

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 2022

Project reference	IWT 096
Project title	Case closed? Using historic cases to enable new financial investigations
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Uganda, Malawi, Zambia and Namibia
Lead partner	N/A
Partner(s)	Wildlife Crime Prevention (WCP), Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), Rooikat Trust, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), Royal Foundation's United for Wildlife (UfW) Financial and Transport Taskforce, Refinitiv, Western Union
Project leader	Cathy Haenlein, Director, Organised Crime and Policing
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1 (<i>project is in its second year, but there was no half year report in year 1 given the project only ran for six months: October – March</i>)
Project website/blog/social media	www.rusi.org

1. 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).

During the reporting period and within the current financial year, RUSI is scheduled to complete outputs 1.1, 1.4, and 2.1. Broadly, these include the planning, coordination and delivery of four 'closed-case' in-country workshops in Malawi, Namibia, Uganda and Zambia.

1.1 Tailored, formally defined case selection criteria are co-created with government and NGO partners in each country according to local priorities (n= 4 criteria sets, 1 per country).

RUSI successfully worked with in-country partners and/or stakeholders to define case selection criteria and gather case files and information for population of the case selection templates. In Malawi and Zambia, this led to the successful undertaking of two Train the Trainer Case Review workshops in October 2022. In Malawi, based on local sensitivities and local partner concerns (defined below), the project team opted to use extraterritorial case studies to ensure participants felt comfortable enough to engage with the subject matter. In doing so, this gave participants the confidence to reflect on their own experiences and discuss local cases. In Zambia, the team was able to explore local, historic and closed cases – as hoped in the project's methodology – and use them to focus training scenario on national priorities and capacity gaps.

1.4 On the basis of this analysis, pre-workshop case briefings (n= 2 per country, 8 total) are produced and disseminated to partner agencies (minimum 15 agencies) with at least n=5 discussion questions per case.

Pre workshop case studies were produced and shared with local participants in Malawi and Zambia during the workshop delivery in October 2022. Case studies will be developed for the

Ugandan and Namibian partners in February 2023, in line with workshop delivery planned for February-March 2023.

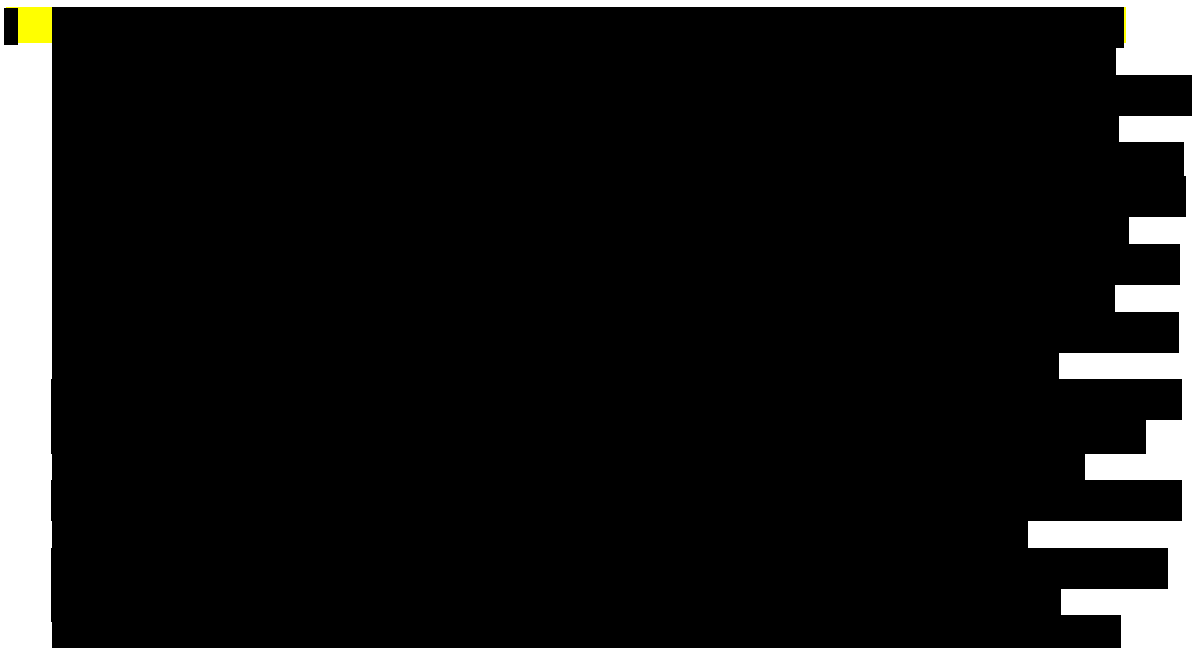
2.1 Number of days of multi-agency ‘train-the-trainer’ closed case reviews (4 days per country, n=16 total) which provide at least 40 relevant actors (10 per country, n=40 total, 25% women) from at least 3 government agencies in Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, and Zambia and Uganda (n=12 agencies total) with new skills and expertise. Participants will be demonstrably better able to effectively collect and share on financial intelligence, initiate financial investigations, and facilitate future case reviews.

Four days of multi-agency ‘train-the-trainer’ closed case review workshops have been delivered in Malawi and Zambia. These were attended by 15 and 18 participants respectively, from a minimum of five local agencies in each country. The workshops to date also meet the pre-project target of ensuring over 25% participation from female attendees. For example, female participants comprised over 50% of the trainees in Malawi. Pre- and post-workshop questionnaires were completed by all participants and are currently being logged and analysed; further metrics will be available at the next reporting stage.

The project aims to deliver the final two workshops in Uganda and Namibia at the start of 2023: in February and March.

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.

- In April 2022, the Project Manager and Illegal Wildlife Trade Expert, Alexandria Reid, left RUSI to take a new position with a different organisation. While staff changes during a long term project cycle are perhaps inevitable, the recruitment process and onboarding of new team members can lead to delays. RUSI were fortunate to be able to respond quickly to the vacancy and Anne-Marie Weeden, the new Project Manager and direct replacement for Alexandria Reid, was recruited and in place by May 2022. Whilst Anne-Mare had pre-existing relationships with local partners and extensive illegal wildlife trade expertise in sub-Saharan Africa, the changeover of key personnel did lead to delays in the implementation of the in-country workshops within the present fiscal year.



- Whilst it has not yet affected project timings, RUSI is aware there is a growing outbreak of Ebola in Uganda, which has recently reached the capital. Whilst local authorities assure there will be no lockdown or travel restrictions, RUSI is conscious that they will need to consider any additional risks posed by the outbreak or the associated travel restrictions, should these be relevant at the time of planned travel. The situation is being closely monitored and RUSI will alert the NIRAS-LTS-International team should it start to affect project activities.
- Planning and case study development for the Namibian training workshop were well underway before the start of this last reporting period, yet have since been delayed by the current spike in rhino poaching. This has resulted in an increased caseload for our local partner Rooikat and the interagency taskforce they support, the Blue Rhino Task Force, causing a burden on resource and other priorities. However, there is now a window of opportunity to deliver the workshops in January-March 2023, with increasing interest from key government stakeholders due to frustrations at the scarcity of parallel financial investigations to wildlife crime cases. RUSI anticipate being able to deliver the workshop in this timeframe, with maximum impact.

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**

RUSI received provisional acceptance of its third change request subject to the submission of a revised Logframe to ensure more indicators are achieved at interim stages of the project. As such, the project is working to the proposed revised timelines which do not have any budgetary implications or consequences for the project's output targets for this financial year.

Summarily, the change request seeks to replace a number of project team members (who have since left RUSI) and amend the timelines of a few project activities (within the same fiscal year).

Change request reference if known:

Unknown – This is the third change request on the project and was first submitted on 14 June 2022.

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: £N/A

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?

Please do not circulate or publish the highlighted confidential text as there could be serious physical, personal and organisational risks associated to its dissemination.

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. 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**