

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	IWT106
Project title	Reducing IWT through community led conservation in a transboundary landscape
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Kenya and Tanzania
Lead partner	WWF UK
Partner(s)	WWF-Kenya and WWF-Tanzania Country Office
Project leader	Tanya Smith, Senior Programme Advisor, WWF-UK
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 October 2023 HYR2 (Year 3 Half Year Report)
Project website/blog/social media	No project specific website. https://www.wwf.org.uk/

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.

Grass seed banks and hay production

During the reporting period, an end of growing season assessment was done with the three women groups (Osiligi, Enduata and Ilmarba Livestock Group) who have been supported by the project to plant 20 acres of grass for seed and hay production. 90 kg of grass seed was harvested by hand, which will be used to plant additional acres during the next growing season. After seed harvest, the groups focused on cutting and baling of the grass for hay. 19 youth and women of Enduata group received onsite training on hay making. The training focused on the critical topic of "Hay Making and Storage for Livestock Production in Arid and Semi-Arid Areas." This initiative aimed at empowering the local women with the knowledge and skills necessary to enhance effective livestock farming practices, ultimately improving food security and income generation within the region. Among the techniques included; early hay harvesting, drying methods, chopping and crushing, baling, hay preservatives and hay storage.

The 19 youth and women were able to apply the skills acquired from the training and produced 98 bales which were sold at KES 250 each, generating ~KES 25,000.

Beekeeping

25 women and 10 men from both Osotua and Oshumu groups, which have a total of 54 beehives (16 hives colonised during the reporting period), were trained on beehives management (pest control, hives cleanliness, waxing) in preparation for the November – January rains.

Sunflower farming

Twenty groups comprising 441 members (94 males and 347 females) harvested their first Sunflower crop during the reporting period. A little over 140 acres were planted using seed provided by the project team

at the start of the reporting period. A total of ~4,200 kg sunflower seed has been harvested by the 20 groups across four villages (42 bags harvested at approximately 100 kg per bag). Many beneficiaries commented that the sunflower crops planted using the provided seed, were the only crops to produce any meaningful yield.

Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA's)

A total of 507 (58 males and 449 females) community members (organised into 20 groups) benefitted from training in the set-up, use and management of VSLA's using the CHOMOKA digital app (www.chomoka.org). In addition to the VSLA focused training, the project team supported the groups to identify examples of investment which are environmentally friendly and promote wildlife stewardship through IWT messaging and environmental conservation education conveyed during the training. This digital solution to village group savings ensures transparency and accountability for all members and management of the group savings and loan schemes. To ensure sustainability beyond the project, 17 Enduimet WMA community members (11 females & 6 males) were trained as VSLA Community-Based Trainers and Digital information trainers. In addition, 3 staff from Longido District Council (IT officer, 2x District Community Development Officers) were appointed as government focal persons for all VSLA issues at the district level and they also successfully completed the training. The Longido District Council has formally recognized the 20 trainees as the district's Trainers of Trainees (TOTs) who will be responsible for supporting existing VSLA's and to grow the number of VSLA groups within the district. To date the digital Information trainers have enabled the registration of the VSLA groups in Enduimet on CHOMOKA. The number of VSLA groups registered and using CHOMOKA has grown from 20 groups (507 members initially trained as part of this project) to 32 groups, as the TOT's have initiated additional training and awareness raising within the district.

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 and Malihai clubs (Tanzania) have progressed well against this output. In Kenya, three major activities took place during the reporting period: first, 273 children participated in a practical field day focused on avifauna, including the use of binoculars, identifying and recording species, and the impact of IWT on birds (such as snaring and poisoning). Second activity focused on IWT themed art competition between the schools, 79 children (34 girls and 45 boys) volunteered to participate. The artwork will be used in producing updated IWT reduction education materials for the schools in the project area. Finally, a total of 124 pupils participated in enhanced communication training to improve their ability to communicate environmental topics such as IWT, this included public speaking and exposing pupils to speaking publicly to their peers.

In Tanzania, IWT reduction awareness materials were designed, printed and disseminated to all five participating schools. In order to strengthen the capacity of the Outreach Department's Malihai clubs to continue to support the growth of the clubs at schools, we provided a printer/copier/scanner and desktop computer. This will allow the department to be able to print and distribute certificates, education materials and the IWT education training manuals to all participating schools. Through a participatory approach, the first training manual for Malihai Clubs of Tanzania was developed, to align the conservation education program through Malihai clubs and to ensure its relevance to the existing curriculum needs. 15 teachers (3 from each of the 5 schools) were trained using the newly developed training manual to effectively continue supporting each school's Malihai club and to integrate IWT, Human-Wildlife Conflict and conservation awareness in their lessons.

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.

Partners from Kenya and Tanzania engaged in a 6-day cross border patrol with an intent to curb Illegal Wildlife Trade. They come together with the aim to understand and identify new routes used by poachers, identify poaching hotspots areas, identify new markets for illegal wildlife trade, identify targeted species for poaching and recruit informers who can provide credible information for future operations. The operation team networked with their Tanzanian counterparts by sharing contacts and opening a WhatsApp group that will assist in the provision of real-time updates from the field even after the end of the operation.

Output indicator 3.4: response to Year 2 annual report feedback.

In year one of the project, we recorded 10 active cases that were ongoing at the Loitokitok law courts, this will serve as our baseline. However, to establish a baseline before the project, we have reached out to Kenya Wildlife Services within the Amboseli Chyulu Sub-landscape for these data. Due to the sensitive

nature of the information, KWS must follow internal processes with the head office. As a project we are monitoring this indicator using standard templates developed in consultation with the local KWS regional office and the judiciary to fill and monitor court cases with the officers within Oloitokitok. Rangers trained through the project completed 5 arrests between May and August 2023. The cases are recorded as follows; Olchoro area – 160kg Giraffe meat, Esambu area – one un-slaughtered grant gazelle, Njukini area – re-arrest of a suspect in possession of 1kg elephant tusk, Kimana area – one piece of Elephant tusk weighing 2 kgs.

In Q1, TRAFFIC held a two-day workshop to train relevant law enforcement agencies on the Eastern Africa-TWIX platform and enhanced cross-border collaboration. A total of 72 (62 male and 10 female) participants represented agencies, namely customs, wildlife and forestry authorities, public prosecutors, judiciary, as well as the police, Enduimet WMA and NGOs such as AWF, Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET) and other relevant stakeholders working in Kitenden transboundary wildlife corridor between Amboseli and Kilimanjaro National Parks. Following the TWIX training, 5 agencies have provided names of recommended officers to be enrolled to the TWIX platform. These officers are being mentored to effectively use the TWIX platform to support secure IWT information sharing in East Africa. During the enhanced collaboration workshop, participants completed a roadmap plan showing strategic actions, lead agency, stakeholders to be involved, timelines, and resources required to enhance cross-border collaboration.

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.

- The team have reviewed the Year 3 budget to ensure the costed activities are still relevant given the time elapsed since the budget was first drafted, as part of a reforecast process. A budget change request for the final six months of the project is pending and will be shared separately.
- Low TWIX user nomination from the relevant authorities. At the moment, only five agencies have nominated TWIX users – other agencies are still finalising the internal arrangements before nominations. This delay by other agencies in nominating TWIX users might affect measuring the impact on the platform usage by trained officials. However, close follow-ups are being made by TRAFFIC to ensure that all agencies nominate trained officials as TWIX users who will be connected to the Eastern Africa-TWIX platform and use it in their law enforcement actions.
- As part of our adaptive management within the project, and due to significant changes in goat prices during the reporting period, goat fattening as a ‘co-created’ livelihood option as described in the Year 2 annual report has not been pursued. It is now no longer an affordable option as the price of goats has increased significantly. The team are engaging with the community members who were to benefit from this livelihood to discuss other possible options. This may have an impact on the timeline and target number of beneficiaries.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS: No (Not for Year 3 potential changes)

Formal Change Request submitted: No (Budget change request pending)

Received confirmation of change acceptance No (Budget change request pending)

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: £ ██████████

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: £ 0

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.

N/A

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

We are finalising a Year 3 budget revision as part of a reforecast process covering the final six months of the project, as it will be ending March 2024. As a result, a budget change request is pending for submission.

We addressed questions posed as part of the Year 2 annual report review above under Question 1. Specifically, Point 2: provide details of the six days cross border patrols in the next half year report; and Point 3: Please clarify whether a baseline has been established to monitor output indicator 3.4.

We will attach the project exit strategy (Point 6) separately.

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**