

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2022

Project reference	IWTEV001
Project title	Developing a problem-oriented approach to reduce turtle trafficking in Cambodia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cambodia
Lead partner	Wildlife Conservation Society, Cambodia
Partner(s)	
Project leader	WCS Cambodia
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	https://cambodia.wcs.org

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

At the start of the project in August 2022, we launched a competitive recruitment for the two main project staff, the research lead and the research assistant. Once recruitment was completed, we organised an internal project launch meeting for WCS in Phnom Penh on Tuesday 30 August with the extended project team. The objective was to present the project to the landscape staff who will provide support to the research team, and to develop a detailed workplan.

Output 1. A detailed understanding of at least two specific turtle trade chains including identification of drivers and opportunities for crime prevention.

Activity 1.1: Organise a training and ensure ongoing mentoring for project Staff on the problem-oriented wildlife protection approach.

We initiated contracting for the problem-oriented wildlife protection (POWP) and Crime Script expert M. Andrew Lemieux. We agreed a training plan, setting dates and expected outputs for an online session covering an introduction to crime scripting for the extended project team in November 2022, and an online session on data collection for the research team in December 2022.

Activity 1.2: Organise meetings with project stakeholders to introduce the project and approach.

On Friday 9 September, the project team organised a meeting in Sre Ambel with representatives from local stakeholders: village chiefs, communes and community fisheries that will be targeted by the project, Fisheries Administration (FiA) officers from Phnom Penh, the Cantonment and Koh Kong Province, Deputy Governor of Sre Ambel district, Chief of development community office SA District, and community and village members. The research Lead presented the project and answered participants' questions. The FiA representatives expressed their interest and support to the work. Similar meetings are scheduled in October 2022 with the Director of the Department of Fisheries Conservation of the FiA in Phnom Penh, and with local stakeholders and authorities in the Mekong landscape in Kratie and Stung Treng.

In parallel, we have developed a research summary document and received approval from WCS' Institutional Review Board (IRB) to conduct our research. Five WCS staff completed the 15 online modules of an online course on Human Subjects Research.

As part of our broader strategy to promote evidence-based interventions, we developed a collaboration with a PhD Candidate at Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR)/Utrecht University. WCS Cambodia is going to support him in conducting livelihood surveys in our project target areas in November and December 2022, to obtain data on the use of natural resources (including freshwater turtles) and other livelihood activities by households. This research will inform our own crime scripting work, and potentially future interventions for preventing turtle poaching and trading.

2. 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.

N/A.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS-LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

Change request reference if known:

4a. 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: £

4b. 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 re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

N/A.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email to BCF-Reports@niras.com**. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**