

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	IWT097
Project title	Building Long Term Capacity to Combat IWT in Sri Lanka
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Sri Lanka
Lead partner	Environmental Foundation (Guarantee) Limited (EFL)
Partner(s)	Sri Lanka Department of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) Born Free Foundation (BFF)
Project leader	<i>Mr. Anandalal Nanayakkara</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	https://efl.lk/portfolio/building-long-term-capacity-to-combat-iwt-in-sri-lanka/ Social media post of the Judiciary Awareness Program - https://www.facebook.com/100066957286932/posts/pfbid0EUD1BLeWwB3RGL8esLiCAdre59212Hod9ReS3eVx7q9PMbrtiwSXA4zv8zNLWDkAl/?mibextid=Nif5oz

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.

Output 1 - Situational analysis report on prosecution of IWT in Sri Lanka produced

Was completed and reported during the previous Annual Report.

Output 2 - Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation Course for SLAWEN Officers and network building established

The project team lead drafted a Working Paper that serves as the MOU for SLAWEN institutions going forward. The paper was submitted to the Director of Operations at the Department of Wildlife Conservation, who heads SLAWEN currently, for his approval. The final document has been shared with the relevant institutions for their recommendations, which will be presented at the upcoming program development meeting on November 3rd. (Annex 01 – SLAWEN working paper)

Output 3 - Judicial enhanced awareness of IWT in Sri Lanka

3.1 Judicial officers with enhanced awareness of IWT across 25 districts by end of year – The Awareness and Sensitization program for the Judiciary was held successfully for 3 days in Giritale in collaboration with the Sri Lanka Judges Training Institute, with the participation of 25 Magistrates representing the whole country. The training was delivered by the project experts and other academics and experts in the relevant fields on a multitude of topics ranging from the Status and evolution of wildlife conservation and management in Sri Lanka to the Impact of wildlife trafficking on conservation and law enforcement - the challenges and risks faced by law enforcement officers. The program was significantly enriched by the field excursion to the breathtaking Kaudulla National Park and a visit to the Museum of Giritale, at the Department of Wildlife Conservation Training Centre maintained by the Department of Wildlife Conservation.

The assumptions hold true. However, the progress against the indicator *3.2 40% increase in number of IWT cases relating to project focus species presented in court* can only be reported towards the end of the program as the judiciary training was only held during September 2023. (Annex 02 – Report on the Judiciary Awareness Program)

Output 4 - Relationship building forum launched with Enforcement, Prosecutor and Judiciary representatives.

To discuss the specifics of this forum and conclude the preliminary planning, a meeting was arranged with the project experts. The agenda for the discussion was drafted. To discuss the project and the goals of the forum, a meeting with prospective judges has been scheduled for November. Additionally, it was decided to invite Attorney General's Department members to the forum. It is too early to say whether the assumptions are true. The forum is scheduled to take place on November 24, 2023. (Annex 03 – Draft agenda for the forum)

Output 5 - A mechanism for excellence awards for officers from SLaWEN initiated.

A meeting with experts was organized to discuss the guidelines (criteria) for indicator *5.1 Guidelines are being developed by a committee for the selection of an enforcement personnel as the awardee by August 2023*. The proposed criteria will be forwarded to the Department of Wildlife for approval in the following month. It is too early to say whether the assumptions are correct. (Annex 04 – Meeting minutes with the criteria developed).

***The Responses to the Annual Report 2 Review – please see Annex 05

Progress of Outcome Level indicators

Outcome Level indicators	Progress made so far
0.1 Currently dormant SLaWEN – will hold Quarterly strategy development meetings with high-level officials at SLaWEN member institutions.	Meetings with the Department of Wildlife the key agency in convening the SLaWEN and consultations on developing the working paper on inter-institutional engagement.
0.2 Currently dormant SLaWEN – will hold Quarterly intelligence exchange meetings with designated IWT officers at SLaWEN member institutions.	Following the 10-day training input was provided for the working paper and inter-institutional capacity in intelligence sharing. The takeaway was that formal intelligence sharing cannot take place till the inter-institutional working arrangements are formalized. The first program development meeting was held and the second has been scheduled for November.

0.3 At least 40% increase in case record of IWT incidence, with a focus on significant (large numbers, endangered species, etc) and transnational cases by end of Year 3.	The informal group chats formed between focal points report wildlife detections. However, this cannot be reported on yet.
0.4 Increased cooperation and synergy among SLaWEN institutions, allowing for sharing of information - resulting in a reduction in timeframe for prosecution of IWT cases by end of Year 3.	This will be discussed, and the method formulated with the dialog facilitated with the prosecutors in the next quarter with Enforcement members.

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.

Meetings with the SLaWEN heads were not possible due to the delay that occurred during the second year of the project in response to civil unrest, economic crisis and the uncertainties that arose due to the election as was explained in AR2. However, once the SLaWEN working paper is finalized at the next Program Development meeting with its focal points, a meeting with the heads of the SLaWEN institutions will be scheduled. This, however, has no effect on the budget. These meetings will formalize the operational functions of the SLaWEN.

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: £ [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 2024)?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £ [REDACTED]

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?

N/A

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**

List of Annexes

Annex	Description
Annex 01	SLaWEN working paper
Annex 02	Report on the Judiciary Awareness Program
Annex 03	Draft agenda for the Roundtable Forum
Annex 04	Meeting Minutes of the Discussion on Outlying a Mechanism for the Excellence Awards Ceremony for Officers of The SLaWEN
Annex 05	Responses to the Annual Report 2 Review
Annex 06	Amended 10-day SLaWEN workshop report