

## 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>	<i>This should be the project reference provided in your offer paperwork and not your application number</i>
<b>Project title</b>	Dismantling illegal pangolin trade in Vietnam
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Vietnam
<b>Lead partner</b>	Save Vietnam's Wildlife
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Shire Oak International; Cat Tien National Park; U Minh Ha National Park; U Minh Thuong National Park; Vietnam Administration Forestry – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Mr. Nguyen Van Thai</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	<b>28<sup>th</sup> February 2023</b>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<i>svw.vn</i>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (July 2022 – Jan.2023) 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).**

**1. Strengthening law enforcement & ensuring effective legal frameworks**

**Four training courses on SMART with forest rangers**

In November 2022, 2 workshops were held in U Minh Thuong and U Minh Ha National Park. 32 officials from U Minh Thuong NP and 43 officials from U Minh Ha NP, including leaders and staff in charge of forest protection and departments, attended the workshop. 100% of participants discussed solutions to improve the efficiency of law enforcement, patrol and protect the forest, raise awareness for the community, and reduce the need to use wild animals. The workshop was approved and reached a high consensus with the leaders and all attendees.

After the workshop, the Board of Directors of U Minh Thuong National Park and U Minh Ha National Park issued the conclusion of the workshop and a plan to coordinate the implementation of activities, from 2022 to 2024, including the following components:

1. Strengthening law enforcement & ensuring effective legal frameworks
2. Developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT
3. Reducing demand for IWT products

The preparation of two similar seminars in Cat Tien National Park was almost completed in the middle of December. However, the conference was not able to take place, due to the forest protection plan and other priority activities of Cat Tien National Park during the same time period. SVW promotes the conference to be carried out soon and is expected in June 2023, when Cat Tien National Park has passed the peak of the dry season. SVW and Cat Tien NP have agreed to move the conference to another date in the first 6 months of 2023.

**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.**

Learning from the process of organizing seminars and community surveys in 2022, we will refer to the implementation process of activities and the local event calendar at least 1 month before the event date. One-day provincial workshops should avoid the peak of the dry season and local events should be moved to the fourth quarter (April to June 2023). Workshops also need to be increased from 4 to 5 workshops, of which 1 workshop is in Lam Dong province and 1 workshop in Binh Phuoc province, due to geographical distance will reduce the possibility of guest participation, and importantly rather we need to focus on discussing individual solutions to strengthen enforcement of wildlife trade and reduce local demand for wildlife.

**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/No

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/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?**

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?**

**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**