## **Darwin Initiative**

### Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the increased number of reports expected in 2005, we <u>will not be able to</u> <u>confirm receipt of reports</u> but will contact you individually should any questions arise

Project Ref. No.	Ex 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, Seychelles, 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 2005 – September 2005	
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	2	
Project website	<u>www.birdlife.org</u>	

# 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 3: Project planning, fundraising and project management capacity of SIGs enhanced*

The report for first training workshop (on Project Planning, Fundraising, and Project Management) held in late February 2005, was combined with that of the second workshop (see below) and produced as a hard copy introductory summary with a CD as an annex.

#### **Output 4: Advocacy and communication capacity of SIGs enhanced**

The modules of the training programme on advocacy and communication were delivered to the National Species Action Plan/Species Interest Group Coordinators from 7 to 10 June 2005 during the second of the two planned training workshops that was held in Jinja, Uganda.

#### Output 5: Research and monitoring capacity of SIGs enhanced

The modules of the training programme on Research and monitoring were delivered to the National Species Action Plan/Species Interest Group Coordinators from 11 to 13 June 2005 during the second of the two planned training workshops that was held in Jinja, Uganda. The report for the two workshops has been produced (see output 3 above) and distributed.

#### Output 6: Species Action Plan implementation by SIGs initiated in a range of countries

Various countries continued to implement some aspects of existing Species Action Plans (SAPS), e.g. Rwanda (Grauer's Scrub Warbler), Sierra Leone (White-necked Picathartes), Cameroon (Grey-necked Picathartes, South Africa (Blue Swallow). The Birdlife Partner in Zambia obtained funds for implementation of some aspects of the Blue Swallow SAP in Zambia and Malawi and plans to start work in November. Others have been supported by the National Coordinator and RSPB to develop and submit quality proposals on implementation of SAPs

(e.g. two proposals for Spotted ground Thrush in Kenya and Tanzania, one proposal for Grauer's Rush Warbler in Burundi). Other SAP implementation and SIG growth projects are under development with support from the Project Coordinator.

A Project Steering Committee meeting was held in Cameroon on 25 July. A plan for developing PR and advocacy materials was agreed upon. The Project Coordinator asked for and received ideas from various countries on their needs and priorities for the materials. These have been compiled into a 'menu' that will be used to guide production of the materials.

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

Government officials continued to be brought into the above processes wherever possible. Using the existing SAP development process, the Project Coordinator supported Birdlife Partner in Kenya (Nature Kenya) in developing Action Plans for two Kenyan sites which hold key species.

#### 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. The two training workshops and the steering group meeting discuss barriers to successful implementation of action plans. Key ones identified were still lack of capacity within SIGs and government agencies leading on from lack of funding and the fact that key people concerned were often already over-burdened. A key objective for the remaining period of the project is to raise awareness of what is needed for successful species conservation programmes and increase the number of people and organisations involved. The advocacy materials will be critical in this regard.

The RSPB continued to finalise 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. Two new action plans for Spotted Ground Thrush and Lappet-faced Vulture were published during this period. This does not affect the outputs of the current project in any way.

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

No specific changes have occurred.

**Discussed with the DI Secretariat:** 

no/yes,	in	(month/yr)
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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?

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. Response was not requested.

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.