

## 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>	IWT097
<b>Project title</b>	Building long term capacity to combat IWT in Sri Lanka
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Sri Lanka
<b>Lead partner</b>	Environmental Foundation (Guarantee) Limited (EFL)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) Born Free Foundation (BFF)
<b>Project leader</b>	Mr. Anandalal Nanayakkara
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="#"><u>Building Long Term Capacity to Combat IWT in Sri Lanka – Environment Foundation (Guarantee) Limited. (efl.lk)</u></a>

**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).**

*Output 1: Situational analysis report on prosecution of IWT in Sri Lanka produced.*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
1.1 Consult with University of Sri Jayewardenepura students to gauge their findings, collate and analyze court records from DWC and other SLaWEN institutes – to establish the status of IWT related court cases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Using SMEs' input and team recommendations, a template was developed to compile IWT data from stakeholder institutes (Annex 01), and it was shared with all of the institutes with whom the first discussions were held.</li> <li>Formal requests and follow-up visits were made to the Department of Wildlife Conservation, Forest Department and to other SLaWEN institutes to obtain IWT-related court records, however, we are yet to receive them.</li> </ul>
1.2 Report will be drafted detailing the findings of the analysis – identifying gaps stalling the legal process. These findings will be presented at the SLaWEN and Judicial Training workshops.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow-up letters were sent to the organizations that had not yet submitted their focal point nominations and another focal point was established at the Central Environmental Authority (Annex 02)</li> <li>During this reporting period, discussions were held with eight stakeholders from the 11 SLaWEN institutes: Department of Forest, Central Environmental Authority, Department of Coast Conservation and Coastal Resource Management, Department of Zoological Gardens, Department of Botanical</li> </ul>

	<p>Gardens, Department of National Museums, Geological Survey and Mines Bureau, Department of Immigration and Emigration. Discussions were held with the participation of the legal officers and focal points from each of the institutions. Please see the attached meeting summary (Annex 03). The limitations and inadequacies in each of these institutes' prosecution and/or investigative capabilities and mandates regarding IWT cases were discussed during these meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the delay in getting data related to species that have been trafficked the project's Wildlife/Biodiversity Specialist was officially given permission via DWC to visit the SLaWEN member institutions and the regional DWC range offices to gather such data. Based on the information acquired and the literature, the most often traded/trafficked terrestrial and marine species were listed. With this report, a draft version 01 of the Situational Analysis report will be provided as we are yet to receive illegally trafficked species data and prosecutorial data regarding such cases from the SLaWEN institutes. (Annex 04a)</li> <li>• This first stage report of the Situational Analysis outlines the existing legal framework in place to counter IWT in Sri Lanka. The operational gaps and the legal gaps that adversely affect the effective countering of IWT by the SLaWEN institutions are also noted in the Analysis. However, due to the aforesaid difficulties and the lack of cooperation of certain SLaWEN institutions, the prosecution records have not been received by EFL yet. Analysis of the Prosecution records will be presented in the next reporting period and EFL will make its best endeavors to procure these records (Annex 04b)</li> </ul>
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*Output 2: Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for SLaWEN Officers and network building established.*

Activity	Narrative
2.1 Ethics questionnaire will be circulated amongst SLaWEN institutes – and feedback / comments addressed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was decided by the team (including the to circulate the ethics questionnaire by the end of this year once all the focal points are established.</li> </ul>
2.3 Development of the Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for SLaWEN Officers and network building and assessments by a curriculum development expert.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The workshop's curriculum will be developed in the following quarter since the delay in receiving data from SLaWEN institutes has an influence on it as well.</li> </ul>

*\*The remaining activities are not planned as of this 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.**

- It was noted that the majority of government institutions in Sri Lanka do not have separate records of IWT-related cases in their archives, which creates difficulty in obtaining IWT-specific case data as the institutes are not open to sharing all information with EFL. This creates a delay as the institute officials take the task of sorting the cases which are IWT related, and causes a delay. Also, due to the ongoing economic crisis and the follow-up situation in the country during this period, particularly due to the fuel shortage and lack of public transportation, all government institutions have implemented hybrid working systems in which employees are only present in their offices on a select number of days each week. Additionally, Friday was declared a holiday for all government institutions of Sri Lanka for the months the fuel shortage was ongoing, further limiting their availability. Due to this reason, it was challenging to communicate with the officials, schedule meetings, and to request the compiled IWT data, prosecution information, and training regime information. Since these data serve as the baseline for the majority of the project components, this delay was reflected in the progress of most activities.
- Due to the aforementioned issues, and to expedite the project activities, the possibility of getting a consultant on board to carry out a few project activities was clarified with the donor and the Centre for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development (CESSD) of the Open University of Sri Lanka has been recognized as a potential professional association to assist EFL with a few project activities. The nature of the activities carried out will be formally informed to the donor at the earliest.

**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?**

N/A