

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	162/10/019
Project Title	Enabling implementation of threatened bird Species Action Plans in Africa (Follow-Up Project)
Country(ies)	Africa, particularly: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe
UK Organisation	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Collaborator(s)	BirdLife Africa Partnership
Report date	April 2004–September 2004
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	1
Project website	-

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

Output 1: SAP delivery training programme developed and produced

A Project Steering Committee meeting was held in the UK in June 2004 to plan detailed implementation of the project. In addition, the Project Adviser and Project Coordinator put together the following training modules with help from RSPB specialist staff:

- project planning
- fundraising
- project management
- advocacy
- communication
- research and monitoring.

These modules will be delivered to the National Species Action Plan/Species Interest Group Coordinators in two 2-week workshops

Output 2: Capacity of trainers enhanced to deliver SAP training programmes

The Training Coordinator and Project Coordinator undertook a 'Training for Trainers' course in the UK in preparation for delivering the modules described above. They also discussed a wide range of facilitation techniques and lessons learned with RSPB training and technical staff.

Output 6: Species Action Plan implementation by Species Interest Groups initiated in a range of countries

A number of countries are already embarking on aspects of Species Action Plan implementation. For example, work has started on Grauer's Scrub Warbler in Rwanda, Blue Swallow in Uganda and South Africa, and White-necked Picathartes in Sierra Leone. The Houbara Bustard Species Interest Group is becoming increasingly well organised.

Output 7: Species Action Plan development and implementation process secured within national conservation strategies

Government officials are being brought into the above processes wherever possible.

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

There were no major problems during this reporting period. However, the project team spent some time finalising the publications for the original project (*Action Plans for the Conservation of Globally threatened Birds in Africa*), which were not completed during period of that project, as these are an essential precursor to successful capacity building of Species Interest Groups (who were also involved in the finalisation process). This will not affect the outputs of the Follow-Up Project in any way, but has led to some delay in holding the first workshop. To give the project staff enough time to prepare for this workshop, which had been planned for October 2004, and to avoid a busy period for many of the participants, the timing for the workshop has been changed from October 2004 to January–February 2005.

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

This change has not yet been discussed with Darwin Secretariat – we see it as a shift in timing rather than of activities or outputs.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

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

The Project Adviser, based at BirdLife South Africa, secured a new role with another South African NGO in October 2004. We have secured agreement that he will continue to be involved in the project training courses, and he also remains very involved with some of the Species Interest Groups. This should not affect the project outputs but may require some structural changes in the next period.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year’s annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form by 31 October each year per email** to Stefanie Halfmann, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme, stefanie.halfmann@ed.ac.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message.**