

## 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: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

<b>Project reference</b>	IWTEV002
<b>Project title</b>	Understanding wild meat demand, supply and trade in Western Equatoria
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	South Sudan
<b>Lead partner</b>	Fauna & Flora International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	South Sudan Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT) encompassing the National Wildlife Service (WLS)
<b>Project leader</b>	Benoit Morkel
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="http://www.fauna-flora.org">www.fauna-flora.org</a>

**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).**

**Output 1. The nature and extent of illegal wild meat trade, including place networks and transboundary dynamics, in key urban centres and rural areas is understood**

- 1.1. Completed. Permissions secured for the project from the Minister of Local Government and Law Enforcement, Western Equatoria (Annex 1). Dr Reeder of Bucknell University submitted the survey to the university's ethics board and approval was granted. Though not required, this approval validates research methods and will substantiate findings (Annex 2).
- 1.2. Ongoing. Introduction letters and project summary document submitted to state government agencies (Office of the Governor, National Security, Relief & Rehabilitation Commission) (Annex 3,4,5 and 6). Two 1hr radio talk shows were given on the local radio station, Yambio FM (Annex 7).
- 1.3. Completed. Recruited and trained three Zande-speaking interviewers (2M, 1F), who have associations to national environmental organisations, to conduct market surveys.
- 1.4. Ongoing. Conducted one iteration (of four) market surveys in five urban centres (Yambio, Tambura, Nzara, Maridi and Ezo) and five rural markets (Bazungua, Makpandu, Nabiapai, Sakure and Saura) in Sept-Oct. Preliminary analysis conducted (Annex 8). Respondents of the first iteration were 50% female and 12% 18-25yrs. There will be a focus on youth in future iterations to reach 20% target. A total of 107 surveys were conducted in the ten selected target areas.
- 1.5. Ongoing. Biosafety protocols for genetic samples have been developed (Annex 9). Collected 22 samples in 10 locations.
- 1.6. To be completed in Q3 and Q4

1.7. To be completed in Q3 and Q4.

**Output 2. At least 80 law enforcement rangers (target >10% women) demonstrate increased knowledge and capacity to monitor IWT-specific data, supported by enhanced protocols and improved data management systems and analysis**

2.1 Ongoing. Q1 assessment completed. Conducted capacity assessments of 41 Wildlife Service (WLS) personnel (36M, 5F) (Annex 10). This is less than the >50 personnel committed to in the proposal because the assessment tool was developed in conjunction with conducting the assessment, requiring more time than expected. Assessment to be repeated in Q4.

2.2 Completed. SOPs developed for IWT data gathering, processing and reporting (Annex 11). A laptop was procured for data processing and training provided to WLS rangers (2M, 1F) responsible for electronic data processing. The office dedicated to IWT within the state WLS building was renovated to support data collection and safe storage, including desks, chairs, shelves, stationary and a metal, lockable door.

2.3 Ongoing. Dedicated training course provided to 23 WLS officers (20M, 3F) on IWT data collection, processing and storage (Annex 12). FFI's Biomonitoring Officer will be providing continued IWT training to WLS rangers in field locations in Q2 to reach target of >80 personnel (>10% women).

2.4 Ongoing. Support provided to WLS officers to collect IWT / law enforcement data through technical advice and provision of data sheets, communication means (airtime), and fuel.

2.5 To be completed in Q2, Q3 and Q4.

**Output 3. Attitudes, barriers and opportunities associated with implementation of locally and culturally acceptable potential solutions to illegal wild meat consumption and trade are understood**

3.1 Ongoing. First iteration (out of four) completed. Respondents of the first iteration were 50% female and 12% 18-25yrs. There will be a focus on youth in future iterations to reach 20% target. A total of 107 surveys were conducted from Sept-Oct 2022 in the ten selected target areas (Annex 8).

3.2 Ongoing. First iteration of FGDs, conducted with wild meat sellers have been completed. FGD protocol developed and translated to local language for enumerators (Annex 13). Preliminary findings not presented in this report due to the time required to transcribe and translate FGDs. Further iterations will be conducted with wild meat buyers, hunters and restaurant owners/staff.

3.3 To be completed in Q4 when all research is complete.

**Output 4. Project learning and recommendations are documented and shared with key state, national and regional stakeholders**

4.1 To be completed in Q4.

4.2 To be completed in Q4.

**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.**

The intended start date for the project was 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022. Due to necessary approval processes, there was a slight delay in signing the project paperwork. This slightly shortened the time period in which to achieve the activities committed to in Q1. However, these have all be completed successfully and the only impact is that the time interval between surveys will be shortened slightly.

A notable learning is that the surveys can be completed in 3 weeks, rather than the expected 6 weeks as detailed in the proposal. This has no negative impact on project implementation, nor does it result in any budget savings. The enumerators are employed on a deliverable basis, rather than time period. Other learnings are: (1) all stakeholders engaged to date have been very receptive to the project, recognising the importance of understanding the trade and exploring solutions. Engagement, however, has further highlighted that the wild meat trade is tied to wider political and social dynamics, as detailed in training course report (Annex 12). This will need to be considered when exploring solutions; (2) there is a clear need for a system for reporting/recording other events and incidents (i.e. not just seizures) that facilitate the wild meat trade and hinder the WLS doing its work. It was decided this would best be recorded in a hardbound 'Incident Book' held at the IWT Office. Events may also be reported/recorded ad hoc during visits to the field sites and from other events in the Incident Book. This evidence will be cross-referenced with the wild meat trade data and is likely to be essential for designing interventions. These procedures are contained in the SOPs (Annex 11).

**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 N/A

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?**

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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

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

N/A

**If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.**

**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](mailto: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**