

Ensuring legacy and conservation impact within Kenya's biodiversity monitoring network

First Annual Report



Submitted by



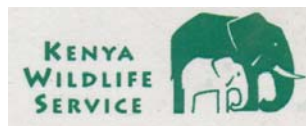
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

in partnership with:

NatureKenya



Government of Kenya



April 2006

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Cover Image: **Forest Monitoring practicals (NatureKenya)**

Darwin Initiative

Annual Report

1. Darwin Project Information

Project Ref. Number	<i>EIDPO7 (follow up to 162/11/003)</i>
Project Title	<i>Ensuring legacy and conservation impact within Kenya's biodiversity monitoring network</i>
Country(ies)	<i>Kenya</i>
UK Contractor	<i>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds</i>
Partner Organisation(s)	<i>Nature Kenya (East African Natural History Society) in collaboration with National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Wildlife Service, Forest Department, NEMA</i>
Darwin Grant Value	<i>£49,144</i>
Start/End dates	<i>1 July 2005 to 30 June 2007</i>
Reporting period (1 Apr 200x to 31 Mar 200y) and annual report number (1,2,3..)	<i>1 July 2005 to 31 March 2006 Annual report 1</i>
Project website	www.naturekenya.org www.rspb.org.uk
Author(s), date	<i>Paul Buckley, Adrian Oates, Enock Kanyanya, Joel Siele</i>

2. Project Background

The project (162/11/003) has established and co-ordinated an effective, sustainable monitoring system at 60 Important Bird (Biodiversity) Areas (IBAs) throughout Kenya, tracked the status of the IBA network and fed back directly into improved site management, conservation action and national reporting. Nature Kenya considers the conservation of IBAs as a key part of its conservation programme to conserve birds and wider biodiversity. This current project built on earlier local initiatives to conserve some of the most threatened sites and also on successes in developing a functioning national conservation network. A follow up award was made in 2005 to allow the success of the earlier three year project to be built upon.

Government and non-government organisations and institutions concerned with biodiversity conservation in Kenya have recognised the key importance of IBA monitoring for conservation planning, evaluation and timely targeting of intervention efforts. Unfortunately, the capacity for monitoring in Kenya was weak at the start of this project. This need was emphasised by the data gaps and skills shortages made apparent during development of the World Bird Database, which seeks to generate and maintain long-term information about the status of the world's birds and the key sites that they inhabit. Outside of work by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) monitoring team, what monitoring information existed was not being collated at the national level and was seldom used to inform conservation decision-making.

The need for this project was identified through the work of the IBA National Liaison Committee, a forum of government and non government organisations established and serviced by NatureKenya since 1998. Nature Kenya therefore requested support for relevant training and technical support towards establishing this system. Partners would be trained in ecological survey, data management, management planning, project management, advocacy and training skills. They in turn would then train and support a network of local people and government field staff. Particular focus was to be on priority sites where community-based Site Support Groups (SSGs) were already established or establishing. Great progress was made during the first project but more work remained to ensure smooth running, sustainability and effective use of the monitoring system.

3. Project Purpose and Outputs

The purpose of the follow up project is 'A functioning national monitoring system is demonstrably assisting Kenyan conservation by informing and inspiring sound and long term conservation actions'

The outputs planned are as follows:

1. Greater institutionalisation of monitoring within managing agencies creates extra capacity and awareness within each agency
2. A standard training module for people new to the network is delivered through the key agencies
3. Project databases ensure more efficient and effective analysis and use of monitoring data to a common standard across the Kenyan network
4. Site Support Groups' ability to integrate monitoring programmes into their core work is enhanced
5. An increased number of management plans are making active use of monitoring data, with a particular focus on wetlands
6. Regional and national dissemination carried out to promote use of data from the programme and encourage its replication elsewhere

No changes have been made to these outputs during the project period.

4. Progress

This was the first nine months of the follow up project, following the completion of 162/11/003 in June 2005. While there is strong convergence between the two projects, this follow up phase containing a number of distinctive components aimed to promote effective use of and future sustainability of the monitoring network. Between the submission of the follow up application in January 2005 and its commencement in July, an advisory group meeting was held in the UK and a final project evaluation was undertaken by Mine Pabari. These two events did not change the basis of the project but did focus our minds on a number of issues that would require special focus during the next two years.

Progress in the first nine months has generally been good. The system as a whole has continued to gain momentum with more organisations interested and sites covered. The second status report is currently being printed and some of the findings have already been used by NEMA in reporting to the CBD. Collection of data for the third report is well underway. The information contained therein has continued to be used for informing site action and also in feeding in to international meetings such as the recent CBD CoP in Brazil, attended by NatureKenya's Director. In relation to specific results:

1. The involvement of key agencies in the programme has continued to grow. They are taking greater responsibility for collecting monitoring forms and ensuring quality than before. They have become more involved in work at individual sites such as Dunga and Mukerwieni, where action plans are being prepared. KWS and NEMA

staff in particular were also involved in the January waterbird counts, supported by this project. It has proved difficult to organise actions to spread awareness more deeply within the agencies, such as lunchtime seminars and in-house newsletters, although we did attend a meeting of all District Forest Officers in Kenya. These activities will need to be pursued with more vigour in Year 2.

2. A monitoring manual has been drafted, based on the earlier monitoring and survey training courses and on the emerging experience of the project. More discussion is needed before finalising this, in particular in relation to adapting it to different target audiences and also to some minor changes proposed to IBA monitoring protocols at the international level which Kenya needs to decide whether and how to adopt. The East African wetland monitoring manual, from which we hoped to incorporate key issues, is not yet available in its final form. The training for trainers course was delayed slightly and was held in April 2006. The outcomes of the course will help to determine how to target limited remaining training resources to best effect.

3. Progress in this work area has continued to be limited. The Forest Department through Forrems project and technical support from US Forestry Service held a two days workshop where key partners presented the kind of data they generate and discussed possibilities of sharing. A report of the proceedings was produced and circulated. The project will review the report and initiate discussions for developing guidelines to enhance data sharing. In the light of the above, we have not yet held the data sharing workshop planned and will review how best this should be implemented. There continues to be some resistance to automatic data sharing by some partners and a way will need to be found to ensure data availability without attempting to impose any unwelcome constraints. There has been some progress with NMK/NatureKenya data bases and the new Kenya Birdfinder system is running well, which has implications for how best to integrate this and the IBA monitoring data.

4. Detailed monitoring continued in the eight established sites and ongoing support through regular site visits and updates was given to them. Detailed training in monitoring was given to the SSG at South Nandi and a new group at Busia grassland and it is hoped monitoring will start there in the next months. New initiatives to start SSGs and monitoring at Cherengani, Machakos, Mwingi are under way. Refresher training has been undertaken for SSGs at Kakamega and Dunga Swamp. The project contributed towards supporting stakeholders including the bird committee for water bird counts in Lakes Nakuru, Magadi, Baringo, Lake Victoria and Dandora sewage ponds. The reports in the Annexes outline the content and outcomes of some of these courses.

A key issue highlighted in earlier reviews was providing feedback to the SSGs and providing greater evidence of how this work would ultimately provide benefits to the groups and its constituent members. While a number of the beneficiary programmes are funded separately, for example ecotourism work at Kereita and Kinangop, those programmes are increasingly using data collected by this project. At other sites such as Dunga Swamp, the processes of data collection, management planning and community action are already more integrated. We are making greater efforts to provide good feedback to the SSGs on what their work means and should be able to provide some more scientifically robust analysis of what trends are emerging from the monitoring during the coming year.

5. Monitoring data was used extensively in order to develop the Dunga Wetland draft Action plan and the Mukuweini Valley action plan. The drafts were discussed at a stakeholders meeting and circulated for input, a process which took longer than anticipated but which we are confident will strengthen ownership of the final product. Recent drafts are attached in the annexes. The information generated at Kinangop grasslands was used to develop a management/business plan for the NatureKenya owned Nature Reserve there.

We have continued to support management plan processes involving areas under the stewardship of other agencies. For example, the Project Leader is a member of the National Participatory Forest Management Team where guidelines for engaging community groups including SSGs in forest management have been developed and are awaiting approval for publishing and adoption. Guidelines for preparing participatory forest management plans have been drafted and the team is reviewing them. The experience from Nature Kenya Site Support Groups especially of Kereita has made a contribution to the drafting of the guidelines. Once the guidelines are approved the process of developing management plans in Forest Reserves and National Reserves will be clearer to many officers.

The drafting of guidelines of the relationship between management planning and monitoring is outstanding but we expect to complete this within the next few months.

6. The second annual status report is due imminently and will be launched as soon as possible. Data collection for the third is well underway and this should be ready much more promptly now that a format is established. NatureKenya have continued to make good use of dissemination opportunities, for example the African BirdLife partnership meeting in July 2005 and most recently through a presentation at the CBD CoP in Curitiba, Brazil in March 2006.

Several staff from Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania paid a visit to the conservation programme with a view to learning about the IBA monitoring system. They were taken through the process from detailed monitoring at Kereita and Kinangop grassland, to data analysis at NMK through to report preparation and dissemination at NatureKenya. They hope to start the process in Tanzania and integrate some existing work on monitoring in the Eastern Arc mountain hotspot with this.

Key achievements of the reporting period may be summarised as

- Still greater ownership among participating Kenyan institutions. This has been achieved by increasing their identification with the project through adaptation of the forms and expansion of the local participation in the advisory group. At the local level the profile gained by the project has led to all Site Support Groups being nominated in their respective districts as members of the District Environment Committee.
- Further increase in the numbers of sites being monitored at both basic and detailed levels. Monitoring is proving to be an excellent activity to use as the basis of establishment of new site support groups, provided we recognise the need to improve awareness of how it can benefit them, links with other beneficiary programmes and feedback on results and analysis
- Good progress with using the data to inform management plans and conservation action, especially plans at Dunga Swamp, Mukurweini Valleys and Kinangop Plateau, in EIAs and in the 3rd report to the CBD.
- The experience gained during the preparation of the Kereita Forest Management plan and other site action plans has been very useful in the process of developing guidelines for preparation of forest management plans. Nature Kenya and KENVO are represented on the Forest Department participatory forest management (PFM) team due to the experience gained, and they invited the Project Leader to attend a meeting of all DFOs and to train senior officers in PFM.

Difficulties facing the project during this period have included:

- NatureKenya underwent substantial staff changes at the beginning of the follow up phase. Solomon Mwangi, Project Leader since the project inception, took up a new role working for the European Union although he has been able to maintain some working links with NatureKenya. We were lucky to get a prompt replacement in Enock Kanyanya who joined from the Forest Department/Kenya Forest Working Group. Anthony Kiragu the Project officer obtained a Darwin

scholarship and was replaced by Jacob Machekele who was working with NatureKenya already in their programme at Arabuko Sokoke. We have been lucky to find two excellent replacements who already had a working knowledge of this project through earlier involvement. However they had a lot to master in a short time on both this project and others that they are responsible for and this inevitable caused some delays. Other project staff in Kenya have done an excellent job in helping this transition.

- Although there is ever improving ownership by managing agencies we have continued to suffer from changes in focal points, most recently in the Forest Department. Attempts to hold awareness seminars at government agencies headquarters involving many officers have not been fruitful, although focal points have helped to take advantage of already prepared meetings e.g. the national meeting of District Forest officers. Regular visits to these agencies to discuss issues and participating in their programmes has helped improve awareness to the headquarter staff. The focal points have also been supported to make field trips to make follow ups and hold discussions with field staff.
- This turnover remains a feature at the individual site level as well as staff are frequently reassigned. We are attempting to counter this by finding ways to spread the basic training much more widely but the implication is that some ongoing training will always be needed beyond the project period.
- Processes of genuine stakeholder engagement and capacity building at the community level have taken more time than was predicted. This has slowed progress, for example, on management plans and development of new SSGs although we firmly believe that taking these processes at the appropriate pace will make for a more sustainable end result.

The design of the project has not been reviewed but there have been regular discussions on methodologies used.

Annual Workplan 2006-2007

April 06	Apr–Mar 06/07	Training for trainers workshop
April 06	“	Management plan at Kinangop Plateau drafted
May 06	“	Issue of Annual status report
May 06	“	Review of data quality and sharing report completed
June 06	“	Report on project delivered to African partnership meeting
By June 06	“	Support system for monitoring training network in place
By June 06	“	Annual data collected from 6 SSG monitoring programmes
By June 06	“	Two management plans reach adopted draft stage
July 06	“	Completion of monitoring training manual
July 06	“	Participation of project stakeholders in waterbird counts
July 06	“	Recruitment and training of new volunteers for SSG monitoring underway
Sept 06	“	Commence detailed monitoring programme with 3 new SSGs
Oct 06	“	Data sharing and quality assessment workshop (revised format) completed

October 06	“	Key lessons and impacts documented and published
By Nov 06	“	Complete awareness seminars at govt agency HQs
By Dec 06	“	Monitoring training course for new network members
By Dec 2006	“	Study visit by one other East Africa partner completed
By Dec 06	“	Adopt guidelines on data sharing and access
January 07	“	Complete 2006 Annual status report
January 07	“	Issue basic monitoring forms for 2007 monitoring
January 07	“	Participation of project stakeholders in waterbird counts
By January 07	“	Seminar involving 3 neighbouring countries
By March 07	“	Review of remote sensing for monitoring completed

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

We have continued to seek to implement recommendations made by earlier annual reviews and through the mid term evaluation by Alex Forbes. We recently received a review of the Final report submitted in June 2005. This was passed onto and discussed with our partners in country. The report makes no specific recommendations but endorses those of the final project evaluation which were incorporated as far as possible into the plans for this follow up project. The final project evaluation continues to be an important reference for our efforts to ensure that the remaining project time achieves as much as possible towards future sustainability. Both the final evaluation and the Darwin annual review note in particular the need to make greater linkage between the monitoring work and the potential benefits to local communities of IBA conservation. This will be an important theme of the remainder of this project but also in ensuring that NatureKenya's other programmes, which focus more explicitly on community benefits, are better integrated with the monitoring programme.

Specific actions commenced in response to earlier comments include:

- improved feedback to those who monitor sites
- Seeking to ensure a fully participatory approach to project planning, development of monitoring plans and to decision making
- Seeking to deepen the ownership within managing agencies to counter changes, especially organisational restructuring etc
- Further understanding the information needs of various stakeholders as part of improving data collection, management and dissemination.
- increasing the number of people at field level who understand, support and participate in the monitoring network
- ensuring scientific rigour through more follow up visits and ground truthing, and also through initiating a review of remote sensing programmes as another tier of monitoring

6. Partnerships

The relationship between RSPB and Nature Kenya our principal partner in the project has continued to be excellent. The RSPB Project Manager has visited the project

twice since commencement of the post project phase – in November and March. He also met and discussed the project in July 2005, in the company of RSPB's Head of International Research, with the Nature Kenya Director and the outgoing Project Leader. The change in staff described above necessitated the establishment of new relationships and briefing on some of the project history and past achievements. This was accomplished smoothly. Other RSPB staff and collaborators from other UK institutions have not visited the project but have provided advice and support upon request.

Staff at Nature Kenya continue to be extremely busy with a range of programmes but equally very committed and have risen to the challenge of ensuring the project works to plan. The working relationship with the Ornithology Department has also continued to be very good with great commitment shown by core staff, especially in a time of change. The relationships with other critical partners, especially KWS and FD have continued to improve. Excellent cooperation with senior staff ensured that plans were amended to get the follow up visits completed and reports submitted. Relations with NEMA have improved through the project and both NEMA and FD now sit on the Advisory Group, alongside the existing Kenyan partners.

The project has continued to assist Nature Kenya with their networking with other organisations and projects. This has happened most formally through the network created by the IBA NLC and its Monitoring Sub-Committee. The project interfaces with a number of other projects including those led by NatureKenya, for example those at Kereita and Kinangop (funded by the EU), at Arabuko Sokoke (funded by USAID), at Mount Kenya (funded by GEF Small Grants) and at Kakamega (funded by UNDP). It also works with projects implemented by other agencies, including a number implemented under the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund in the Eastern Arc and Coastal forests which operates in both Kenya and Tanzania. This follow up project must continue to instill the principle of sustainable monitoring into other site based initiatives so that monitoring programmes are complementary, can be interpreted to a common standard and that they are carried out in a manner which has some hope of being maintained beyond the funding cycle.

The project continued to be reported to other members of the Birdlife African partnership who are developing, or seeking to develop monitoring programmes for IBAs in their own countries. This included presentations at the partnership meeting in Cameroon held in July 2005 and during a visit by members of the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania.

Finally, we aim to enhance the legacy of the East Africa Wetland Monitoring programme led by WWT (11/002). We have maintained close contact with WWT and in particular with the former project Leader Oliver Nasirwa who is continuing to follow up that project from his base in Nairobi. We supported the waterbird counts in January 2005. We are completing one wetland management plan at Dunga Swamp and plan to commence another during this project. We still plan to incorporate the wetland monitoring principles into our monitoring guidelines when they are available. Visitors from WCST who were involved in that project in Tanzania have already visited the Kenyan programme and we hope to assist the development of monitoring in at least one other East African country by the end of the project.

7. Impact and Sustainability

Key components relating to impact and a successful exit strategy achieved so far are:

- Greater institutionalisation of monitoring within managing agencies, especially within NEMA, creating extra capacity and awareness within each agency, as well as within NatureKenya and NMK.
- Imminent publication of a further annual status report and continued use of this data and the previous report in information dissemination and plan and policy formulation. The annual report was also fed back to the contributors who now identify more with the report and the purpose of the project.
- Further capacity building of existing Site Support Groups to enable them to integrate monitoring even more closely into their work programmes, and the beginning of up to 4 new ones.
- An increase in the number of management plans and conservation projects making active use of monitoring data
- Dissemination through seminars, publications and the media, to promote the programme and encourage its replication elsewhere.
- Building on the IBA data to establish a web-based bird recording/monitoring system (Kenya Birdfinder)
- Substantial publicity for the project within the Kenyan media including Nation Newspaper and Standard newspapers (articles on community forest protection in Nandi forest and monitoring of birds in IBAs), and continued promotion of the programme at international events
- Use of the data in a number of funding proposals notably the preparation of an application to the Global Environment Facility for a Medium Sized Grant programme. We should hear the result of this within the period of this Darwin project.

Overall the project continues to make an impact. Increasing amounts of funding is being provided through the agencies or by leveraging co-funding from other projects. The key to sustainability continues to lie in shared ownership amongst participating Kenyan organisations and in adequate resourcing of the coordinating function to ensure things happen on schedule. One project cannot solve resource problems and, while the ongoing costs should be much lower than project costs, the financing of these basic functions remains a concern, especially as staff reassignment and turnover continues to be an issue in all agencies.

Key measures to minimise the risks to a successful exit which still remain to be implemented/completed include:

- Completion of a standard training module for people new to the network (incorporating wetland monitoring from project 11/002) which can be delivered by the individual agencies themselves.
- Building on this to ensure basic monitoring training is a feature of a wide range of training courses introducing new field staff to their core operating functions, especially in KWS, Forest Department and NEMA
- Further development of and sharing between project and allied databases to ensure more efficient and effective analysis and use of monitoring data to a common standard across the Kenyan network.
- Incorporating of monitoring into individual site based programmes – this has gone very well so far but needs to be continued

- Completion of guidelines on how to make best use of monitoring information and ensure management plans make provision for monitoring
- Development of a best practice manual highlighting lessons learned and key recommendations for other agencies developing similar programmes in Kenya or elsewhere
- Finding a way to resource a small monitoring unit (1-2 people) within NatureKenya/NMK to ensure that the legacy of this work continues.

8. Outputs, Outcomes and Dissemination

Specific tasks according to the project implementation timetable are shown below

Date planned	Activity	Progress
Ongoing	Visits to IBAs and SSGs (monthly),	Undertaken effectively by a range of stakeholders
Ongoing	Meetings of project team (8 per year),	Completed
Ongoing	Meetings of advisory committee (1–2 per year)	One held November 2005
Ongoing	National Liaison Committee (3 per year)	One held
By Oct 05	Survey and collate existing data systems, storage and needs	Initial report prepared, work ongoing and linked to data sharing review
By Oct 05	Issue basic monitoring forms for 2005 monitoring	Completed
By Nov 05	Complete awareness seminars at govt agency HQs	Ongoing although limited progress to date
By Jan 06	Complete standard monitoring manual incorporating wetlands guidance	Draft produced awaiting new information including wetland manual
Feb 06	Participation of project stakeholders in waterbird counts	Completed
By Feb 06	Collate all 2005 basic monitoring forms	2005 monitoring completed and status report imminent, 2006 forms being completed
By March 06	Training for trainers workshop	Held April 2006
March 06	Data sharing workshop completed	Delayed until later 2006

Most of the activities which have only partly been completed or been delayed are discussed in section 4 above. Among activities not included above substantial progress on the development of a internet based bird monitoring tool, Kenya Birdfinder (www.worldbirds.org) may be mentioned. We also made substantial progress on developing site action plans at Dunga Swamp, Mukurweini Valleys and Kinangop Plateau. Finally extensive training for newly established site support groups at South Nandi and Busia grasslands was completed in March 2005, as well as refresher training for others, mostly with leveraged support.

The delays discussed above mostly also explain the discrepancy between the outputs planned and achieved in Table 1 below. In addition press work in both the UK and Kenya failed to achieve targets. This has been a difficult project to promote in the public, as opposed to policy and national and international fora arena. However

we will try hard to achieve this in Years 2 and 3, in particular through the placing of feature articles

Table 1. Project Outputs (According to Standard Output Measures)

Standard output number (see standard output list)	Description (include numbers of people involved, publications produced, days/weeks etc.)	Progress after Year 1
Output 5	2 Kenyan Field Officers and 2 Site Assistants continue to receive on-the-job training	All 4 receiving on the job training. Field Officers have had some staff turnover at beginning and end of project period
Outputs 6A and 6B	25 person-weeks of formal training will be delivered to baseline network members on monitoring and survey techniques (25 people x 1 week), along with 60 person-weeks to SSGs (120 people x 0.5 weeks) and 25 person-weeks to network members (50 people x 0.5 weeks) by in-house agency staff. 6 person-weeks of 'training for trainers' will be provided (9 people x 0.67 weeks). This totals 116 person-weeks and 204 persons.	28 people received 0.8 weeks training at Busia and 15 received 0.8 weeks training at Nandi. 20 people received training by in-house agency staff of FD and KWS Total = 39 weeks
Output 7	1 standard training manual on the Kenyan monitoring scheme 1 brochure on experiences of the project will be produced	Not completed
Output 8	Over the project, Project Leader to spend 4 weeks in Kenya Research Trainer and the Management Planning Adviser to spend 2 weeks in Kenya Database Adviser to spend 2 weeks in Kenya Advisory Group member to spend 2 weeks in Kenya	The Project Leader spent 2 weeks in Kenya
Output 9	2 annual monitoring status reports produced 2 site management plans will be completed in year 2 1 review of remote sensing in year 2	1 status report imminent 3 management plans underway
Output 11A	At least 1 paper summarising the methods and outcomes of developing the monitoring systems to be published	1 Paper published November 2005 in <i>Biodiversity and Conservation</i>

Output 12B	Existing IBA database will be substantially enhanced. KWS monitoring database and Kenya Birdfinder databases will also be enhanced. Total = 3.	3 Ongoing
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Output 14A	1 seminar will be organised in Kenya in year 2 to disseminate results from the project	Not done yet
Output 14B	3 other meetings will be attended where presentations will be made: 1 in Kenya and 2 elsewhere	1 CBD CoP Brazil 1 meeting of all District foresters in Kenya held at Nakuru = 2
Output 15A	2 national press articles or press releases in Kenya in each of years 1 and 2 giving a total of 4	1 press release on Amboseli 1 article in Nation Newspaper on monitoring water birds at Thika sewage 1 article on community forest monitoring to prevent illegal logging and charcoal making in Nandi forest. = 3
Output 15C	1 UK press release in year 1, 1 article in the RSPB's magazine Birds in year 2, giving a total of 2	0 so far
Output 17B	The established IBA monitoring network in Kenya will continue to be strengthened The national IBA monitoring committee will also continue to operate Some regional networking will be undertaken Total is 3.	3 All ongoing
Output 18A	We intend to ensure at least 1 TV feature in Kenya in each of years 1 and 2, giving a total of 2	1 Nation TV covered activities in Kinangop IBA
Output 19A	We intend to ensure at least 1 radio feature in Kenya in each of years 1 and 2, giving a total of 2	1 A local vernacular radio covered activities in Kinangop IBA
Output 20	1 computer together with software – value £1,500 3 GPS units – value £360 Field equipment – value £420 Books – value £540	1 computer with soft ware, binoculars, three GPS units, field equipment including First Aid Kits and books worth total £1770.13
Output 22	The 195 existing permanent survey plots will continue to be monitored. Some 40 new ones will	195 plots monitored

	be established.	
	Resources from sources other than Darwin: The following amounts of matching funding will be contributed to the project over the course of the two years. From partners in host countries: £17,775 From RSPB and other UK sources: £43,090	Contribution excluding voluntary inputs RSPB and UK sources £17,070 Kenya sources £8,028

Table 2: Publications

Type * (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (title, author, year)	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. contact address, website)	Cost £
Paper in (Biodiversity and Conservation)*	Bennun et al <i>Monitoring Important Bird Areas in Africa: Towards a Sustainable and Scaleable System</i>	SpringerLink November 2005	www.springerlink.com	Subscription

9. Project Expenditure

Table 3: Project expenditure during the reporting period (Defra Financial Year 01 April to 31 March)

Item	Budget (please indicate which document you refer to if other than your project schedule)	Expenditure	Balance
Rent, rates, heating, overheads etc			
Office costs (e.g. postage, telephone, stationery)			
Travel and subsistence			
Printing			
Conferences, seminars, etc			
Capital items/equipment			

Others - Administrative support

Salaries (specify)

Project Leader
Mwangi/Kanyaynya

Project Officer –
Kiragu/Machekele

Field officers

Musilla and Mwema

TOTAL

Overall project expenditure was £1703 below budget. We requested an underspend of up to £3,000 from Darwin in advance although in the event it was less than this.

We also sought an agreement to overspend this years budget on capital equipment since it became necessary to buy a laptop urgently. This was countered to an extent by an underspend on other capital equipment. The remaining budget for capital items will be spent in Year 2.

We underspent on travel and subsistence and conferences mainly because of a delay to some activities, principally the Training of trainers workshop which will now be held in April 2006 and a seminar timed to coincide with the launch of the second IBA status report which was delayed until beyond the year end. Again this will be held early in the new financial year.

Overall salaries were slightly underspent. New staff in post meant that there was a pay differential between them and more established staff who left. There was also shift in the balance of work delivered by different members of staff. The Project officer spent more time on the project than originally anticipated, hence the higher spend here relative to the field officers. It is likely that this pattern will be broadly repeated in Year 2.

10. Monitoring, Evaluation and Lessons

The major monitoring tools adopted in the first project proved to be successful and were continued in this project. These have been fully described in earlier reports but they include:

The project advisory group, which has now been expanded to include all the five major Kenyan institutions as well as RSPB and Birdlife International. This met once in November 2005, but individual members have been active throughout offering advice and helping with particular issues in their institutions

The IBA National Liaison Committee which ensures wider awareness of the programme amongst other key institutions.

The Project Implementation Team which has met 7 times during the project period.

Regular visits by the RSPB's Programme Manager which gives a chance for him and the NatureKenya Project Leader to discuss and address project progress both in the formal mechanisms above but also informally with all major stakeholders.

For all of the above, but especially for the Advisory group, the PIT and the RSPB and Nature Kenya Project Manager, the Logical Framework, together with the workplan forms the basis of project review. Within this the principal monitoring tools are the indicators and the progress against these is outlined in Annex 1. The validity of

these indicators and the various risks and assumptions outlined in the project planning process are also regularly assessed by the Project Managers and the PIT.

We had a major review of lessons learned last year with the completion of the first project, the development of this follow up programme and the final project evaluation. With apologies for repeating these here they remain valid and as we enter the final phase of this project, we need to keep them fully in our mind:

1. Monitoring activities can be an extremely effective mechanism to raise awareness and capacity for conservation. However, to be effective and sustainable, participants need first to understand the conservation and material benefits of doing the work, and design must take into account the social, economic and political realities of those involved.
2. Institutionalisation and integration are key features of sustainability, however, the two processes require time and effort. Capacity and processes need to be strengthened at the institutional level, rather than the individual level. A key ingredient to achieve this is the buy in of senior managers.
3. Capacity building is best achieved through “learning by doing”
4. Demonstrating “impact” through monitoring, either in relation to quantifying damage or demonstrating benefits of response actions, is a powerful catalyst for positive action.
5. A strong motivating factor can be the demonstration of the linkages between good conservation and livelihood benefits
6. Make monitoring simple and focused, avoiding any compromises in scientific credibility
7. Making monitoring relevant to the needs of the partner institutions is key to achieving sustainability
8. Providing follow-up support/mentoring and ensuring regular two way feedback is critical in achieving a common understanding of the short and long-term objectives

From a more practical point of view, the continued changes caused by staff turnover, reassignment and organisational restructuring show no signs of abating. This must make us realistic about the chances of achieving a system which requires no further external financial or technical inputs. We are proud of the extensive use of volunteers in this project although we must always remember that they are volunteers and seek to respect and cater for their needs and aspirations.

The provision of good training materials and ‘training of trainers’ becomes ever more vital in this context so that new people coming into the system are automatically trained. Realistically, we will need to find a way of maintaining a small monitoring unit to coordinate this activity and ensuring that common standards are maintained, gaps covered, reports analysed and synthesised and so on. This is likely to require external financing in the short to medium term.

OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements of your project during the reporting period (300-400 words maximum)

■ I agree for ECTF and the Darwin Secretariat to publish the content of this section

The project ‘Ensuring Legacy and Conservation impact within Kenya’s biodiversity monitoring network’ is a two-year programme that followed on from a successful three year project on Kenya’s Important Biodiversity Areas. The project is managed by the RSPB and implemented by a partnership of Kenya Government Agencies and NGOS, led by Nature Kenya. It produces annual monitoring information on 60 Important Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) throughout Kenya, including very detailed assessments in some critical sites. The status report thus generated has proved

useful for conservation decision making, management planning and for preparation of country reports for CBD. Key achievements in the recent months include :

The basic monitoring process and the detailed monitoring have improved the image of Nature Kenya and the Site Support Groups. All SSGs were nominated in their respective districts as members of their District Environment Committee. NEMA has involved Nature Kenya in activities including Environment Impact Assessments and the development of the third national report to CBD.

The experience gained during the preparation of site action plans has been very useful in the process of developing guidelines for preparation of forest management plans. Nature Kenya are represented on the Forest Department Participatory Forest Management (PFM) team due to the experience gained, and developed and delivered training modules for community and participatory forest management facilitators training.

Annex 1 Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year: 2005/2006

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2005-Mar 2006	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Goal: To draw on expertise relevant to biodiversity from within the United Kingdom to work with local partners in countries rich in biodiversity but poor in resources to achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation of biological diversity, • The sustainable use of its components, and • The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose The purpose of this project is to ensure that a functioning national monitoring system is demonstrably assisting Kenyan Conservation by informing and inspiring sound long term conservation actions and policy development. A growing number of people will be involved in the monitoring programme and by the end of the project it will be well established among all key conservation agencies and inspiring comparable actions in neighbouring countries. 	<p>Conservation actions at 3 sites demonstrably based on analysis of project monitoring data.</p> <p>All project partners are contributing 80% of the costs of running the monitoring network by the end of year 2</p> <p>Monitoring data used to inform 2 national strategy/policy processes by end of year 2</p>	<p>Preparation of site action plans and action implemented for Dunga wetland and Mukurweini valleys, have largely relied on information generated through detailed monitoring</p> <p>Conservation activities at Kakamega forest, Kinangop Grassland and Arabuko sokoke are based on the information generated through detailed monitoring.</p> <p>Nature Kenya delivers monitoring forms to the headquarters of the partner institutions. They then take the responsibility and costs of distributing the forms to the field, retrieving the forms and delivering them to Nature Kenya. The field officers are asked to fill the forms and deliver them to their HQ as part of their normal duties.</p>	<p>Securing greater SSGs representation at the district level in important for influencing conservation decisions at this increasingly important level. The project will encourage active participation of SSGs in various forums and lobby for their continued nomination to DECAs in their respective districts.</p>

		<p>The monitoring data was used to report on CBD and Environment Status report.</p> <p>Nature Kenya is a member of Provincial Environment Committee for central province, while some site support groups are members of their respective District Environment Committees. Information generated through monitoring is used for decision making at the District level.</p>	
Outputs			
<p>1. Greater institutionalisation of monitoring within managing agencies creates extra capacity and awareness within each agency</p>	<p><i>Baseline monitoring data returned from 95% of IBAs in each of year 1 and 2</i></p> <p><i>Lead and deputy focal points agreed in all partners by end of year 1</i></p>	<p>Monitoring forms for 2006 have been returned from various IBAs through Forest Department and Kenya Wildlife Service.</p> <p>Dr. Bagine and E Kanga continued to be focal points for KWS while Mr. Samson Njehia was the new focal point for Forest Department. Mr. Ndonye continued to be the focal point for NEMA.</p> <p>Agencies were involved in the January Waterbird counts</p>	<p>Field staff needs to be sensitised on the importance of IBA monitoring in order to enhance the use of the information generated and increase the number of forms generated per IBA.</p> <p>Focal points will be supported to make more and regular visits to the field to encourage field staff to fill the forms and hold discussions to create awareness on the importance of IBA monitoring.</p>
<p>2. A standard training module for people new to the network is delivered through the key agencies</p>	<p>Training manual published by month 8</p> <p>At least 50 in-house staff trained by end of year 2</p>	<p>Training manual still under development – some delays due to technical adjustments</p> <p>A Training of trainers' workshop is scheduled for April 24th to 28th at</p>	<p>Complete training manual promptly – at least as a working document.</p> <p>Asking the partners to nominate participants enhances ownership. This will be encouraged in the</p>

		<p>scheduled for April 24th to 28th at Naivasha. The Forest Department, KWS and NEMA have nominated a total of 15 participants to represent their respective organizations. After training they will be expected to train new people within their organizations.</p>	<p>This will be encouraged in the future.</p>
<p>1. Project database ensures more efficient and effective analysis and use of monitoring data to a common standard across the Kenyan network</p>	<p>Guidelines adopted by all key stakeholders by month 18</p> <p>KWS, NMK, Nature Kenya and NEMA databases populated with data and sharing codes in operation by end of project</p>	<p>The Forest Department through Forrems project and technical support from US forestry Service held a two days workshop where key partners presented the kind of data they generate through and keep and possibilities of sharing. A report of the proceedings was produced and circulated.</p> <p>The project will review the report and initiate discussions for developing guidelines to enhance data sharing.</p> <p>Kenya Birdfinder database running well</p>	<p>Agree how to store data in various formats depending on the needs of the institutions.</p> <p>Enhance sharing of data between institutions</p> <p>Guidelines on how the data can be generated, processed and stored in a format that can enable sharing.</p> <p>Continue to populate and enhance databases</p>
<p>4. Site Support Groups ability to integrate monitoring programmes into their core work is enhanced</p>	<p>9 functioning monitoring programmes operational in SSGs by end of project</p> <p>4 SSGs using monitoring data to inform practical action by end of year 2</p>	<p>Monitoring continued in the eight sites and new initiatives to start SSGs and monitoring at Cherengani, Machakos, Mwingi and Busia grassland are under way. A new SSG was formed at Busia and trained in basic monitoring. Another SSG at South Nandi was also</p>	<p>Continue to provide support and train SSGs for improved data collection and integration in conservation actions.</p> <p>The project will focus on a few but also encourage other partners/projects to initiate similar</p>

		SSG at South Nandi was also trained in detailed monitoring methodologies and plans to start monitoring initiated.	programmes at other areas.
5. An increased number of management plans are making active use of monitoring data, with a particular focus on wetlands	2 new management plans in place by end of year 2 Monitoring protocols integrated into 10 agency plans by end of year 2	Monitoring data effectively used to develop Dunga Wetland draft Action plan and Mukuweini valley action plan. The draft were discussed at a stakeholders meeting and circulated for inputs. The information generated at Kinangop grasslands was used to develop the management/business plan for the Nature Reserve there.	The process of consultation has taken longer than anticipated. Once the contributions made so far have been input into the plan the plans will be edited and printed for circulation and use. We will also start other plans and follow up on the review of FD and other plans
6. Regional and national dissemination carried out to promote use of data from the programme and encourage its replication elsewhere	Status reports produced annually and integrated into CBD reporting Two additional monitoring programmes underway in other East African countries by end of year 2	The status report; Important Biodiversity Areas: Status and Trends 2005 is with printers Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania paid a visit to the conservation programme with a view to learning about the IBA monitoring system. They were taken through the process from detailed monitoring at Kereita and Kinangop grassland to data analysis at NMK to report preparation and dissemination at Nature Kenya. They promised to start the process in Tanzania.	The Third Status report is due later in 2006. Ensure all 60 IBA have monitoring forms retrieved. Maintain contacts with WCST for ensuring monitoring programme takes off in Tanzania, and elsewhere

Note: Please do NOT expand rows to include activities since their completion and outcomes should be reported under the column on progress and achievements at output and purpose levels.