



**Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project  
Half Year Report  
(due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018)**

<b>Project reference</b>	23-006
<b>Project title</b>	<i>Translocating conservation success and skills-exchange across four Indian Ocean countries</i>
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Seychelles, Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent.
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Seychelles National Parks Authority, Dahari, Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, Durrell Conservation Training Ltd
<b>Project leader</b>	Professor Jim Groombridge
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>	<i>HYR3, October 2018</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="https://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/research/projects/jg_darwin_initiative.html">https://www.kent.ac.uk/sac/research/projects/jg_darwin_initiative.html</a>  <i>Facebook page:</i> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Translocating-conservation-success-and-skills-exchange-across-the-WIO-318569868505836/">https://www.facebook.com/Translocating-conservation-success-and-skills-exchange-across-the-WIO-318569868505836/</a>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).**

The project has progressed to schedule over the past 6 months. Progress is described below against the agreed project activities scheduled for the reporting period (April-September 2018).

*Activity 0.1.* Project management continues to be effective with Skype call meetings between the PO and Partners to ensure efficient project planning and monitoring & evaluation

*Activity 1.2.* As agreed by Eilidh Young funds earmarked for Comorian national to complete a UKC accredited PGDip's in endangered species restoration at DCT regional training hub in Mauritius is instead being used to provide English language lessons to Dahari staff as PGDip did not run this year. We had some trouble recruiting an English teacher but now all sorted and progressing to plan.

*Activity 1.3.* Madagascar national Alexandra Rasoamanana successfully completed MSc in biodiversity management at DICE, University of Kent, UK to schedule in September 2018.

*Activity 1.4.* Project Officer (PO) conducted project visit to Durrell Madagascar (22 May-02 June 2018). This visit proved to be an excellent opportunity for partnership development, skills-exchange, and project M&E & planning. The PO spent time with the Director of Madagascar programme Richard Lewis, the head of species conservation and research Steeves Buckland, visited the field sites of the main conservation programmes run by Durrell Madagascar and met, talked and swapped ideas and experiences with field staff. Additionally, very positive feedback was received from the 4 Malagasy staff who participated in project regional exchange visits to project partner Mauritian Wildlife Foundation (MWF) in Mauritius -this was apparently a rare opportunity for the staff for which they are very grateful (for both professional skills development and motivational reasons). We discussed current project implementation and also

opportunities for future collaborations.

*Activity 1.5.* The PO, the project flycatcher research assistant, project partner Seychelles National Parks Authority (SNPA) staff and Department of Environment staff presented this project and the work we are doing to the new Seychelles Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change Hon. Wallace Cosgrov on 22 June. The same team (i) met with the Member of the National Assembly (MNA for La Digue) on 15 May and (ii) ran a public outreach meeting on La Digue on 28 July to present the project and our plans to translocate flycatchers to Curieuse. We also sent a press release out to multiple news agencies which resulted in a national newspaper article run on 19 August see:

<http://www.seychellesnewsagency.com/articles/9596/Project+to+hatch+new+population+of+Paradise+Flycatcher+on+island+in+Seychelles>

and a national TV news item on the National TV News on 4 August 2018 see:

<http://media.sbc.sc/ftproot/Television/News/2018-09-04-TV-8PM-News.mp4> (3.5 minute piece starting at minute 13).

*Activity 2.1.* Habitat rehabilitation on Curieuse, Félicité and Ferney is all progressing in the timeframe and manner planned. Common myna control underway on Curieuse since August to decrease number of mynas on Curieuse; methods (live capture decoy traps) working very successfully and numbers reduced by c.3/4 so far.

*Activity 2.4.* Official government permission has been granted to translocate c.25 flycatchers to Curieuse Island. This has been our biggest challenge, so is extremely good news. The transfer of the birds is scheduled to take place in the rainy season in early December 2018.

*Activity 2.6.* Seychelles paradise flycatcher (SPF) participatory conservation assessment and species action plan (SAP) has been updated and is used as the government reference document for SPF conservation. The Mauritius paradise flycatcher (MPF) SAP will be worked on in the final 6 months of the project.

*Activity 3.1.* Project partner MWF staff working in Ferney record all MPF sightings (this reporting period is outside the breeding season).

*Activity 3.2.* One manuscript drafted and almost ready for submission.

*Activity 4.1.* Project planning is underway with Durrell Madagascar and MSc scholarship recipient Alexandra Rasoamanana to undertake a project building on her MSc research project. The project proposes to look at (i) community perspective of the people living in and around the Menabe- Antimena Protected Area to gain their views about whether they want to participate in habitat restoration, and what, where and when do they think would be useful and feasible restoration in this PA (where poaching and forest clearance for cash crops continues to be an issue) and (ii) undertake a GIS mapping study to look at how to do habitat restoration in this dry forest PA. This task is on schedule to be completed by project end despite the tight timeframe between Alexandra completing her MSc (September 2018) and project end.

*Activity 4.2.* Dahari has designed and started implementation of a project to gain understanding of the habitat and resource-use of the critically endangered endemic Livingstone's fruit bat in order to formulate effective management actions for this little-studied species. The study is using GPS tracking devices and remote automatic data download to determine where the bats roost, travel and feed.

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

This project has not encountered any notable problems during this 6- month reporting period. However, we discussed the possibility of making changes to our logframe in our last annual report and the reviewer agreed, suggesting that we discuss these changes with Darwin/LTS. We submitted a formal change request and LTS has agreed to our proposed changes to the logframe. The updated logframe with the agreed changes highlighted in track changes has

been included as Annex 1 at the end of this ½ year report.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS: YES

Formal change request submitted: YES

Received confirmation of change acceptance YES

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

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

No

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R24 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**