

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	IWT100
Project title	Stemming illegal wildlife trade & enhancing community livelihoods in Zimbabwe
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Zimbabwe
Lead partner	Savé Valley Conservancy
Partner(s)	
Project leader	<i>Harry Idensohn</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	<i>www.savevalleyconservancy.org</i>

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).

- Our project kicked-off in July after we had received our first tranche of funds for Q1 in June as we submitted our Grant Claim Form a little late. The SVC drew up a Project Plan which runs effectively from April 2022 to October 2024, which was agreed upon by the Project Leader and the Project Team.
- The first initial and important step we tackled was in defining the person specification for the CLM position as this is a critical position with almost the entire project largely revolving around this resource and hence, we needed to have the right candidate for the job to ensure that the project is a success from the outset. The recruitment of the CLM is a process which had to be done right and concluded before any further major progress could be made.
- The purchase of a vehicle which is crucial to ensure the mobility of the CLM is required (budget has proven to be a limiting factor with USD [REDACTED] allowable under this line item, whilst costs are more in the region of USD [REDACTED] and this is still being investigated as well as accommodation. Accommodation in the Conservancy is largely in place for this resource to ensure that the CLM is located close to the surrounding communities and thereby increase the effectiveness of this resource.
- The identification of a suitable resource that addresses both the person and job specifications has proved challenging with the first set of interviews yielding zero positive results. The interviewing team is continuing to search for an appropriate resource and this has caused delays as this is the critical path at the present time. Once this resource has been identified the project can be brought swiftly back on track in terms of timelines.
- The 3-month delay in kick starting the project will not affect the project timeline, as from the onset we had factored the risk of anticipated delays on some aspects in the project roll-out due to some unforeseen circumstances.

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.

So far there are no notable problems with the project roll-out, but a lesson learnt in that, the project had the capacity to be bigger than what it is to encompass all the surrounding communities, to ensure buy-in and the complete eradication of IWT in SVC. Involving communities and empowering them, drives them to support our initiatives knowing that they to have a better livelihood and being provided with an opportunity to safeguard diverse species for future generations, will certainly inspire the communities and has bring about a mind-shift change with regards to the IWT.

This will ensure a successful project roll-out and the guaranteed achievement of the project objectives.

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: N/A

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

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**