

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	IWTEV005
Project title	Building evidence-based situational crime prevention to curb IWT
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Liberia, Nicaragua
Lead partner	Fauna & Flora International
Partner(s)	Dr Andrew Lemieux (Lead Ranger), Re:wild, IIED, TRAFFIC, BIOMETEPE
Project leader	<i>Sarah Gluszek</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	

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).

An inception meeting was held on 7 July 2022 to bring together core staff working on the project, outlining key milestones and project activities.

Under Objective 1, we organised an online training workshop on 12-13 September 2022 for 6 FFI staff members (3 men: 3 women) and 4 BIOMETEPE staff members (3 men: 1 woman) in Nicaragua. The workshop focused on the crime scripting process and was delivered in a train-the-trainer format in order for participants to facilitate a crime script workshop in person in Ometepe. After the workshop, participants completed exercises as a team to entrench learning and the in-person workshop is planned for November 2022. A repeat of the same online and in-person workshops is planned for Liberia in November 2022.

Objective 2 has focused on outreach with criminology and crime science academics and practitioners to begin discussing existing MEL frameworks and approaches, and how these could be applied to IWT. Through a Miro board, we have shared ideas of resources and analysed the benefits and limitations of different approaches, as well as general best practices guidelines.

Under Objective 3, we've developed a communications plan that outlines potential avenues to meet our two main communications objectives: 1) To raise awareness and endorsement of the crime prevention toolkit; 2) To socialise alternative approaches to addressing IWT. Of these, we've sketched out a webinar series, with the first one being held online on 10 November 2022 to discuss the topic of conservation-criminology partnerships with two guest speakers.

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.

Three staff members in the UK and Liberia have changed (two have left FFI and one has been an internal workload change for a financial contact point), and one new staff member has been recruited for delivery in Nicaragua as per our grant proposal. Where staff members have left, we have assigned other staff to work on the project in order to limit delays with project delivery. A staff change request was submitted on 30 September 2022 and accepted on 24 October 2022.

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:	Yes
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes
Change request reference if known:	Not 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. 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?

As suggested by the reviewers at Stage 2, we have met with the two other grantees delivering projects also focused on chimpanzee trade in Liberia. We met with the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation on 7 June 2022 and PCI Media Impact on 13 June 2022, where we discussed our respective projects. These conversations were fruitful to ensure there was no duplication of activities and to identify areas for joined up working. Since, we have been invited to join PCI Media Impact's coalition of organisations to contribute to the design and strategy of their approaches and materials. Similarly, we will be inviting both project grantees to participate in our crime scripting workshop in November 2022.

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 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**