

## 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: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024**

**Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.**

**Submit to: [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com) including your project ref in the subject line.**

<b>Project reference</b>	IWTEX003
<b>Project title</b>	Strengthening legal frameworks for law enforcement in Africa
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Malawi
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	PAMS Foundation
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Tikki Hywood Foundation
<b>Project leader</b>	Krissie Clark (PAMS Foundation)
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	31st October 2024, HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<p>PAMS Foundation and Tikki Hywood Foundation do not maintain a separate website or social media account for this individual project. In order to keep the identities of the project participants confidential, the project team will not be developing any media outputs for the project. However, both organisations maintain their primary website and social media accounts which are as follows:</p> <p><a href="https://www.pamsfoundation.org">https://www.pamsfoundation.org</a>  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/PAMSFoundation/">https://www.facebook.com/PAMSFoundation/</a>  <a href="https://www.tikkihywoodfoundation.org/">https://www.tikkihywoodfoundation.org/</a>  <a href="https://www.instagram.com/tikkihywoodfoundation/">https://www.instagram.com/tikkihywoodfoundation/</a></p>

**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).**

The project team affirms that the indicators included in our logframe (most recently updated in April 2024) remain relevant, appropriate, and achievable. With the exception of those few that were noted in the annual report in April 2024, all proposed assumptions hold true at this time.

The project team is pleased to report the following progress against the project activities. Activities under Output 1 have been completed.

**OUTPUT 1 ACTIVITIES**

***Activity 1.1: Prepare for and train 785 judiciary, prosecutors, and investigators in Tanzania on “The Law and Practice of Handling Wildlife and Other Transnational Crime Cases in Tanzania” in five 5-day training events.***

As of the April 2024 Annual Report, a total of 487 judiciary, prosecutors, and investigators had been trained on “The Law Practice of Handling Wildlife and Other Transnational Crime Cases in Tanzania” across three 6-day training events. In the past 6 months, PAMS has successfully completed the additional two training events proposed. One training was held in Lushoto from April 22nd to May 3rd for a total of 168 participants. The second training was held from May 13 - 17th for 172 people. As such, the project team has successfully completed Activity 1.1, with a total of 827 people trained.

PAMS held an additional workshop on June 19th for the leaders from the stakeholder agencies trained in Activity 1.1. A total of eleven leaders participated, representing the Judiciary, Police, Prosecution, Forest Service, National Parks, and more. The results of the training are outlined in ANNEX 1.

***Activity 1.2 Prepare for and train 60 judiciary, prosecutors, and investigators in Zimbabwe on “The Law and Practice of Handling Wildlife and Other Transnational Crime Cases in Zimbabwe” in six 5-day training events.***

As of the April 2024 Annual Report, a total of 35 judiciary, prosecutors, and investigators in Zimbabwe had been trained on “The Law and Practice of Handling Wildlife and Other Transnational Crime Cases in Zimbabwe” in four 5-day training events. Since then, an additional 86 individuals have been trained. One training session was held for 13 detective investigators from CID MFFU ( Haka Team) from 21 to 24 April 2024, and it was followed by the training of 65 Matusadona National Park Game Rangers, Scouts and Investigators on 27-29 June 2024. The 3rd training session held during this reporting period involved 8 Zim Parks Investigators drawn from the Midlands, Harare, Mashonaland West and Central Provinces. A total of 121 individuals have been training since the beginning of the programme.

THF also launched the digital training platform on July 15th for prosecutors. A total of 22 individuals, primarily prosecutors, were onboarded. The launch of the digital training, saw 4 very senior public prosecutors being onboarded. Those who were onboarded include the Chief Public Prosecutor responsible for Training within NPA, the Head NPA Corporate Affairs as well as the senior reporter responsible for reporting IWT cases in the NPA Dominus Litus Magazine, as well as the NPA IWT Cases liaison officer for the past 14 years . The THF project team is working to bring police officers into the training platform, however, they must first obtain agreements from the various police departments. By the end of September 2024, Chief Investigating Officer and Head Legal Department for ZimParks had also been onboarded, and the main aim was to expose the two Parks senior officers to the platform and prepare them for the development of a similar Zim Parks training platform. At the end of each month, THF provides an appraisal report to the Prosecutor General.

THF has begun assisting the participants with data bundles, as it was difficult for some to access the internet. The data bundles are being bought by THF so that the participants can use their personal devices, instead of workplace computers/wifi; however, some still don't have access to the internet still. Those participants using Apple phones have had more difficulty. Most people in Zimbabwe do not use Apple products. A THF team member working on technical issues relating to accessing the platform has been onboarded to troubleshoot. Please see Annex 3 for the latest Digemy report from the end of September.

**OUTPUT 2 ACTIVITIES**

***Activity 2.1 Conduct 3 meeting sessions with relevant Zimbabwean authorities to review key IWT court cases (THF).***

This activity has been delayed slightly, as the team is working on coordinating approvals with the government authorities. THF is working with NPA to develop a Case Review Manual. The Case Review Manual will outline how to handle cases with specially protected animals (pangolins, elephants, etc.). The team met with the prosecutor in charge of developing this manual for NPA on Friday 9/20. During this call, the prosecutor presented the first initial draft of the case review manual. The prosecutor serving as THF’s primary POC for this activity is the prosecutor responsible for liaising between the courts and NGOs regarding wildlife offences nationally. She has been working with THF for over 10 years. She will also be participating in the regional

workshop in Tanzania, as she understands the trials NGOs have gone through and the wildlife law, particularly how police, Zim Parks, etc. are involved.

The case reviews between THF and NPA: Since the end of April 2024, a total of 4 meetings were held in which both the Case Review Manual and the cases review process were discussed. Another meeting was held which involved THF's Head of Legal, the POC Prosecutor, and Chief Magistrate. This meeting aimed to discuss the challenges faced in wildlife cases and how these issues may be presented at the regional workshop in Tanzania co-hosted with PAMS. The issues discussed included review of cases and procedure regarding the production of live animals as exhibits.

***Activity 2.2 Conduct 3 meeting sessions with relevant Zimbabwean authorities to review key IWT-related legislation (THF).***

On May 2nd, the project team met with the Chief Public Prosecutor responsible for coordinating the training and legal review activities under NPA. At this meeting, the team reviewed section 128 of the parks legislation that has been problematic in leading to passing of sentences as low as four months for the conviction offenses of keeping or possession of live specially protected animals.. The end result of the meeting was the development of a draft amendment of s128 of the Parks and Wildlife Act strategy sent to NPA and the ZimParks as well as the Minister of Environment, Tourism and Wildlife. THF had also written a letter to ZimParks to meet to review wildlife import and export legislation and animal health legislation as well as cruelty to animals legislation, however, particular government activities which were underway prevented the meeting from being held. The meeting has been rescheduled for November 2024.

Additionally, on May 30th, at Crown Plaza Hotel, THF attended a physical consultative meeting organised by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on wildlife, climate, and tourism to look into the amendment of the Parks and Wildlife Act. The team used this opportunity to highlight the concerns regarding section 128 to the Parliamentary team. The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee noted the concern, and they would try to address section 128 to cover the offense of keeping or posing live specially protected animals for a minimum sentencing of 9 years.

Furthermore, the THF had another consultative meeting on May 16 with the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife, Climate and Tourism and the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority at The New Zimbabwe Parliament Building. They reviewed legislation and outlined to these stakeholders the key problematic provisions, including those that state all animals are owned by the state, as well as those pertaining to private actors (wildlife breeders) and legal gaps regarding offenses in the Parks and Wildlife Act.

The project team did not have any formal legislative reviews in the last month. However, the team did meet with the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority Legal Department to look at the import/export laws, animal health and animal cruelty laws. THF and the Legal Department revised the laws and discussed where improvements might be made. A formal meeting to discuss these laws is being coordinated. The meeting will be used to review the laws regarding the import/export of wildlife regulation and control of pet shops and zoos, as well as looking at other issues not included in the current parks and wildlife amendment bill. The THF team is working to include more emphasis on trafficking and smuggling in the bill, as the laws from 1969 are not inclusive of the current activities being conducted by traffickers now for instance online/ digital marketing of wildlife species and their products

***Activity 2.3 Draft amendments with relevant Zimbabwean authorities to address gaps in legislation identified in Activity 2.2 (THF).***

No other draft amendments have been made since the Annual Report was submitted. The legal protocol that was previously drafted has received wonderful feedback. The THF wrote a letter to each of the Zimbabwe stakeholders confirming their commitment to the protocol. Normally these stakeholders cannot commit themselves to a protocol that does not support their mission, and as such, the project team has requested formal input from each stakeholder, including ZimParks, the Environmental Management Authority, Ministry of Justice, Attorney General, Ministry of Local Authority, Police, and more. We are only awaiting feedback from the Forestry Commission. A

formal meeting will be held in October to incorporate the feedback provided for the draft amendment.

### OUTPUT 3 ACTIVITIES

#### ***Activity 3.1 Provide mentorship to a total of 68 NTAP-related investigators, wildlife officers, and prosecutors in Tanzania on 45 cases. (PAMS)***

As of the April 2024 Annual Report, PAMS has provided mentorship to 11 individuals. In the last reporting period, PAMS provided mentorship to an additional 36 participants (18 Police Investigators -16 men & 2 women, 7 Wildlife Officers - 7 men & 0 women, 11 State attorneys from National Prosecution Services - 6 men & 5 women). The Mentorship was for 10 cases with 56 accused.

#### ***Activity 3.2 Provide mentorship to a total of 33 public prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and investigators in Zimbabwe on 85 cases. (THF)***

The THF team has provided mentorship in Zimbabwe to a total of 4 individuals. Mentorship has focused on drafting charges and utilisation of the victim impact statement in prosecutions. A total of 41 individuals across a range of courts received training. For more information regarding the cases for which mentorship was provided, please see Annex 4.

### OUTPUT 4 ACTIVITIES

#### ***Activity 4.1 Host a 3-day regional workshop for a total of at least 9 prosecutors and investigators from Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Malawi (3 from each country) to facilitate informal and formal cooperation in handling transnational cases.***

The project team is in the process of planning the regional workshops. This has required significant logistical coordination with government partners, including formal letter requests and approvals. The regional workshop is set to take place on the 16-17th of October. Letters have been sent out to the Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Malawi participants. The venue has been booked. The team is awaiting approvals before flight bookings are confirmed.

### **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.**

There have been few notable problems for the project in the last 6 months. Minor unexpected developments and lessons learned include the following:

In Tanzania, PAMS Foundation's point of contact at the Institute of Judicial Administration (IJA) has been out of the office for a significant period of time due to illness. As such the project team has been working with new points of contact. This has slightly slowed progress in securing details for the regional workshop (Activity 4.1).

In Zimbabwe, for the case review activities (Activities 2.1 - 2.3), it has been more challenging than originally anticipated to gain traction with the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). Due to bureaucratic and organisational requirements, NPA has been delayed in agreeing to activities and plans, as letters from upper managers are required.

Additional lessons learned from the Tikki Hywood team in Zimbabwe pertain to the Digemy training platform. Access to reliable internet has not been as widely available for prosecutors in remote regions, making it difficult for some prosecutors to access the site. Furthermore, the administrative aspect of managing the platform has been more time intensive than originally anticipated. The platform requires an individual to monitor the admin page daily, checking on those who have struggled with courses, and more.

Bureaucracy working within government guidelines poses certain challenges, as well. For example, for the regional workshop, the process to invite foreign government officials to events in other countries takes a long time. In Zimbabwe, 4-6 weeks are needed for approval processes.

### **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, in year 1
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes, in year 1
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes, in year 1
Change Request reference if known: Not provided	

**4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)**

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 2025)?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £None

**4c. If you expect and 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. 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 BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

The project team has been dealing with the exchange rate fluctuations. There have been a lot of fluctuations in the Tanzanian shilling, making budget allocations more difficult. The project team had conducted a baseline assessment at the start of the project. We hope to conduct another assessment at the project's conclusion. The size and scope of this assessment at the end of the project will be dependent on what budget is left.

**6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report.** If your project was subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment please use this space to comment on any changes to international human rights risks, and to address any additional mitigations outlined in your offer letters. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.

The latest feedback report requested a response only on the next annual report, not in this report.

## Checklist for submission

**For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)**

Have you responded to any additional feedback (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	
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If not already submitted, have you attached your <b>risk register</b> ?	
<b>For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	
Have you responded to <b>feedback from your latest Annual Report Review</b> ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	X
<b>For All Projects</b>	
Include your <b>project reference</b> in the subject line of submission email.	X
Submit to <a href="mailto:BCFs-Report@niras.com">BCFs-Report@niras.com</a> .	X
Have you <b>clearly highlighted any confidential information</b> within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	X
Have you reported against the most <b>up to date information for your project</b> ?	X
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	X