



# 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 2013**

## 1. Darwin Project Information

Project Reference	19-002
Project Title	A cutting-EDGE approach to saving Seychelles evolutionarily distinct biodiversity.
Host Country/ies	Seychelles
UK contract holder institution	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology- University of Kent
Host country partner institutions	Government of Seychelles Ministry of Environment and Energy; Seychelles National Parks Authority; Seychelles Islands Foundation; Natural History Museum of Seychelles; Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles; Nature Protection Trust of Seychelles
Other partner institutions	Zoological Society of London-EDGE of existence programme; Natural History Museum-London; Professor Paul Racey (bat specialist);
Darwin Grant Value	£256,085
Start/end dates of project	01 October 2012/30 September 2015
Reporting period (eg Apr 2012 – Mar 2013) and number (eg Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	October 2012-March 2013. Annual Report 1.
Project Leader name	Dr. Jim Groombridge
Project website	<a href="http://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/research/projects/survival/current/jg_bio_diversity.html">http://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/research/projects/survival/current/jg_bio_diversity.html</a>
Report authors, main contributors and date	Rachel Bristol the Project Officer and Jim Groombridge the Project Leader, 30 April 2013. Contributions from project partners and fellows are named throughout this annual report (particularly see annexes)

## 2. Project Background

**PRIORITISING SPECIES FOR CONSERVATION:** Our understanding of the Earth's biodiversity has begun to recognise the global and taxonomic significance of evolutionarily distinct species and their high conservation value. With ancient evolutionary origins, these 'biological treasures' not only represent the '*last of their kind*' but are often extremely rare, raising the stakes for their successful recovery. Saving these species is a major challenge because;

- (i) their biology, taxonomy and habitat requirements are often poorly-known and understudied, limiting options for their recovery until appropriate in-country capacity is developed and basic knowledge gaps are filled;
- (ii) they often go unnoticed by the global conservation community, struggling to compete for resources against more charismatic 'flagship species'.
- (iii) they seldom cluster together geographically to form a convenient focus, but instead are scattered worldwide as 'high-priority' species in dire conservation need.

Together, extreme rarity, evolutionary uniqueness and data-deficiency make it difficult for global policy-makers to allocate resources to conserve these species.

**EDGE SPECIES:** ZSL developed the *EDGE* Programme in 2007, using a scientifically robust method to identify and prioritise Evolutionarily Distinct Globally Endangered (*EDGE*) species. Using the latest DNA-based phylogenies to estimate evolutionary distinctiveness and evaluate it alongside IUCN threat status, ZSL identified top priority ‘*EDGE*’ species for many taxa, including mammals, amphibians, birds and reef-building corals. *EDGE* has been presented to the IUCN World Conservation Congress and CBD COP 10, and is a globally accepted prioritisation tool for biodiversity conservation, paving the way for nations to recognise and target their *EDGE* species as a priority.

**SEYCHELLES – an *EDGE*-zone:** Most *EDGE* species are scattered globally. Remarkably, the Seychelles islands in the Indian Ocean are home to no less than 12 currently recognised *EDGE* species, such as the *Sooglossus* frogs (amongst the World’s smallest, most ancient frogs), the black parrot, Cooper’s black caecilian (an ancient limbless amphibian lineage) and the sheath-tailed bat (one of the world’s rarest species with <100 survivors) (see Fig.1/Table1). Consequently, the Seychelles islands form a natural ‘*EDGE*-zone’. Whilst posing a heavy burden on the Government of Seychelles to fulfil its CBD obligations, this also presents a remarkable opportunity to deliver resources and training to conserve 12 *EDGE* species in a single location.



Fig. 1: 4 of the 12 Seychelles *EDGE* species

**IN-COUNTRY CHALLENGES:** To fulfil their commitment to the CBD, the Government of Seychelles’ Ministry of Environment is tasked with saving these species, some predicted to be only a decade from extinction. However, the Ministry has identified two major obstacles to recovering their *EDGE* species and has sought our help.

- (i) (i) The Seychelles’ population of 88,000 people, and the absence of university-level training opportunities in conservation biology makes it difficult for Government to recruit, train and capacity-build for conservation amongst the local workforce.
- (ii) (ii) This deficiency in local professional expertise makes conserving *EDGE* species doubly difficult, because each *EDGE* species requires specialist approaches.

<b>Table 1: <i>EDGE</i> species endemic to Seychelles</b>	
Sheath-tailed bat ( <i>Coleura seychellensis</i> ):	1 <i>EDGE</i> sp
Seychelles black parrot ( <i>Coracopsis barklyi</i> ):	1 <i>EDGE</i> sp
Sooglossid frogs ( <i>Sooglossus/Sechellophryne</i> spp.):	4 <i>EDGE</i> sp
Cooper’s black caecilian ( <i>Praslinia cooperi</i> ):	1 <i>EDGE</i> sp
Corals ( <i>Anomastrea irregularis</i> ; <i>Horastrea indica</i> ; <i>Parasimplastrea sheppardi</i> ; <i>Catalaphyllia jardinei</i> ; <i>Physogyra lichensteini</i> ):	5 <i>EDGE</i> sp
<b>TOTAL <i>EDGE</i> species:</b>	<b>12</b>

**SOLUTION & OBJECTIVES:** A DICE-led Darwin project (with UK partners ZSL, NHM, University of Exeter and five Seychelles organisations) is uniquely-placed to overcome these obstacles, by providing specialist support to develop earmarked local biologists as ZSL *EDGE* Fellows. Five Seychelles personnel have been identified, some of whom are already embedded within the Ministry or local NGOs. Each has demonstrated potential to become such a ‘species champion’, but lacks specialist training and resources. With Darwin support, each *EDGE* Fellow will receive in-country training by UK partners, tailored specifically to their respective *EDGE* species’ requirements. Training and development of these Seychelles *EDGE* Fellows will be overseen by a full-time salaried Project Officer who will supervise the in-country conservation work and coordinate training by UK partners through field visits, exchanges and training workshops during the 3 years.

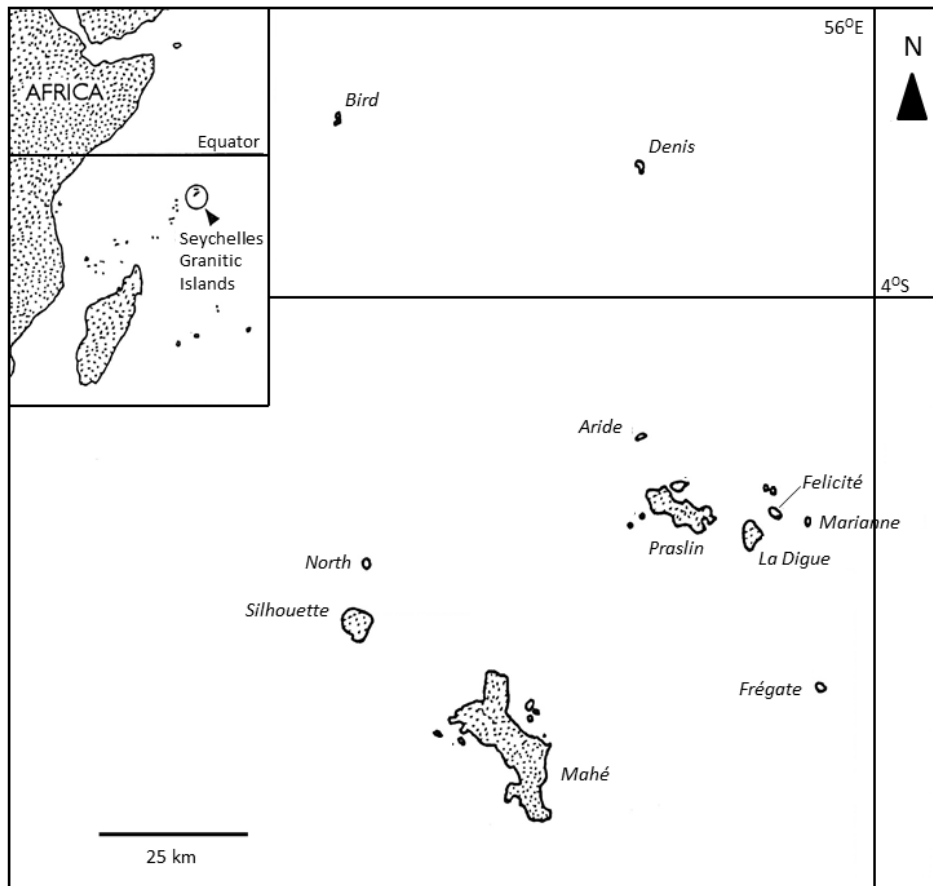


Fig 2. Map of the Seychelles granitic islands where all Seychelles EDGE species are located.

### 3. Project Partnerships

#### Project partnerships:

A project agreement has been signed between UK lead institution (University of Kent) and other project partners detailing project financial and project running procedures.

The project officer (PO), on behalf of the project leader, meets regularly with all host country partners to discuss project direction and progress and any issues and upcoming activities. The PO has extensive experience with many of these in-country partners due to her previous management of an earlier Darwin project in Seychelles. Project management meetings are held every quarter between the project officer and the host country partners in order to self-monitor project progress, detect any potential issues and to plan ahead. There have been no major changes to this management structure as it is working well to date.

The project officer (who is based full time in Seychelles) has regular email and Skype conversations with the project leader. Additionally the PO visited all UK project partners at the very beginning of the project in October 2012 to plan and timetable their input into the project activities. The PO emails the UK project partners regularly to keep everyone in the loop about project activities and progress and to enable forward planning of project workshops and partner meetings..

Partnership with Professor Paul Racey (bat expert) has to date been very fruitful. Prof Racey spent two weeks in Seychelles working directly with the project sheath-tailed bat fellow Diana Renaud providing one-on-one expertise and advice, leading a very informative and interactive two day sheath-tailed bat workshop for 16 conservation staff from host country partner organisations and 5 university students.

Our partnership with DICE-University of Kent has to date provided input into all aspects of sooglossid project work. DICE PhD student Jim Labisko has been in Seychelles researching sooglossid frog evolutionary history and conservation (October 2012-April 2013) and has been instrumental in providing field training and advice to Darwin project frog fellow James Mougat. Professor Richard Griffiths with assistance from Jim Labisko and Simon Maddock ran an excellent three day Seychelles frog workshop

for over 20 Seychellois conservation officers and rangers and 5 Seychellois university students undertaking an environmental science degree at the University of Seychelles.

Partnership with the Natural History Museum in London/University College London group has supported this project by visiting Seychelles in February- March 2013 and developing caecilian research and survey methods. They also provided on the job training to Seychelles Natural History Museum staff (our 2 project caecilian fellows Charles Moreland BerthildeBelle) in how to survey, sample and identify caecilians. Additionally they brainstormed ideas for personal projects the caecilian fellows could undertake to further our knowledge on caecilians.

Partnership with ZSL has to date provided input into ZSL EDGE fellowship applications for three of our project fellows.

The biggest challenge with this project is managing the sheer number of project partners. The project has 11 (soon to be 12- see below) project partners and whilst this ensures a rich mixture of expertise, coordinating this many partners/organisations is time consuming, particularly at the start of the project in order to get everyone up to speed on project implementation and Darwin Initiative financial and reporting requirements. However when everything works out it is also very rewarding as 12 organisations can achieve a lot when they work together toward a common aim!

Another challenge has been aligning our project time frame with the ZSL EDGE fellowship programme timeframe in order for some of our fellows to follow the ZSL EDGE fellowship programme. However with some understanding regarding the needs of our project and what the EDGE fellowship programme can offer, it is working out well and both those EDGE fellows who are following the full ZSL EDGE species fellowship and mentoring pathway, as well as the EDGE fellows who are not (and are instead benefitting from the extensive on-project training) are set to make a substantial impact as EDGE species champions in Seychelles.

UK lead institution DICE, University of Kent has built its capacity to be an effective project partner. Specifically the University of Kent has gained insight and capacity to manage projects where host country partners do not have the cash flow to implement project activities without receiving the funds up-front (in advance). This has been a challenge initially with funds taking a very long time to reach host country partners, however the university research office has worked hard to improve the system and now partners receive funds more efficiently in order to implement project activities.

#### **Other collaborations:**

The project has formed a new link with the newly opened University of Seychelles. In order to maximise the capacity building opportunity provided by the workshops we are including the nine students following a new Environmental Science degree course into our training workshops on Seychelles EDGE species led by UK partner experts. This has been extremely successful to date and we have had very positive feedback from the students.

Secondly with the approval of the Darwin Initiative/LTS (see annex 3) we are in the process of formally including an extra local partner on our project. Our new partner is a local environmental NGO Island Conservation Society. Since the start of our project NPTS (another project partner) has been evicted from Silhouette Island and ICS are now responsible for all environmental work on Silhouette Island, a key island for this project for Sheath-tailed bats and sooglossid frogs. ICS will take over the project work planned for Silhouette that was to be undertaken by NPTS and also the accompanying budget allocation to enable them to undertake the work. NPTS will remain a project partner, it is simply that their responsibility for activities on Silhouette will be carried out by ICS. This transition was done in full consultation with the Darwin Initiative.

This project has a strong link with the Seychelles CBD focal point Mr Ronley Fanchette. Mr Fanchette is the Director of the wildlife, trade and conservation section at the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE). The MEE is our project lead host country partner and one of Mr Fanchette's staff Ms Diana Renaud is our Sheath-tailed bat project fellow. This project is supporting host country institutions to build capacity to meet Seychelles CBD commitments by providing targeted expert training to local conservation managers and field staff directly involved in managing and conserving Seychelles biodiversity. Additionally this project is providing resources, individually designed training programmes, and enabling finances to five project EDGE fellows in order to boost their knowledge, skills, capacity and real on the ground conservation action to conserve their particular EDGE species. We strongly believe this targeted and individually designed approach will have a long lasting effect on the Seychelles ability effectively manage and improve the conservation status of their unique and threatened biodiversity.

## 4. Project Progress

### 4.1 Progress in carrying out project activities

The project started in October 2012 so this annual report reports on the first 6 months of the project. The project has followed a logical framework (Annex 2) and project progress is reported against the projects logic. The progress of activities is reported under the output to which they relate. In order to be able to report sensibly relating project timeframe, Year 1 refers to activities scheduled for the first 6 months of the project ie from October 2012-March 2013. Our project therefore falls across 4 financial and reporting years.

#### **Project Output 1.Improved local capacity to research, monitor and manage Seychelles EDGE species.**

*Activities scheduled for Year1: 1.1 EDGE fellows identified; 1.2 personally tailored training programmes for each EDGE fellow designed (yr1) and implemented (ongoing); 1.3 Bi-annual training workshops x1*

This project proposed to identify five EDGE fellows who would each champion a Seychelles EDGE species, or group of EDGE species in the case of EDGE corals (5 species) and sooglossid frogs (4 species). We have already identified all 5 fellows, each very enthusiastic to champion their particular EDGE species, and each embedded in a Seychelles government or non- government project partner organisation.

Our Sheath-tailed bat Fellow is Diana Renaud who works for the Seychelles Ministry of Environment as a Conservation Officer with keen interest in Sheath-tailed bat conservation and specifically asked her superiors that she be chosen as the sheath-tailed bat fellow. Our sooglossid frog Fellow, James Mougall works for Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA) as a Research Officer. James has shown a particular interest to work more with sooglossid frogs. Our Black parrot fellow Terence Payet works for Seychelles Islands Foundation (SIF) as a Conservation Ranger and has demonstrated a strong commitment to black parrot conservation. SIF have also nominated a second staff member, Nathachia Pierre, to follow the project fellow training and to be included as she is working on sooglossid frogs in the Vallee de Mai world heritage site that SIF manage on Praslin. Our caecilian fellow is Charles Morel a curator at the Seychelles Natural History Museum SNHM. The Natural History Museum has nominated a second staff member Berthilde Belle to participate in this project as a second caecilian fellow in order that two SNHM staff gain from the project partnership between the SNHM and the UK -Natural History Museum- London. Our corals fellow is Sylvanna Antat who works for SNPA as a Research Officer in the Marine section of SNPA. Sylvanna applied to ZSL for an EDGE fellowship on EDGE corals in Seychelles in March 2012, before our project started and ZSL, as a project partner of this Darwin Initiative project, put her in contact with us.

Personally tailored training programmes have been designed for each fellow incorporating their individual training needs. We have also spent time developing individual work-programmes for each fellow based on the priority actions for their particular EDGE species.

ZSL EDGE fellows (following ZSL Edge fellowships) or project fellows only? When this project was developed with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), ZSL had just started their EDGE fellowship programme and they did not have a formal conservation tools training programme that their EDGE fellows had to attend and pass prior to being accepted to undertake ZSL EDGE fellowships, nor a second conservation leadership course at the end of the fellowship that fellows now must attend. Therefore our project did not include the costs of these training programmes in the budgeting for this project. We do, however have the funds to cover the Kenya course if fellows attend in place of visiting their UK partner organisation for overseas training. The decision of whether each project fellow will also follow a ZSL fellowship programme (in addition to being a project fellow) or not has been decided based on what is best for the training and capacity building of each fellow and has been decided by the fellow and their employer. Consequently, three out of the five fellows will follow the full, formal ZSL EDGE fellowship training programme (for the remaining two fellows it has been decided that their professional development and skill-sets can be better enhanced through close support and mentoring from the project team.

Our corals, sooglossid frog and sheath-tailed bat fellows will follow ZSL EDGE fellowship programmes and our caecilian and black parrot fellows will be project fellows and visit their respective UK expert institutions to be mentored, as the training they will be provided from their mentors is more relevant for their needs. All fellows, regardless of whether they follow the ZSL fellowship route or not, are following very similar training programmes. They have all developed their individual projects and accompanying work programmes with input and guidance from the PO, PI their organisation and their UK partner expert

mentors. They will all implement their projects and write 6 monthly reports of progress, the ZSL route EDGE fellows will have some extra reporting requirements to ZSL but we will ensure they do not have to double-report.

Personally tailored training programmes have been planned for each fellow. The training includes:

- (i) general training on all EDGE species delivered as workshops in Seychelles led by our UK partner experts
- (ii) one-on-one training delivered in Seychelles by UK expert mentors.
- (iii) UK and/or Kenya based training for each fellow based on their specific needs.

In the first 6 months of this project (which we are reporting on in this Annual Report) fellows have attended a detailed induction led by the project officer, and attended 3 workshops on sooglossid frogs, sheath-tailed bats.

The induction covered a range of topics including what this project is about, what we aim to achieve under this project, what EDGE species are, what is the role of the project fellows, the work they will be undertaking under the project, the training they will receive, who is at hand to help and guide them, and how to plan a project.

We decided that the training workshops led by UK experts should wherever possible be opened up to more people than just our project Fellows in order to maximise host country benefit and we had a lot of interest in the workshops. Our first training workshop was on sooglossid frogs and ran for 3 days (11-13 March 2013.) The workshop was led by Professor Richard Griffiths an amphibian and reptile ecologist and conservation biologist from DICE, University of Kent and two PhD students Jim Labisko who is conducting his PhD research into evolutionary history and conservation of sooglossid frogs ( under the supervision of Prof Griffiths and in collaboration with this project ) and Simon Maddock whose PhD research is on origins maintenance and conservation of Seychelles amphibians and snakes ( in collaboration with the project and supervised by Natural history museum project partner caecilian experts).The workshop was attended by 19 conservation officers and rangers from host country organisations and 5 university students from University of Seychelles Environmental Science degree.

The workshop had both classroom and field training components. The classroom day included presentations on biology, life history, threats and conservation of frogs in general and also specifically for Sooglossid frogs; current research on sooglossid frogs; Seychelles tree frogs. It also included a capture-mark-recapture exercise outside where participants captured (macaroni frogs, marked them, released them and recaptured them in order to illustrate the capture mark –recapture technique of estimating population size and also some of the assumptions of the method. The field training was held at Morne Blanc and provided training on how to identify the different frog species by both call and by appearance, how to survey for sooglossid frogs, the type of habitat sooglossid frogs are normally associated with; how to handle and measure frogs, how to swab for 'cytrid' amongst other things.

Feedback we received from participants and also from their organisations post- workshop was very positive and included that the workshops was very informative and also a lot of fun. Many participants had never seen sooglossid frogs before (they are tiny and hard to find unless you know what you are looking for.) See annex 4 details of training workshop.

Workshop 2 was on sheath-tailed bats and was led by Prof Paul Racey. The workshop ran for 2 days (18 and 19 March 2013) and included both classroom and field training. The workshop was attended by 16 participants from host country partner organisations and 5 students from University of Seychelles.

Day 1 involved classroom interactive "chalk and talk " lecture in the morning covering basic bat biology and life history, and then all that is known about Seychelles sheath-tailed bats, followed by field training in how to conduct roost emergence counts using bat detectors in the evening. Day 2 involved classroom interactive lecture and exercise involving prioritising conservation action for Sheath-tailed bats and the afternoon involved a repeat of the roost emergence count training for the other ½ of the workshop participants. Again feedback about the workshop was very positive. See annex 5 for a report of bat workshop, feedback about the bat workshop and a general report of Professor Raceys visit to Seychelles.

Workshop 3 was on bat and frog field monitoring techniques. This workshop was led by Dr Justin Gerlach from Nature Protection trust of Seychelles (NPTS). Justin has been monitoring sooglossid frogs and sheath-tailed bats on Silhouette Island for over 10 years. This workshop was restricted to those people within partner organisations who would be conducting research and monitoring on sheath-tailed bats or sooglossid frogs on this project in order to ensure a manageable group size. The workshop ran for three days. Day 1 was held at the Ministry of Environment meeting room and covered a description of

methods Justin has found best for monitoring sooglossid frogs and sheath-tailed bats on Silhouette, and habitat management techniques for improving habitat for sheath-tailed bats in feeding areas and around roost entrances followed by discussion and questions. Day 2 was frog field training held at Casse Dent-Mare Aux Cochons ( 1600hrs- 2200hrs). Participants practiced finding sooglossid frogs, measuring them, recognising the different species calls and surveying for *Sooglossus gardineri* using quadrats. Day 3 was sheath-tailed bat field techniques. As we had already covered how to conduct roost emergence counts in Workshop 2, we concentrated on recognising guano deposits, and looking at sheath-tailed bat roost characteristics. We searched for and located an abandoned roost at Takamaka and learned how to identify guano deposits. See annex 6 for images of this workshop.

Fellows have been identified in the manner and time frame planned. Training programmes for EDGE fellows are progressing according to our project timeframe and we believe that the project will achieve (and potentially exceed) its training and capacity building outputs by its close. We have already undertaken more training workshops than originally planned in the first 6 months of this project and we have opened the workshops to a wider audience than originally intended.

## **Output 2. Best practice research, best practice monitoring and best practice adaptive management researched, agreed by all stakeholders and implemented for each EDGE species.**

*Activities scheduled for Year 1:*

**Frogs:** 2.1 sooglossid frog surveys undertaken (ongoing)

**Caecilians:** 2.7 develop caecilian survey methodology with NHML experts

**Black parrots:** 2.14 provide support to SIF (existing project) ring-necked parakeet eradication on Mahe (as required- yr1&2); 2.15 Confirm status of Seychelles black parrot species through molecular genetic work (yr1&2) 2.17 utilise the existing black parrot species action plan as guiding document, produce annual workprogrammes, implement and report (ongoing)

**Sheath-tailed bats:** 2.18 utilise the existing sheath-tailed bat species action plan as guiding document, produce annual work programmes, implement and report (ongoing); 2.20 Surveys to locate further bat roosts (yr1&2) 2.21 evaluate the role of barn owls in the decline of the bat (ongoing); 2.22 surveys to locate new feeding/activity areas (ongoing); 2.23 regular roost counts to monitor numbers (ongoing)

**Corals:** 2.24 Build a network of local and international coral experts to advise on conservation actions for EDGE corals in Seychelles (yr1&2)

In order to implement the many different activities for each EDGE species listed under this project, we are working from projects and accompanying work programmes that have been designed for each EDGE fellow. The fellows have designed individual projects containing work programmes and timelines (with help from their organisation, the PO and their UK partner mentors). We think that by involving the fellows in the design of their own projects and work programmes, they gain skills in project planning and it also ensures they feel ownership of the work they will be leading on their particular EDGE species. Their projects/work programmes are based on the activities for their particular EDGE species listed under this Darwin Initiative project.

Sylvanna Antat, our Coral EDGE Fellow, has been accepted as a ZSL EDGE fellow. She attended the conservation tools training course in Kenya in October 2012 where she finalised her Seychelles EDGE corals project and she started implementing her project in January 2013. Sylvanna's project outline is in annex 7. Diana Renaud our sheath-tailed bat fellow and James Mougall our sooglossid frog fellow have applied to ZSL to follow ZSL EDGE fellowships. If their projects are accepted they will attend the ZSL conservation tools training course in Kenya in October 2013. Annex 8 includes their application forms (which include their project outlines and work plans).

Charles Morel and Berthilde Belle are developing a caecilian work-programme with their NHM mentors David Gower and Mark Wilkinson and with input from David and Mark's PhD student Simon Maddock who is collaborating with this project on caecilian genetics. The caecilian fellows project outlines and work programme will attached as an appendix to our next project report. Terence Payet has drafted a project outline and work-programme with SIF for his black parrot work. This work-programme will be finalised with his UK mentor and attached as an appendix to our next project report.

### **Sooglossid frogs**

During this reporting period (October 2012-March 2013) sooglossid frog survey and monitoring methods have been researched by frog fellow James Mougall with help from Jim Labisko, by initially reading about

existing best practice methods for surveying and monitoring frogs and also methods previously used for sooglossid frog monitoring. We are currently field testing and refining the methods for our surveys of sooglossid frogs. Once best practice methods are finalised we will use them for the wider scale distribution and abundance monitoring planned during this project and for long-term monitoring outside the scope of this project. We have also drafted methods and are currently undertaking field trials of methods for determining finer scale habitat preferences of the different sooglossid species. We have swabbed over 100 sooglossid frogs during the first 6 months of this project and have the samples stored ready to test for 'the presence of 'cythrid' fungus. Analysis of the swabs will be undertaken in year 2.

### **Caecilians**

Little is known about caecilian ecology, life history or species distributions. In order to clarify species present and to collect baseline information on species distributions, Dr David Gower and Simon Maddock from the Natural History Museum – London visited Seychelles during February and March 2013 in order to develop and test methods for surveying Seychelles caecilians. Best practice methods for survey have been developed and David and Simon spent time training our project caecilian fellows Charles and Berthilde. During this report period we have undertaken caecilian surveys at different altitudes and locations on Mahe, Praslin, La Digue, Silhouette, Felicite and Cerf islands.. Further surveys are planned in more locations on Mahé and on Aride, Fregate, St Anne, North, Marianne and Grand Soeur in year 2. Samples for molecular genetic confirmation of species present and relationships between species have been collected during the surveying, and further samples will be collected in Year 2. Over 130 caecilians have been swabbed to test for cythrid fungus presence. The swabs are stored and will be analysed in year 2.

### **Black parrot**

A Species Action Plan has already been developed for the Black parrot and this project uses the species action plan as a guiding document. Our parrot fellow's work programme is based on priority actions within the black parrot Action Plan. Black parrot breeding ecology was monitored at all known nests during the breeding season from October 2012-March 2013. This activity will be repeated each breeding season throughout the project. Additionally research to determine factors limiting breeding success is underway. Filming of some nests was undertaken during this reporting period to determine causes of nest failure and rats were filmed at nests. To determine whether food is a factor limiting breeding success, monthly phenology monitoring of black parrot food species is undertaken throughout the year. The status of the Seychelles black parrot species is being investigated using molecular phylogenetic techniques. Samples from Seychelles black parrots have been collected as have samples of other *Coracopsis* species and the lab-work has been completed during this reporting period. The analyses are underway at DICE, University of Kent, in the Project Leaders genetics laboratory and the activity is scheduled to be completed in year 2. Samples have been collected for *Psittacine* beak and feather disease screening during this reporting period and the screening is scheduled for year 2 and year 3 of the project. A ring-necked parakeet eradication on Mahé (not part of this project- an existing SIF project) has been put on hold; we will provide support to SIF with this eradication as and when required.

### **Sheath-tailed bat**

A species action plan exists for the Sheath-tailed bat and we use this action plan as the guiding document detailing priority actions for the Sheath-tailed bat. Professor Paul Racey the author of the Species Action Plan written in 2008 has proposed updates to the the Action Plan following his visit to Seychelles 12-22 March 2013. The updates are small and reflect changes in the immediate threats to the bat posed by hotel developments. In 2008 two proposed hotel developments posed real and immediate disturbance threats to two roosts, however these developments have not progressed and the immediate threat they pose has receded (see annex 5).

During this reporting period we have conducted bat roost emergence counts and monitored for signs of barn owl disturbance/depredation of bats. The total number of sheath-tailed bats counted emerging from the four known roosts of this species was 61 bats in March 2013. This is a very very endangered species and we cannot stress the urgency of conservation action enough. Roost emergence counts will be conducted monthly throughout the project. The Project Officer (Rachel Bristol) and Prof. Paul Racey (UK partner bat expert) had meetings with government officials regarding the status of new legislation to legally protect the bats, their roosts and the immediate area surrounding roosts where the bats feed before dispersing. We offered our help in drafting legislation or any other help the ministry would like to facilitate this process. We were informed that the legislation has been drafted and is on the Ministers desk. Additionally we have been assured that the bats, their roosts and the immediately surrounding area will be legally protected by the end of 2013. If this does not transpire, we will intervene and push much harder to ensure the bats are given the legal protection they deserve.

Surveys to locate further roosts are a high priority action for sheath-tailed bats and we have scheduled it for project year 2 and 3. This activity will start shortly. We will use a back tracking method of finding



roosts involving following the bats back to their roost over consecutive nights and searching boulder fields during the day for the actual roost. This method is time consuming but has proved successful in the past; 2 of the 3 known roosts on Mahé were located this way. Our new project partner Island Conservation Society will search for new roosts on Silhouette Island. Surveys to locate new feeding/activity areas is now considered less of a priority, however we will put some time into this activity throughout the project and combine it with searches for new roosts.

### **EDGE Coral species**

Our Coral EDGE fellow and project partners have pulled together international and local coral experts to advise on conservation actions for EDGE corals in Seychelles. These local and international experts have helped Sylvanna to plan her EDGE fellowship project and will be advising and guiding her through the process of project implementation. Very little is known about EDGE coral species in Seychelles so we are concentrating on collecting basic information on distributions and abundances of three EDGE corals around the granitic Seychelles islands.

### **All EDGE species**

Annual reports and 1/2 year progress updates will be compiled for each EDGE species by the relevant fellow with help from the PO and the relevant UK partner expert. As the project has only been running for 6 months and the last fellow was only confirmed in February, it is premature to expect them to report on progress this early stage. The fellows have concentrated on developing their projects and work programmes during this first few months of the project, as planned, and have received a lot of training to increase their skills and capacity to implement work programmes. Their first progress reports are due in September 2013.

The research, monitoring and conservation action activities planned under this project are still in the early stages of implementation, however we are confident they will be completed in the manner and time frame planned.

## **Output 3. Research information about EDGE species produced and disseminated**

*No activities scheduled for year 1*

## **Output 4. Education, Awareness and Outreach programme increases local knowledge of EDGE species status and their needs.**

*Activities scheduled for year 1: 4.2 Education and Awareness Leaflets designed, produced and disseminated amongst local Seychelles communities for all Seychelles EDGE species, tailored to each EDGE species and target audiences (ongoing); 4.3 national radio coverage x1; 4.4 national TV coverage x1; national 4.5 national newspaper article x1; 4.7 project ti-shirts and postcards produced (yr1); 4.8 contribute blogs to ZSL edge of existence blog; dedicated project webpage on DICE website (ongoing); 4.9 project blog set up where EDGE fellows regularly blog (ongoing)*

Each EDGE fellow has an education and awareness component to their project. Some target audiences and dissemination methods have been identified, for example the black parrot fellow has been working with school children on Praslin giving presentations and talks about black parrots and the importance of conserving them during this project reporting period. However in order to identify the key target audiences for each EDGE species and to think about what our message is and the best way to get our message across to the target audience, we have organised to be run an education and awareness workshop in May 2013. The workshop will be led by Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles experts in environmental education and awareness and is for all our EDGE fellows and their line managers/bosses in order to brainstorm and identify target audiences and outline education and awareness programmes for each EDGE species.

During this reporting period 1 newspaper article was run about this project on 11 March 2013 (see annex 9). Our corals fellow Syvanna Antat has blogged on the ZSL edge of existence website –see <http://www.edgeofexistence.org/edgeblog/?p=6774> Our project has a webpage on the DICE, University of Kent website see [http://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/research/projects/survival/current/jg\\_biodiversity.html](http://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/research/projects/survival/current/jg_biodiversity.html)

Additionally a special edition of Mediz, the SNPA newsletter was devoted to EDGE corals in February 2012 covering EDGE species and this project (see annex 10). This edition of Mediz was written by Sylvanna Antat our EDGE corals fellow.

Instead of a project blog, which is what we said we would set up and run throughout the project, we have decided to set up a Facebook page. This decision has been taken following the advice from local education and awareness experts. Many Seychellois follow Facebook and we are likely to gain a larger local following with a Facebook page than with a blog. We plan to start the Facebook page in April 2013.

We have purchased 50 Ti-shirts and have commissioned the design of a project logo. Once the logo is finalised we will print the Ti-shirts with the Darwin Initiative logo and our project logo. The ti-shirts will be printed in April – May 2012 to schedule.

We began designing 2 portable displays in March 2013 – one about EDGE species, what they are and why they are special and what EDGE species we have in Seychelles and a second display about this project in general. These two 2m x1m portable displays will be printed in May 2013 and will then be on display in the Seychelles Natural History Museum, but will also be used to showcase the project at environmental theme days in Seychelles.

The education and awareness outputs of project are really only beginning at this stage so we have little to report, however we believe that we are on target to achieve our education and awareness activities in a timely manner.

## 4.2 Progress towards project outputs

It is worthwhile to note that this project has only been running for 6 months. However to date overall progress in working towards achievement of project outputs is good and on schedule and we fully anticipate achieving project outputs by project close in September 2015. The Project is continually overseen by the Project Officer and the Project Leader using the logical framework and the output indicators to measure our success at achieving project outputs. Output level assumptions still hold true.

## 4.3 Standard Measures

**Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures**

Code number	Description	Yr 1 total	Yr 2 total	Yr 3 total	Yr 4 total	Total to date	Number planned for the reporting period	Total planned during the project
2	Number of people to attain Masters qualification (MSc, MPhil etc)	0						2
4C	Number of postgraduate students to receive training	0						1
4D	Number of training weeks to be provided	1.5						6
5	Number of people to receive at least one year of training (which does not fall into categories 1-4 above)	0						5
6A	Number of people to receive other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above)	20						4
6B	Number of training weeks to be provided	1						10
7	Number of (ie different types - not volume - of material produced) training materials to be produced for use by host country	0						5
8	Number of weeks to be spent by UK project staff on project work in the host country	5.5						20
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						3
10	Number of individual field guides/manuals to be produced to assist work related to species identification, classification and	0						1

	recording						
11B	Number of papers to be submitted to peer reviewed journals	0					2-3
13A	Number of species reference collections to be <b>established</b> and handed over to host country(ies)	0					1
14A	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops to be <b>organised</b> to present/disseminate findings	0					1
14B	Number of conferences/seminars/workshops <b>attended</b> at which findings from Darwin project work will be presented/disseminated.	0					1
15A	Number of national press releases in host country(ies)	1					6
16A	Number of newsletters to be produced	0					1
16B	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the host country(ies)						50,000 (website/blog)
16C	Estimated circulation of each newsletter in the UK						100,000 (website/blog)
18A	Number of national TV programmes/features in host country(ies)	0					3
19A	Number of national radio interviews/features in host county(ies)	0					6
19D	Number of local radio interviews/features in UK	0					1
20	Estimated value (£'s) of physical assets to be handed over to host country(ies)	5,950					5,950
23	Value of resources raised from other sources (ie in addition to Darwin funding) for project work	<b>£24,864</b>					<b>£340,666</b>

**Table 2 Publications**

Type (eg journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (eg contact address, website)	Cost £

#### 4.4 Progress towards the project purpose and outcomes

Project progress towards the project purpose of providing investment, and technical expertise and targeted training in conservation, ecology and taxonomy to improve knowledge, management and conservation status of the 12 EDGE (Evolutionarily Distinct Globally Endangered) species endemic to the Seychelles, is good. Purpose level assumptions hold true and indicators are adequate towards measuring outcomes.

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

It will be more appropriate to report on these aspects at a later stage in the project.

### **5. Monitoring, evaluation and lessons**

The project is continually overseen by the Project Leader and the Project Officer using the logical framework and agreed outputs and milestones for guidance. The Project Officer organises quarterly meetings with host country partners in order for us to plan activities for the next quarter, to identify any issues and to self-monitor project progress. Additionally the PO meets with all host country partners individually on a regular basis to manage progress of that particular host country partners' activities. In these ways the project is continually monitored and evaluated internally. One of the main outcomes of the project is the investment of training and capacity-building for five Seychellois conservationists, through the EDGE programme and through the project partnerships, to champion conservation progress for the 12 EDGE species within the Seychelles islands. Already, within the first six months of the project, we have all five EDGE fellows in place and they have already received substantial training from international experts in relation to their species. The fact that the majority of the EDGE fellows have been accepted on to the full EDGE fellowship training programme provided by ZSL is an important indication of project achievement and a substantial milestone.

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

N/A this is our first project annual report.

### **7. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

We have nothing further to report here that has not already been discussed elsewhere in this report. At this early stage we do not see this project facing any particular risks.

### **8. Sustainability**

Efforts made during the first 6 months of this project to promote the work include 1 national newspaper article about the project and 3 widely publicised and well attended workshops. Certainly amongst the workshop participants, particularly the university students there is evidence for a growing realisation amongst them that Seychelles biodiversity is impressive and unique and that there are real opportunities for them for work in biodiversity conservation in Seychelles when they finish their studies (see annex5). This is fantastic as they are the next generation of Seychelles conservation managers. At this early stage in the project it is hard to measure whether we have had an increase in capacity, however this will be more evident further into the project.

There is a strong exit strategy in place in this project. All five (+2) of our project fellows are employed within conservation NGO's or government departments in permanent posts therefore they will continue to work in the conservation sector after completion of this project. As a result of this project they will have increased capacity to implement their work to a higher standard. Additionally all 12 Seychelles EDGE species are priority species for the respective host country partner organisations who have expressed a long term desire and commitment to continue working to conserve these EDGE species post project completion. It was the host country Ministry of Environment and partners themselves who asked for assistance to conserve Seychelles EDGE species- which resulted in this project's development. Partnerships formed between host country and UK partners are likely to be maintained post project completion due to common interest and will evolve as host partners needs change, providing lasting benefits to the Seychelles conservation community.

Due to the strong exit strategy of this project we believe it is very likely that the project outputs, outcomes and impacts will be sustained.

## 9. Dissemination

At this early stage in the project we are setting up project activities and work programmes and starting research and monitoring activities. Dissemination activities will kick in further into the project once we have information and results to disseminate. However dissemination of results, reports and materials is planned for later in the project via education and awareness activities, fact sheets, the press, scientific papers and through displays at visitor centres. The displays we produce at the National History Museum and the Vallee de Mai visitor centre will be semi-permanent with a lifespan far greater than the project.

## 10. Project Expenditure

**Table 3 project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013)**

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project application or annual grant offer letter)	Expenditure	Variance %/ Comments
Staff costs specified by individual			
Overhead costs			
Travel and subsistence			
Operating costs			
Capital items/equipment (laptops and GPS's for fellows and PO)			
Others: Consultancy (Project Officer and NPTS)			
Others (please specify)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

## 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)

We have chosen not to fill in this section this year given that the project has only been underway for six months, but we will willingly do so later on in the project.

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2012-2013

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements October 2012 - March 2013	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Goal:</b> 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"> <li>⇒ The conservation of biological diversity,</li> <li>⇒ The sustainable use of its components, and</li> <li>⇒ The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources</li> </ul>		<p>We can report more accurately on our contribution to project goal in our next annual report as currently our project has only been running for 6 months.</p>	
<p><b>Purpose</b> To provide investment, technical expertise and targeted training in conservation, ecology and taxonomy to improve knowledge, management and conservation status of the 12 EDGE (<i>Evolutionarily Distinct Globally Endangered</i>) species endemic to the Seychelles.</p>	<p>Comprehensive training programmes tailored to each EDGE Fellow, each led by appropriate UK partners.</p> <p>Increased local EDGE Fellows' skills, knowledge and competence in all aspects of their EDGE species' conservation management and field activities.</p> <p>Increased understanding of priority management actions, threats and mitigations for each EDGE species.</p> <p>Conservation status of each EDGE species known and maximised through field research and targeted management activities.</p>	<p>Comprehensive training programmes have been designed for each EDGE fellow and training has already started to increase EDGE fellows' knowledge, competence and ability to implement EDGE species conservation actions.</p>	<p><i>3-4 week training for EDGE fellows based with appropriate UK partner organisation and tailored to their specific needs</i></p> <p><i>Four training workshops led by UK experts on Seychelles EDGE species held in Seychelles for fellows and wider Seychelles conservation community</i></p> <p><i>Implementation of priority conservation monitoring and management activities for each EDGE species led by project fellows</i></p>
<p>Output 1. Improved local capacity to research, monitor and manage Seychelles EDGE species.</p>	<p>1a. Five EDGE Fellows trained in surveying, monitoring, and management best practices for their allocated EDGE species by end of Year 3.</p> <p>1b. Five EDGE Fellows embedded in local NGO's and/or government leading conservation programmes for their EDGE species.</p> <p>1c. Five EDGE Fellows trained in conservation leadership skills through</p>	<p>Progress 6 months into the project is very good. Fellow training is progressing well and in fact we are providing training to a much larger group of Seychelles conservation community that just our project fellows. Our fellows are embedded in NGO's and government and have planned out work programmes on their respective EDGE species, which they will lead on.</p> <p>Indicators remain appropriate</p>	

	DICE-based training course.	
Activity 1.1 EDGE Fellows Identified		All project EDGE species Fellows have been identified
Activity 1.2 Personally tailored training programmes designed and implemented for each EDGE Fellow, designed by PL, PO and UK partner experts (with input from EDGE Fellow) to maximise training uptake and benefit for EDGE fellow and target EDGE species needs		<p>Training programmes have been designed for each fellow: and will be finalised in the next 3 months. Training programmes are flexible with the ability to be updated if fellow training needs change</p> <p><i>Training programmes will continue through year 2</i></p>
Activity 1.3 Bi-annual training workshops for EDGE Fellows and potentially the wider Seychelles conservation community as appropriate led by UK partner experts		<p>Three training workshops have been run in the first 6 months of this project - project EDGE Fellows attended as well as between 15 and 20 other participants from Seychelles conservation community. Workshops were on Sooglossid frogs and Sheath-tailed bats.</p> <p><i>4 training workshops led by UK partners are planned for year 2 (caecilians, black parrots, corals, saving extremely threatened species).</i></p>
Activity 1.4 1x 3 week trip for each EDGE Fellow to appropriate UK partner institution for UK based training		<p>Our EDGE corals fellow Sylvanna Antat attended and passed a ZSL EDGE fellowship conservation tools training course in Kenya in October 2012 as part of her training for her EDGE Coral fellowship.</p> <p><i>All Fellows will attend overseas training with the appropriate UK partner institution in year 2. Note for fellows who plan to follow the ZSL EDGE fellowship programme the training will be IN Kenya in October 2013 (James Mougat (frogs) and Diana Renaud (bats). Terence Mougat (black parrots) will visit DICE (project leaders genetics lab) and Caecilian fellows (Charles Morel and Berthilde Belle) will visit NHM-London.</i></p>
<b>Output 2.</b> Best practice research, best practice monitoring and best practice adaptive management researched, agreed by all stakeholders and implemented for each EDGE species.	<p>2a. Species Action Plans and accompanying work programmes detailing priority actions and best practice for each EDGE species, agreed by all stakeholders by start of Year 2.</p> <p>2b. Species Action Plans and accompanying work programmes and priority actions for each EDGE species implemented by appropriate</p>	<p>Each EDGE fellow has designed their own project (based on the priority activities for each species in this project) outlining the activities they will undertake, when they will undertake the work and who will help them. Help and support in project design was provided by the fellows organisation, the PO and the relevant UK partner mentor. We felt that in addition to providing training in project planning, it also ensures fellows have ownership of their projects. ( see annexes 7&amp;8) These projects are still in draft form and will be finalised over next few months with further input from UK mentors.</p> <p>Indicators remain appropriate, however Species Action Plans will be completed near the end of the project (year 4) rather than earlier as originally planned in</p>

	government and NGO bodies, and led by respective EDGE Fellows under the guidance of UK project partners (ongoing).	order to enable our project work to inform the action plans. <i>Finalise projects and continue implementation in year 2</i>
<b><u>Amphibians (Sooglossid frogs and caecilians)</u></b>		
Activity 2.1. Sooglossid frog distribution surveys undertaken on the main islands		Sooglossid frog survey and monitoring methods have been developed and trialled for both the distribution and abundance monitoring we are undertaking as part of this project and for future long-term species status/trend monitoring. Distribution surveys are underway on the 3 islands sooglossid frogs occur (Mahé, Praslin and Silhouette)  <i>Distribution surveys continue in year 2</i>
Activity 2.2. Sooglossid frog ecology researched and potential effects of climate change explored		Research into the habitat preferences of the 3 of the 4 sooglossid frog species is underway. <i>This activity is scheduled for year 3.</i>
Activity 2.3. Sooglossid frog Species Conservation Action Plans drafted, finalised and agreed		<i>Action plans will be drafted nearer the end of this project when we have more knowledge and information (collected under this project) to base the Action Plan on.</i>
Activity 2.4. Investigate potential of captive-breeding for conservation of sooglossids in partnership with Amphibian Ark		<i>This activity is planned for year 4</i>
Activity 2.5. Precautionary disease monitoring for sooglossid frogs and caecilians undertaken, especially for 'chytrid'		Well over 100 caecilians and sooglossid frogs have been swabbed for 'chytrid' . <i>Swabs will be analysed for presence/absence of chytrid in year 2</i>
Activity 2.6. Research yellow crazy ant ecology, dynamics and methods of control, to understand their threat to sooglossid frog and caecilian populations;		<i>This activity is scheduled for year 3</i>
Activity 2.7. Develop caecilian survey methodology with NHML experts		Survey methodology developed and trialled in Seychelles with NHM experts and project caecilian fellows.
Activity 2.8. Caecilian distribution surveys conducted on all relevant islands		Surveys initiated on several islands (Silhouette, Mahé, Praslin, La Digue, Cerf, Felicite) .  <i>Further surveying is planned on other relevant islands (Aride, North, St Anne, Marianne, Grand Soeur ) in year 2</i>
Activity 2.9. Genetics studies on the caecilians to clarify species present		Tissue samples collected for genetic studies from caecilians from different locations and altitudes on Mahe. Praslin, La Digue, Cerf, Silhouette. <i>Further samples to be collected in yr2 and genetics studies to clarify species present is planned for year 2 and 3.</i>
Activity 2.10. Investigation into potential and real threats to caecilians and recommended mitigation actions		<i>This activity is scheduled for years 3&amp;4</i>
Activity 2.11. Caecilian Species Conservation Action Plans developed, finalised		<i>Action plans will be drafted nearer the end of this project once we have the</i>



and agreed by relevant stakeholders	<i>results of the work we are undertaking under this project to base the action plan on.</i>
<b><u>Black parrot</u></b> Activity 2.12. Black parrot repeat survey in 2014 to determine population size	<i>Scheduled for project year 2</i>
Activity 2.13. Continued research into black parrot breeding ecology including limiting factors	<i>Underway-ongoing throughout project during breeding season (October-March)</i>
Activity 2.14. Provide support to SIF (existing project) ring-necked parakeet eradication on Mahé	<i>Ring-necked parakeet eradication is currently on hold</i>
Activity 2.15. Confirm status of Seychelles black parrot species through molecular genetics work	<i>Samples have been collected and work is underway in collaboration with DICE, University of Kent in Project Leader's genetics lab. To be completed in year 2</i>
Activity 2.16. Undertake screening for Psittacine beak and feather disease (Pbfd) in the black parrot population	<i>This activity is scheduled for project year 2 and 3</i>
Activity 2.17 Utilise existing Seychelles black parrot Species Conservation Action Plan as guiding document, produce annual workprogrammes, implement and report and assist with development of next Action Plan in 2013	<i>Black Parrot project fellow's work-programme is based on priority actions within the existing black parrot action plan which includes monitoring breeding success, determining causes of nest failure, and monitoring black parrot food availability. Fellow (Terence Payet) project plan and work programme implementation ongoing throughout the project</i>
<b><u>Sheath-tailed bat</u></b> Activity 2.18 Utilise the existing Seychelles sheath-tailed bat Conservation Action Plan as guiding document, agree annual work programmes, implement and report	<i>Project and work-programme drafted for Sheath-tailed bat Fellow Diana Renaud based on priority actions within the existing action plan (SAP) and implementation has started. Updates to the SAP have been proposed to reflect changing priorities since it was written in 2008 (see annex 8) Application for ZSL EDGE of Existence Fellowship has been submitted by Diana Renaud. Project and work programme implementation ongoing throughout project.</i>
Activity 2.19 Work with Seychelles government to produce guiding document to mitigate impact of hotels and any other developments near sheath-tailed bat roosts	<i>Project Officer and Prof. Paul Racey (UK partner bat expert) have met with government officials regarding status of new legislation to legally protect bats and their roosts. Legislation has been drafted and is on Ministers desk- we have been assured that the bats and their roosts and immediately surrounding area will be legally protected by the end of 2013. Monitor progress of legal protection and increase pressure if not achieved by end 2013.</i>
Activity 2.20 Surveys to locate any further sheath-tailed bat roosts on Mahe and Silhouette, and re-check historical roosts on Praslin	<i>This activity is scheduled for year 2&amp;3</i>
Activity 2.21 Evaluate role of barn owls in the decline of the sheath-tailed bat (ongoing –to coincide with roost counts and all bat surveys)	<i>This activity is underway Activity will continue throughout project</i>

Activity 2.22 Bat surveys to locate new bat feeding/activity areas		<i>This activity ongoing throughout year 2, 3&amp;4. No longer considered high priority action however</i>
Activity 2.23 Regular roost counts to monitor numbers		Underway roost emergence counts at all known roosts in March and gave a total population for the species of 61 individuals (very very endangered!) <i>Ongoing throughout project</i>
<b><u>Coral species</u></b> Activity 2.24 Build a network of local and international experts to advise on conservation actions for priority EDGE corals in the Seychelles		Underway. Project Coral EDGE Fellow Sylvanna Antat is working with local and international coral experts who a) have helped her design her EDGE fellowship project and work-programme and who will advise and assist her throughout implementation. <i>Activity is ongoing through year 2.</i>
Activity 2.25 Develop a single Conservation Action Plan for EDGE coral species in Seychelles		<i>Species action plan will be drafted towards the end of this project once we have results from research and monitoring of EDGE corals planned under this project.</i>
Activity 2.26 Begin implementing priority actions determined by coral network and resulting Species Conservation Action Plan		Priority research, monitoring and education and awareness activities have started: results will inform Species Action Plan. Corals fellow Sylvanna Antat has been accepted on and started a ZSL EDGE of existence fellowship following passing the ZSL Conservation tools training course in Kenya in October 2012. Her project (see appendix xx) implements many of the priority actions for EDGE corals in Seychelles. <i>Implementation of priority actions continues in year 2</i>
<b><u>All EDGE species</u></b> Activity 2.27 Annual progress reports for each EDGE species based on work programmes developed from Species Conservation Action Plans		<i>Annual reports and ½ yearly updates are scheduled for each EDGE species and the progress made by each EDGE fellow on their work programme, however this project has only been running for 6 months and the EDGE fellows have only recently started working on their projects. Their first reports are not yet due.</i>
<b>Output 3.</b> Research information about EDGE species produced and disseminated.	3. Knowledge increased regarding the conservation importance, knowledge base, gaps and needs of Seychelles EDGE species by Year 3.	We are at information and data collection stage of the project and publication and dissemination of results is scheduled for year 4. Indicator remains appropriate
Activity 3.1. 2-3 peer reviewed publications resulting directly from this DI projects work		<i>Publications are scheduled for year 4</i>
<b>Output 4.</b> Education, Awareness and Outreach programme increases local knowledge of EDGE species status and their needs.	4a. Awareness of Seychelles citizens about the uniqueness, vulnerability and management actions necessary for recovery of EDGE species has increased, including an awareness of what the local public can do to help.  4b. Evidence of project-based activities that have promoted development of a	Education and awareness activities are mostly still at the planning stage, however planned activities across year 2, 3&4 will ensure increased awareness of Seychelles citizens about our EDGE species Indicator remains appropriate

	CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) strategy for Seychelles' EDGE species.	
Activity 4.1 Displays produced and installed in SNHM and Vallee de Mai Visitors Centres on each of the EDGE species		Two portable displays are currently being designed <i>These displays will be printed in May 2013. They 2m high by 1m wide and are portable. They will be housed in the SNHM but also used for national environment theme days to publicise this project. Further displays are scheduled to be produced in year 3 of the project.</i>
Activity 4.2 Education and Awareness Leaflets designed, produced and disseminated amongst local Seychelles communities for all Seychelles EDGE species, tailored to each EDGE species and target audiences		Each EDGE Fellow has an education and awareness component in their project and accompanying work- programme. Target audiences and dissemination methods for some EDGE species have been identified. <i>A workshop is scheduled for May 2013 where other target audiences will be identified and education and awareness programmes outlined for each EDGE species. The workshop will be led by Wildlife Clubs of Seychelles experts in environmental education and awareness; workshop participants are the EDGE fellows and their line managers/bosses.</i>
Activity 4.3 6x Seychelles National Radio programmes/interviews about EDGE species and this DI project		We have not recorded any radio programmes yet. <i>2 x radio programmes are scheduled for year 2</i>
Activity 4.4 3x Seychelles National TV coverage of this project and EDGE species		<i>We hope to have the first TV coverage of our project in June 2013 where we will be showcasing our project at a National Day Expo.</i>
Activity 4.5 6x Seychelles National Newspaper articles about the DI project and Seychelles EDGE species		1 newspaper article run in the Seychelles Nation on 11 March 2013. (see annex 9) <i>2 x newspaper coverage of the project is scheduled for year 2.</i>
Activity 4.6 Information boards designed, produced and installed at trail entrances with information about EDGE species likely to occur in the area		<i>This activity is scheduled for project year 2.</i>
Activity 4.7 T-shirts and postcards produced for each EDGE species for project staff uniform and for sale and distribution at partner visitor centres		Ti-shirts have been purchased, a project logo has been commissioned and is being designed currently. <i>Ti-shirts will be printed with the project logo and Darwin Initiative logo in April-May 2013.</i>
Activity 4.8 Each EDGE Fellow will have a webpage on the ZSL EDGE of Existence website, they will contribute to the EDGE blog, and the project will have a dedicated webpage on the DICE website		Project webpage on DICE website <a href="http://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/research/projects/survival/current/jg_biodiversity.html">http://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/research/projects/survival/current/jg_biodiversity.html</a> Corals EDGE fellow is already contributing to ZSL EDGE of Existence blog see <a href="http://www.edgeofexistence.org/edgeblog/?p=6774">http://www.edgeofexistence.org/edgeblog/?p=6774</a> <i>Other EDGE fellows who follow the ZSL programme will start blogging once their ZSL fellowships begin (October 2013).</i>
Activity 4.9 Project blog set up where all 5 EDGE Fellows regularly blog about their work and findings		Instead of a blog we have decided to set up a Facebook page (following advice of local education and awareness experts in Seychelles)

*Our Facebook page will be started in May 2013 and all project Fellows will regularly contribute to the project Facebook page about their work and findings.*

## Annex 2 Project's full current logframe

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Goal:</b></p> <p>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><b>Sub-Goal:</b></p> <p>Seychelles EDGE species are well managed and conserved, enabling Seychelles to meet its obligations to the CBD and to contribute positively to the CBD Thematic Programme on Island Biodiversity.</p>	<p>Ground surveys and monitoring reports contain information detailing (i) status of populations of Seychelles EDGE species, and/or</p> <p>(ii) conservation management actions that are in place to mitigate against identified threats.</p>	<p>Species Action Plan implementation progress reports.</p> <p>Field monitoring reports.</p> <p>Seychelles National Reports to the CBD.</p>	
<p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>To provide investment, technical expertise and targeted training in conservation, ecology and taxonomy to improve knowledge, management and conservation status of the 12 EDGE (<i>Evolutionarily Distinct Globally Endangered</i>) species endemic to the Seychelles.</p>	<p>Comprehensive training programmes tailored to each EDGE Fellow, each led by appropriate UK partners.</p> <p>Increased local EDGE Fellows' skills, knowledge and competence in all aspects of their EDGE species' conservation management and field activities.</p> <p>Increased understanding of priority management actions, threats and mitigations for each EDGE species.</p> <p>Conservation status of each EDGE species known and maximised through field research and targeted management activities.</p>	<p>EDGE Fellow training reports from UK project partners leading capacity building training of local EDGE Fellows.</p> <p>On-the-job assessment of skills and knowledge acquired through training.</p> <p>Project Annual reports.</p> <p>Individual EDGE species status reports.</p> <p>Species Action Plan implementation progress reports.</p>	<p>No adverse climatic/stochastic events (cyclones, coral bleaching events) preventing timely completion of this project.</p> <p>Continued stability and support of the Seychelles government.</p>
<p><b>Outputs:</b></p> <p>1. Improved local capacity to research, monitor and manage Seychelles EDGE species.</p>	<p>1a. Five EDGE Fellows trained in surveying, monitoring, and management best practices for their allocated EDGE species by end of Year 3.</p> <p>1b. Five EDGE Fellows embedded in local NGO's and/or government leading conservation programmes for their EDGE species.</p> <p>1c. Five EDGE Fellows trained in conservation leadership skills through DICE-based training course.</p>	<p>1a. Training programme reports from UK partners confirming acquisition of new skills.</p> <p>1b. Letters from respective employers confirming continued employment of EDGE Fellows post project.</p> <p>1c. Certificates of attendance by EDGE Fellows on ZSL/DICE training course in conservation leadership.</p>	<p>Trained staff (EDGE Fellows) remain with local partners throughout and after the project, to continue using the skills gained and to train others in those skills.</p>

<p><b>2.</b> Best practice research, best practice monitoring and best practice adaptive management researched, agreed by all stakeholders and implemented for each EDGE species.</p>	<p>2a. Species Action Plans and accompanying work programmes detailing priority actions and best practice for each EDGE species, agreed by all stakeholders by start of Year 2.</p> <p>2b. Species Action Plans and accompanying work programmes and priority actions for each EDGE species implemented by appropriate government and NGO bodies, and led by respective EDGE Fellows under the guidance of UK project partners (ongoing).</p>	<p>2a. Endorsed management plan.</p> <p>2b. Species Action Plan implementation progress reports.</p>	<p>All government and NGO organisations tasked with protecting EDGE species continue to collaborate and coordinate efforts.</p>
<p><b>3.</b> Research information about EDGE species produced and disseminated.</p>	<p>3. Knowledge increased regarding the conservation importance, knowledge base, gaps and needs of Seychelles EDGE species by Year 3.</p>	<p>3. 2-3 peer-reviewed publications resulting directly from this project's work.</p>	<p>The international scientific community continue to regard EDGE species as an important global conservation priority.</p> <p>Editors accept papers for publication.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Education, Awareness and Outreach programme increases local knowledge of EDGE species status and their needs.</p>	<p>4a. Awareness of Seychelles citizens about the uniqueness, vulnerability and management actions necessary for recovery of EDGE species has increased, including an awareness of what the local public can do to help.</p> <p>4b. Evidence of project-based activities that have promoted development of a CEPA (Communication, Education and Public Awareness) strategy for Seychelles' EDGE species.</p>	<p>4. 3x Seychelles national TV coverage.</p> <p>6x Seychelles national radio interviews.</p> <p>6x Seychelles national news-paper articles.</p> <p>Production of leaflets, T-shirts, posters and postcards for each EDGE species disseminated to local communities and tourism industry stakeholders.</p>	<p>Local communities are receptive to awareness campaigns.</p>
<p><b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1)</p> <p><b><u>Project management, monitoring and reporting activities</u></b></p> <p><b>0.1</b> Establishment of MOU(s) /agreements between project partners as appropriate; <b>0.2</b> Project steering group set-up and provide ongoing guidance; <b>0.3</b> Integrate and coordinate conservation initiatives of different organisations in Seychelles working with EDGE species; <b>0.4</b> Project Annual Reports submitted to DI; <b>0.5</b> Project Final Report submitted to DI</p> <p><b>1.1</b> EDGE Fellows Identified; <b>1.2</b> Personally tailored training programmes designed and implemented for each EDGE Fellow, designed by PL, PO and UK partner experts (with input from EDGE Fellow) to maximise training uptake and benefit for EDGE fellow and target EDGE species needs; <b>1.3</b> Bi-annual training workshops for EDGE Fellows and potentially the wider Seychelles conservation community as appropriate led by UK partner experts; <b>1.4</b> 1x 3 week trip for each EDGE Fellow to appropriate UK partner institution for UK based training</p> <p><b><u>Amphibians (Sooglossid frogs and caecilians)</u></b></p> <p><b>2.1</b> Sooglossid frog distribution surveys undertaken on the main islands; <b>2.2</b> Sooglossid frog ecology researched and potential effects of climate change explored; <b>2.3</b> Sooglossid frog Species Conservation Action Plans drafted, finalised and agreed; <b>2.4</b> Investigate potential of captive-breeding for conservation of sooglossids in</p>			

partnership with Amphibian Ark; **2.5** Precautionary disease monitoring for sooglossid frogs and caecilians undertaken, especially for 'chytrid'; **2.6** Research yellow crazy ant ecology, dynamics and methods of control, to understand their threat to sooglossid frog and caecilian populations; **2.7** Develop caecilian survey methodology with NHML experts; **2.8** Caecilian distribution surveys conducted on all relevant islands; **2.9** Genetics studies on the caecilians to clarify species present; **2.10** Investigation into potential and real threats to caecilians and recommended mitigation actions; **2.11** Caecilian Species Conservation Action Plans developed, finalised and agreed by relevant stakeholders

#### **Black parrot**

**2.12** Black parrot repeat survey in 2014 to determine population size; **2.13** Continued research into black parrot breeding ecology including limiting factors; **2.14** Provide support to SIF (existing project) ring-necked parakeet eradication on Mahé; **2.15** Confirm status of Seychelles black parrot species through molecular genetics work; **2.16** Undertake screening for Psittacine beak and feather disease (Pbfd) in the black parrot population; **2.17** Utilise existing Seychelles black parrot Species Conservation Action Plan as guiding document, produce annual workprogrammes, implement and report and assist with development of next Action Plan in 2013

#### **Sheath-tailed bat**

**2.18** Utilise the existing Seychelles sheath-tailed bat Conservation Action Plan as guiding document, agree annual work programmes, implement and report; **2.19** Work with Seychelles government to produce guiding document to mitigate impact of hotels and any other developments near sheath-tailed bat roosts; **2.20** Surveys to locate any further sheath-tailed bat roosts on Mahe and Silhouette, and re-check historical roosts on Praslin ; **2.21** Evaluate role of barn owls in the decline of the sheath-tailed bat (ongoing –to coincide with roost counts and all bat surveys); **2.22** Bat surveys to locate new bat feeding/activity areas; **2.23** Regular roost counts to monitor numbers

#### **Coral species**

**2.24** Build a network of local and international experts to advise on conservation actions for priority EDGE corals in the Seychelles; **2.25** Develop a single Conservation Action Plan for EDGE coral species in Seychelles; **2.26** Begin implementing priority actions determined by coral network and resulting Species Conservation Action Plan.

#### **All EDGE species**

**2.27** Annual progress reports for each EDGE species based on work programmes developed from Species Conservation Action Plans

**3.1** 2-3 peer reviewed publications resulting directly from this DI projects work

**4.1** Displays produced and installed in SNHM and Vallee de Mai Visitors Centres on each of the EDGE species; **4.2** Education and Awareness Leaflets designed, produced and disseminated amongst local Seychelles communities for all Seychelles EDGE species, tailored to each EDGE species and target audiences ; **4.3** 6x Seychelles National Radio programmes/interviews about EDGE species and this DI project; **4.4** 3x Seychelles National TV coverage of this project and EDGE species; **4.5** 6x Seychelles National Newspaper articles about the DI project and Seychelles EDGE species; **4.6** Information boards designed, produced and installed at trail entrances with information about EDGE species likely to occur in the area; **4.7** T-shirts and postcards produced for each EDGE species for project staff uniform and for sale and distribution at partner visitor centres; **4.8** Each EDGE Fellow will have a webpage on the ZSL EDGE of Existence website, they will contribute to the EDGE blog, and the project will have a dedicated webpage on the DICE website; **4.9** Project blog set up where all 5 EDGE Fellows regularly blog about their work and findings.

### **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.