

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 2023

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| Project reference | IWTEV015 |
| Project title | Closing the evidence gap on the role of Community Rangers |
| Country(ies)/territory(ies) | Kenya and Tanzania |
| Lead partner | WWF UK |
| Partner(s) | WWF Kenya; WWF Tanzania; Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA); |
| Project leader | <i>Dervla Dowd</i> |
| Report date and number (e.g. HYR1) | <i>HYR1 – 01/March/2023 to 30/September/2023</i> |
| Project website/blog/social media | <i>n/a</i> |

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).

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your M&E systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

We have revised the table of the indicators of success and the implementation timetable as part of the change request that we are also planning to submit. As such, the wording of the outputs will reflect the updated logframe. Note that the outputs have not changed but have just been made SMARTer. However, we will report against the initial planned 6 months implementation timetable, to provide clarity on project progress.

Output 1. By end of Q3Y1, a survey is designed to gather findings on the views and experiences of male and female community members across 2 countries (Kenya & Tanzania).

The Implementing Project Lead (Drew McVey Technical Advisor Wildlife Crime in the East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub (EAWCH) has led the review of the design survey and data collection tools (Activity 1.1) with experts at the University of Florida (led by Dr. William Moreto) who have designed and analysed similar surveys with WWF before (eg. [The 2019 global ranger survey](#) - Life on the Frontline). Some delays on completing the design and the data collection tool have occurred due to slower than foreseen sign-off and approvals processes with our partners. However, this has now been sorted and the work to complete the survey design and tool are almost complete. The team has also mapped out the survey sites and secured the necessary approvals from the relevant local authorities. Lastly, the development of the agenda, key questions and workshop design for the focal groups on gender aspects (Activity 1.2) have also begun. A handover has been completed between

Catherine Young (Maternity cover) and Tamara Leger (WWF Human Rights and Gender Expert), and discussions held with key project staff to prepare this activity.

Output 2. By end of Q4Y1, 1,000 community members in Kenya and Tanzania are surveyed, providing an evaluation of their well-being, level of welfare, motivation and attitudes towards their conservation efforts.

There have been some delays in progressing with the survey due to some slow sign-off processes with partners. As such, under our change request, we are proposing to finalise the recruitment of the survey leads (Activity 2.1) and conduct the survey (Activity 2.2) in Q3. All other activities under Output2 were and still are planned for Q3 onwards.

Output 3. By end of Q2Y2, legal review of legislation pertaining to community rangers in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda is undertaken and published.

Given some of the delays with the survey, we have begun work under Output 3 to progress on tasks that are not dependent on the survey. Terms of Reference for legal review have been developed (Activity 3.1), and after careful consideration, the project team agreed that the legal team within WWF Kenya were best placed to conduct the Kenya legislation review (Activity 3.2), who have begun the desktop study (Activity 3.3). For the review of the Tanzanian legislation, discussions are underway with potential consultants.

Output 4. By end of Q2Y2, the survey findings, legislation review, and overall recommendations are presented to 10 organisations in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda , and are used for future planning for IWT community ranger engagement (6 national organisations, 3 WWF offices, and other partners)

The project kicked off with an inception workshop (Activity 4.1) just outside Nairobi between the 9th and 10th of May 2023. The meeting was attended by project partners from WWF Kenya, WWF Tanzania, WWF UK (the Project Leader - Dervla Dowd), Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA), and Tanzania's Community Wildlife Management Areas Consortium (CWMAC). Over the course of the workshop, the participants: reviewed the proposed project (objectives, outputs, timeline, etc), draft M&E framework, and developed a risk matrix; reviewed donor requirements; and were presented with examples of similar studies. KWCA and CWMAC, the national organisations responsible for community managed areas, also provided an overview of their organisations and how they operate; while a session was also held to discuss the gender angle and how best to approach this research. Lastly, the group discussed specific context issues, logistics and next steps to implement the project.

Response to Feedback from reviewers:

The IWTAG noted the challenges of using data to inform policy and regulations within a short timeframe. It would be useful to understand if you have considered this in terms of the longevity and scalability of the project: Response:

in the longer term, the data will provide evidence of the challenges and opportunities for community rangers, which will then inform the development of the regional wildlife strategy by the East African Commission, and national and regional action plans by National Wildlife Authorities. WWF is engaged in the various processes and the final meetings under Output 4, as well as the longer term plans of presenting this at conferences and publishing the findings, will be useful tools to community the findings. Moreover, lesson learning will be shared with other East African countries and relevant platforms, ensuring scalability at the regional level.

Further information could be provided on the project's anticipated impact towards poverty reduction. While the proposal mentions this in terms of the livelihoods and welfare of the rangers themselves it would be beneficial to know more; Response:

The data from the survey will help to identify and confirm some of the potential drivers of poverty for community rangers (e.g. barriers to inclusive employment opportunities, lack of access to resources; poor safety/welfare standards). This will then inform the development of relevant action plans to address the drivers/barriers/gaps to improve the welfare standards of active community rangers and future community rangers across Kenya and Tanzania, ensuring that the role of a community ranger could alleviate poverty pressure for people provided with this opportunity. Key lessons will also be expanded through the EAC to wider member states providing an opportunity to scale up.

In the logframe, ensure each indicator has clear corresponding means of verification (MoV). For example, what is the MoV for indicator 0.3 "Information used for adaptive management of at least 2 national / regional plans"? Response: We are currently working on an updated Indicators of Success table that will reflect the needed changes and will be submitted as part of the change request. The MoV for 0.3 will be 'Action Plan updates'.

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 main challenge has been the unexpected delays in starting implementation of the survey due to slow sign-off with key partners. As we anticipated further delays, the team began work under Output 3 to make up for slower progress under Output 1 and Output 2 and therefore reduce the overall delay in implementation. However, given these delays, we will be proposing some implementation changes through a change request.

We have also had some internal delays in contracting out to sub-grantees. However, the sub-grant from WWF UK to WWF Kenya was completed/signed,

Finally, one smaller challenge was the confirmation from CWMAC that there were only 250 village scouts (ie. community rangers) that are currently active in Tanzania. To address this and ensure our survey effort remains at 1,000 people, we will also target 25% of respondents to be community members, not working as a community/village scout. In this way, we can also further understand the perceptions and understanding from potential future rangers.

Given the delays, we are currently finalising a change request. This will not affect the overall project outputs and outcomes, and we do not expect an underspend in Year 1, but we are re-forecasting for Year 1, in line with the current slow expenditure and updated work plan. Costs for the inception workshop were covered by match-funds from the East Africa Wildlife Crime Hub (through funding from the UK). This has affected the current spend of BCF funds, and will be updated in the budget reforecast. We will also be requesting an extension of 3 months in Year 2 to ensure we complete all deliverables before the end of the project.

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

Discussed with NIRAS: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/a

Change request reference if known: N/a

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)

Actual spend: [REDACTED]

4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2024)?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

4c. 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.

NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.

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

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response, 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.

All new projects (excluding Darwin Plus Fellowships and IWT Challenge Fund Evidence projects) should submit their Risk Register with this report if they have not already done so.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with NIRAS 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**