

## 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>	IWT 106
<b>Project title</b>	Reducing IWT through community-led conservation in a transboundary landscape
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Kenya and Tanzania
<b>Lead partner</b>	WWF-UK
<b>Partner(s)</b>	WWF Kenya and WWF Tanzania Country Office
<b>Project leader</b>	Jenny Cousins, Senior Programme Advisor – Africa, WWF-UK
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	01 April 2022 – 30 September 2022 Half Year Report 1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	No project specific website. <a href="https://www.wwf.org.uk/">https://www.wwf.org.uk/</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: (i) Co-created nature-based incentives, particularly for locally based marginalised youth (18-29 years) and women, to conserve wildlife in hotspot areas along the Kitenden corridor, alongside increased understanding of the value of wildlife, the impact of IWT, and legislation/penalties regarding poaching and IWT amongst youth and women.**

Project partners within the transboundary landscape held various community consultation meetings with 19 village groups (11 in Tanzania and 8 in Kenya). A total of 1,449 community members (776 females and 673 males) participated in special general meetings which focused on Environmental and Social Safeguards, livelihood support needs, gender transformation and project participation.

Thirty-four ombuds representatives (18M and 16F) have been identified from both the communities and schools to act as ESS focal persons. They are supported by 20 grievance boxes for project beneficiaries to drop in their anonymous complaints or suggestions. Each box had Environmental and Social Safeguards posters attached to provide detailed information about the project, and the process for submitting grievances. Thus far, no complaints have been received.

Progress towards strengthened livelihoods within the transboundary landscape has been steady. The Kenya project team, with support from community leadership, identified eight women and youth groups, with over 170 members, to participate in bee-keeping and grass seed bank enterprises. Thirty-one acres of land, zoned for agricultural use, has been identified for grass production to supply seed and hay, and preparation for planting is underway. Seed of two grass species which are indigenous to the region and are highly palatable, have been procured and delivered to the community groups. Two groups (30 members) participating in bee-keeping enterprises successfully completed both theory and practical training. On the Tanzania side, several livelihood options have been workshopped with 11 villages bordering the corridor. Three proposed livelihood enterprises are being explored by the team, namely: *Establishment of curio shops for women groups; Sunflower cultivation and processing of sunflower oil; and Promotion of poultry production.*

**Output 2. Increased support for wildlife conservation and actively engaged children and youth (7-18 years) as nature guardians.**

Implementing partners Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (WCK) and TAWA's Malihai Club carried out baseline surveys of Wildlife and IWT related knowledge, attitude, and behaviours at 10 selected schools within the transboundary landscape. The surveys were carried out using Focal Group Discussions (FGD) with approximately 26% of the total number of school children enrolled and 70% of the teachers.

Outreach education at the ten schools is underway, thus far 460 school children have participated in the IWT specific extra-curricular lessons covering the following topics: Wildlife ecology, Benefits of wildlife, Threats to wildlife, School conservation activities, Understanding Illegal Wildlife Trade and Bush meat, and Impact of poaching and IWT on people and wildlife. These lessons include the screening of IWT relevant films in English and Swahili. IWT specific education materials have been produced and disseminated to the schools to support teachers, including three IWT anti-snaring teaching aid boards and 32 sets of the popular Sustainability Board Games.

**Output 3. Improved capacity and systems for effective enforcement and cross-border collaboration and coordination against poaching and IWT at local, county / district and transboundary level.**

The Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) baseline surveys were completed in the first quarter of the reporting period to determine the extent of IWT within the project area. The survey targeted both consumers of wild game meat and traders/hunters within the project area, and had a total of 416 respondents, of which 358 'identified' as consumers and 58 as 'traders and/or hunters.'

Activities related to strengthening enforcement are under way. Thus far, 37 community rangers completed crime scene management training, and transboundary coordination of monitoring IWT related court cases has improved through the development of data collection template and associated excel database. IWT related court cases within the Loitokitok judiciary (Kenya) are now being recorded by KWS and being tracked through the legal process.

**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.**

**Notable challenges**

A significant challenge that cannot be overstated is the drought currently gripping Kenya and Northern Tanzania. The impacts include but are not limited to:

- Community participation in workshops and other project activities is lower than expected, as many members (esp. pastoralists) have moved from the region with their remaining livestock.
- Those remaining are experiencing much harder living conditions, with significantly reduced access to water and food. Women and youth are having to walk much greater distances to collect water and are often away from the village for most of the day.
- Increased competition between people, livestock and wildlife for limited resources (e.g. grazing, water), has led to increased Human-Wildlife Conflict and reduced tolerance to wildlife.

**Unexpected development**

The decline in the strength of the British Pound has impacted upon available funds in local currencies- this was true for the Q2 advance payment, and will likely be similar in future Q's. The teams are currently undergoing a budget reforecasting process to account for the exchange rate effects and to reduce the impacts on implementation.

**Change requests submitted and approved**

WWF submitted a change request in May 2022 in relation to underspend on IWT funded project expenditure by the end of Year 1 (31 March 2022). Darwin approved this request to: (i) reallocate IWT funds within the Year 1 Budget and cover budget lines already covered by ‘Other funding sources’, to maximise IWT funds spent in Year 1, and (ii) carry forward £[REDACTED] of funds to Year 2 to complete activities which were delayed due to factors outside the control of the project.

WWF also submitted a change request in July 2022 to formalise the amendment of the Logframe to adjust the results expected for Outcomes 2 and 3, which was also approved by Darwin.

**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

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

Change request reference if known: Not known

**4a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

No

**4b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. N/A**
**5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

Enduimet Wildlife Management Area (EWMA) has just completed their elections for a new WMA management board. The board now comprises newly elected leaders who are not aware about the IWT project and there is a need to conduct a training workshop to raise awareness of and introduce the IWT project to the new board.

TAWA (Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority) has recently restructured and as a result the Malihai Club (formally housed within TAWA) has been dissolved. The role and function of Malihai Club Division has been transferred to a newly established Outreach Department within TAWA. The WWF-TCO project team have initiated working with the restructured department to support the effective implementation of activities under Output 2.