

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

Half Year Report 2

Project reference	<i>IWTE0V17</i>
Project title	World Wild Web: Understanding Online Illegal Wildlife Trafficking in Brazil
Country	Brazil
Lead Organisation	RENCTAS - Brazilian Network to Fight the Trafficking of Wild Animals
Partners	IUCN, Northumbria University, University of Amazon
Project leader	<i>Thiago Vargas da Costa</i>
Report date and number	<i>05/11/2024 - HYR2</i>
Project website/blog/social media	<i>N/A</i>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed project implementation timetable.

Over the last 6 months we have worked on the following activities as predicted by IWTE0V17's Implementation Timetable for Q1 and Q2 of Year 2, which correspond to the period of April to October 2024.

1.2 Data analysis and report development

[Data analysis](#) has been finished and the report is currently being developed. As mentioned in AR1, we expect to deliver this activity before the end of Q3 of Y2 (December 2024), so that it can already start being evaluated according to the SMART indicators.

1.3 Report translation in English and Spanish

As mentioned in AR1, this activity will be executed as soon as the report is delivered. We expect to finish it ahead of the proposed due date according to the Implementation Timetable (Q4 of Y2).

2.2 Data gathering / 2.3 Data analysis

Although the Output 2 academic article uses a part of the database gathered for Output 1, it is still necessary to complement it with other data on trafficking routes, shipping companies and trafficker profiles in IWT online groups. We had expected to finish both activities by the end of Q1 of Y2, but reviews in the format of the academic article have postponed this towards the end of Q3 of Y2.

2.4 Article writing and publication (English and Spanish)

We do not expect the delay in activities 2.2 and 2.3 to prevent us from delivering the article before the proposed due date (Q4 of Y2). We consider that the proposed changes will improve the output and its results, and are therefore beneficial.

3.1 Guidelines planning with IUCN / 3.2 Guidelines writing / 3.3 Guidelines review and translation / 3.4 Guidelines dissemination

As mentioned in AR1, IUCN 's bureaucracy to create the Online Illegal Wildlife Trafficking (IWT) Task Force delayed the delivery of this activity in the first proposed timeframe. We have however been able to bypass it by creating [a public form](#) that will collect answers from specialists in IWT from the IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) from around November 7 to November 24. The participants of the research will share their experiences, concerns and advice in creating policies and studies for assessing

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online IWT. These responses will be used to write the guidelines alongside IUCN specialists that agreed to support this document outside of the IUCN Task Force structure while its being formalized. Nevertheless, we expect that our new Online IWT Task Force will be accepted and implemented by IUCN until the end of the year, which will allow us to deliver the guidelines in due time according to the project's implementation timetable.

Other Activities: Last June, [RENCTAS gave a Second Course at unofficial partner Lycée Français François Mitterrand](#), which aided us with the data gathering process for Outputs 1 and 2. This was an interesting activity, albeit we do not have the intention to include this school as an official project partner. We have also continued to monitor the online trade of Lear's macaws and did a [new report to the Brazilian authorities on a major scandal involving more than 60 specimens of this species in June](#).

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.

A sudden change in our staff caused an unexpected delay in activities since Tiago Rodrigues left our NGO in September. We are still in the process of finding a replacement.

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:

No

Change Request reference if known: *If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome*

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

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 2025)?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

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?

No other issues aside from the ones considered above.

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report.

2 Comments and queries for Project Leader

Responding to comments 2 and 3 of this section, as highlighted in AR1 and observed by the reviewer, the indicators have to be reassessed to measure the impact of the Outputs on the project's Outcome in a more realistic way. We intend on contacting the BCF Admin until the end of 2024 to review our logframe and its indicators, proposing change to the project's logframe indicators with a solution that is adequate to our project's peculiar deliverables.

3 Project stakeholders/partners

UNAMA has been non-responsive when attempting to schedule meetings and conduct the project's activities that were designated to them. This has kept the project staff from handing out the three scholarships to three interns from this University. We supplemented their participation with a partnership with Lycée Français François Mitterrand, located in Brasilia, which supplied data for Output 1.

9 Monitoring and evaluation, and lessons learnt

All feedback presented in sections 9 and 10 will be used to reformulate the Outputs and the Outcome and a review will be sent to the BCF Admin until the end of 2024 to find a solution for assessing the project's progress. The changes made in response to the Award Letter Feedback will be taken into consideration in this process and will be addressed as recommended.

15 Safeguarding

The current Safeguarding Policy mentioned in AR1's Risk Management section is still in use and should have also been included in the Safeguarding section of this report. This was a mistake made in the writing of the report. We will make sure to review this policy by AR2 to assess if it is still valid and to report it correctly. Additionally, safeguarding training has been provided for Thiago Vargas, meaning that the whole staff is now certified to work with vulnerable groups, if necessary.

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1st 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.	
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	
For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1st April 2024)	
Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	Yes
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	
Submit to BCF-Reports@niras.com .	
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	