoring techniques (recces/transects/camera trapping), focusing on distribution/abundance of flagship species (okapi, elephant, hippo, gorilla, chimpanzee and leopard) (by yr 2) 1b. Preliminary scoping visits carried out to gather information from local communities regarding okapi presence/abundance and general resource use in areas too inaccessible or insecure to permit full surveys 1c. 12-month methodology comparison study, evaluating okapi density results as obtained by line and recce transects, camera trapping and genetic analysis, to develop rapid assessment techniques for forest biodiversity monitoring 1d. Genetic analysis of okapi faecal samples by PhD student to understand population structure and connectivity (by yr 3) 1e. Priority areas for okapi and other flagship species mapped and management actions required for their conservation identified at multi-stakeholder (including ICCN and UWA) workshop (yr 3)</p>	<p>1a. Survey reports; peer-reviewed publications 1b. Survey reports; peer-reviewed publications 1c. Peer-reviewed publications demonstrating the comparability of methodologies for assessing okapi density and providing up to date density estimates in RFO 1d. PhD report (thesis will be completed after DI project end); peer-reviewed publications 1e. Maps of species distributions, relative abundance and threats; range-wide okapi conservation action plan</p>	<p>Continuing security in the landscape Communities engage with activities Suitable students can be recruited and funding is found for PhD study</p>

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>2. Training of ICCN and local communities in biological and socio-economic monitoring techniques and community participatory work</p>	<p>2a. 32 ICCN rangers across okapi range trained in flagship species monitoring (including camera trap data collection) via workshops and field surveys (yrs 1-2)</p> <p>2b. Four ICCN monitoring officers from across okapi range trained in monitoring data analysis and reporting (yrs 1-2)</p>	<p>2a. Training workshop reports and training certificates; training manuals; monthly patrol/activity reports</p> <p>2b. Training workshop reports and training certificates; training manuals</p>	<p>Suitable and sufficient government rangers are made available for training</p> <p>Security issues allow work in the relevant areas</p>
<p>3. Capacity of ICCN and local communities to monitor, manage and conserve forest resources increased across okapi range</p>	<p>3a. ICCN staff trained in ecological monitoring techniques (line and recce transects, camera trapping)</p> <p>3b. Simple, long-term biomonitoring data collection and analysis protocols developed for use by ICCN/local communities (yr 1)</p> <p>3c. Workshop between ICCN, UWA and partners, to facilitate transboundary monitoring of wildlife, reduce illegal trade in forest products between DRC and Uganda and produce okapi conservation action plan (yr 3)</p>	<p>3a. Annual project reports and ICCN monthly patrol reports</p> <p>3b. Biomonitoring manual; basic automated data analysis and GIS-mapping program</p> <p>3c. Workshop report; okapi action plan; IUCN Red List okapi re-assessment</p> <p>3e. Proposal submitted to appropriate donor(s); funds for new project</p>	<p>ICCN provides rangers and monitoring officer(s) with ongoing responsibility for monitoring and analysis in each site</p> <p>Security issues allow work in the relevant areas</p>

Annex 3 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

This may include outputs of the project, but need not necessarily include all project documentation. For example, the abstract of a conference would be adequate, as would be a summary of a thesis rather than the full document. If we feel that reviewing the full document would be useful, we will contact you again to ask for it to be submitted.

It is important, however, that you include enough evidence of project achievement to allow reassurance that the project is continuing to work towards its objectives. Evidence can be provided in many formats (photos, copies of presentations/press releases/press cuttings, publications, minutes of meetings, reports, questionnaires, reports etc) and you should ensure you include some of these materials to support the annual report text.

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 5MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Is your report more than 5MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
Have you included means of verification? You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	
Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number.	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	