

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

Project reference	IWT129
Project title	Tanzanian national SMART rollout to strengthen counter wildlife trafficking
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead partner	Wildlife Conservation Society
Partner(s)	Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM)
Project leader	<i>Aaron Nicholas</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	https://tanzania.wcs.org/Landscapes/Ruaha-Katavi.aspx

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.

Progress achieved over the first 6-months was in-line with planned project delivery, comprised of the following main actions:

Meetings were convened in May to select the four SMART rollout sites – Kigereshi, Mkungunero, Swagaswaga and Maswa Game Reserves.

The selection of TAWA SMART trainers was conducted in June, whereby six trainers were identified (2 women, 4 men) – Joel Pallangyo, Vyoma Nyakame, Bethsheba Andrew, Donald Shija, Ayoub Fundi and Alphonca Sangawe.

In support of the SMART rollout, 110 rugged Blackview BV9300 smartphones were purchased, as well as 8 Dell laptops (for the trainers and TAWA HQ SMART Technical Team) and 4 Dell all-in-one desktops (one for each site), 5 HP Laserjet printers (4 for the sites and one for the TAWA HQ SMART Technical Team), 110 x 20,000 mAh powerbanks and 7 x external storage devices (4 for the sites, one for two different zonal offices and one for TAWA HQ).

Data management planning was done in June. SMART data models were reviewed (Law Enforcement and Problem Animal Control) and amended to fit the data requirements of each site. Data transfer links will be provided so that SMART data can be transferred to the existing SMART server at TAWA HQ once site-level training has been conducted by the TAWA trainers.

The SMART training course was developed through several steps. The initial course design was developed by all partners while attending a conference in Kigali in July. The CAWM then worked further on the training course development and shared with TAWA for review and their subsequent approval in August. SMART trainer course content included: i) SMART introduction; ii) Patrol management; iii) SMART queries; iv) SMART report management; v) SMART database; vi) SMART database settings; vii) SMART adaptive management; viii) SMART in the game reserve setting; ix) SMART teaching techniques; x) SMART training and learning.

The application of the above training course with the TAWA SMART trainers was brought forward to September, whereby both basic and advanced SMART training courses were delivered by CAWM to the six trainees – all of whom were officially certified at the end of the training.

Finally, for this period, basic mock SMART training was conducted to polish the understanding of the SMART trainers before they start training at the first rollout site. Advanced mock training was also initiated and will be completed in the next reporting period.

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.

No, on the contrary, work has progressed better than expected.

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/No

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

Change request reference if known:

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

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 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**