

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	IWTEV006
Project title	Increasing Chimpanzee Guardianship Values to Reduce IWT in Liberia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Liberia
Lead partner	PCI Media
Partner(s)	Liberia Chimpanzee Rescue and Protection
Project leader	Brett Matulis
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1
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).

The agreed implementation timetable included the following activities up to the end of September 2022:

- 1.1: Assemble diverse coalition of Liberian organizations working in chimpanzee conservation, gender equality, and poverty alleviation.
- 1.2: Convene stakeholder meetings with local organizations in Liberia, ensuring representation and participation of gender and economic equality groups.
- 2.1: Review existing research on chimpanzee protection, demand reduction, traditional values, and their intersection with gender and economic equality.

The project has made progress against all of these. A coalition of 12 organizations has been approached (Activity 1.1), and 10 have enthusiastically confirmed their willingness to participate. Local partner LCRP is doing outreach to confirm participation of the remaining two. Two further institutions (including a government ministry and an indigenous peoples' organization) will also be approached. Individual meetings have been held with stakeholders to provide information on the project and explain the role they can play (Activity 1.2). The full coalition of organizations is scheduled to meet virtually on 17 November to orient stakeholder and prepare for the design phase in Q4.

A local research consultant has been hired and has undertaken a review of existing literature on chimpanzee protection and demand reduction (Activity 2.1). The research has been done in a coordinated way with coalition members supporting the work through information sharing and access to their own knowledge bases. This has included coordinating with other IWT Challenge Fund recipients in Liberia (FFI and WCF) in order to ensure our work is complementary and not duplicative. The researcher is currently designing the field research (KIIs and FGDs) that will be carried out in November.

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 project has been impacted by exchange rates. The unfavourable position of the Pound means that budgets are unexpectedly constrained. Hiring a researcher on the available budget was particularly challenging. The research design and plan had to be adjusted to accommodate. Minor delays in hiring are not expected to significantly impact the timetable, and it is expected that sufficient data can still be collected to properly inform the pilot design phase.

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?

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?

No issues to raise.

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. 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**