



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects **Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus**

Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

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 2025

Please note all projects that were active before 1st October 2025 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Project reference	IWTEV021
Project title	detectWILD: Identification tools to strengthen Nepal's wildlife enforcement
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Nepal
Lead Organisation	Greenhood Nepal
Partner(s)	Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC)
Project Leader	<i>Kumar Paudel</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 Oct 2025 HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	www.greenhood.org @GreenhoodNepal in Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn

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

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) 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.

Progress reported as per activity in the proposal during the reporting period

Activity 1.3: Analyse the data from the assessment and prepare a policy brief and a manuscript for peer-reviewed journal article: We prepared a policy brief titled *Frontline enforcement needs to monitor the wildlife trade in Nepal* (publicly shared on our [website](#)) based on the data and insights gathered from the needs assessment interview. The brief outlines current enforcement practices, identifies needs, and provides policy recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of enforcement agencies in tackling IWT. In parallel, we are making progress with the journal article, as we have prepared the outline of the manuscript. We are confident that we will complete this activity on time.

Activity 2.3: Take the photograph of seized wildlife stockpile with the support of the DNPWC, and use it as reference to prepare species detection brief and illustrations: We compiled over 1,000 photographs of seized wildlife stockpiles of various species with the support of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), and Division Forest Offices (Kathmandu, Dhading, and Gorkha). We are currently coding the photographs to categorize them by species and specific body parts.

Activity 2.5: Trial use of the IWT species guide provided to customs (n=5), police (n=150), Nepal Army (n=60), and quarantine (n=5): We conducted an initial pilot trial of the draft guidebook in Year 1 (see IWTEV021 AR1). Also, we collaborated with the DNPWC to organize a [consultation workshop](#) in Kathmandu with government officials, scientific authorities, and academics. We are updating the guide, incorporating feedback from frontline officials as well as from workshop participants. Up next, we plan to conduct the trial with the targeted number of enforcement officials. We will complete this activity in the next quarter.

Activity 2.6: Feed the insights to the policy brief and editorial for broader domestic and international dissemination: We are currently reviewing relevant literature and brainstorming ideas for the policy brief and editorial (Activity 3.3). Once Activity 2.5 and Activity 3.2 are completed, we will integrate the insights gained into the policy brief and editorial.

Activity 3.1: Review of enforcement records in trial check posts, before and after the trial: Greenhood Nepal has a dedicated IWT monitoring unit that records details of seizures across Nepal. Collaborating with this unit, we have reviewed the enforcement records from the field site, six districts: Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Kavrepalanchok, Sindhupalchok, Nuwakot, and Rasuwa. The review indicates that species, such as pangolins, turtles, bears, and plants, including medicinal and timber species, are most frequently seized. Some seized species remain unidentified. We will continue the review process once Activity 2.5 is completed.

Activity 3.2: Re-contact and conduct feedback interviews with 60 people who participated in the trial, to review their needs and resources design: We are actively preparing the questionnaire for the feedback interview. We will conduct this activity following the completion of the guidebook trial (Activity 2.5).

Activity 3.3: Prepare a policy brief and editorial summarising the findings for domestic and international dissemination: See Activity 2.6.

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.

We experienced delays in receiving feedback from reviewers on the draft of the species ID guidebook. Additionally, flash floods at our project site and the prolonged monsoon disasters disrupted field mobilization. As a result, we had to adjust the timeline for a few activities to accommodate these delays through a change request approved on 04 August 2025.

The recent protests and their aftermath have created a period of political uncertainty in Nepal. The situation has not yet directly impacted our project activities, but its future development remains unclear. If the crisis escalates, it may become difficult to implement the field activities, which could affect the overall project timeline. Having said that, we have prepared contingency plans for the guidebook trial and feedback collection, such as delivering the guidebooks via postal service and conducting feedback surveys or interviews online or by phone.

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

Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes
Change Request reference if known: Reference N0470	

Guidance for Section 4: The information you provide in this section will be used by Defra to review the financial status of projects. This review will identify projects at random for spot checks on financial management and will include requests for evidence of the actual spend information provided below. Please ensure the figures you provide are as accurate as possible and that you have the evidence to support it. You do not need to provide it now.

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)

Actual spend:

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 2026)?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Estimated underspend:

4c. If you expect an underspend, then you should 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, and not later than 31st December. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes to your project 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 BCFs management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

Suspensions or allegations related to fraud and error concerns should be reported to fraudanderror@Defra.gov.uk

None

6. Project risk management

6a. If your project has an Overseas Security and Justice assessment, please provide an update on any related risks, and any special conditions in your award paperwork if relevant for your project.

This project was not subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment.

7. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent Annual Report. As a reminder, all projects that were scored as 'Not Yet Sensitive' in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment of their latest Annual Report should demonstrate how they are meeting the minimum GESI-Sensitive standard.

Feedback on our Annual Report:

1. Please clarify if there have been any other challenges or preliminary insights from the trial use of the ID guide regarding which species are most difficult to identify.

During the pilot trial of the ID guide, we encountered no operational challenges. Enforcement officials were highly receptive to the guide and expressed strong interest in the finalized version, highlighting its value for field-level species identification. We observed that certain species and parts were more difficult for frontline officials to identify with confidence, specifically, plant species in both wild and traded forms. They also struggled to distinguish species-level differences for non-charismatic species, such as bears, otters, and pangolins. More details are provided in the policy brief (Activity 1.3).



Checklist for submission

Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, and annexe other requested materials as appropriate.	Checked
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	Checked
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	Checked
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	Checked
Submit to BCF-Reports@niras.com	Checked
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	Checked