

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	IWT111
Project title	Reducing IWT through Strengthening Livelihoods and Law Enforcement: Ruaha-Rungwa, Tanzania
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead partner	Southern Tanzania Elephant Program
Partner(s)	Rungwa-Kizigo-Muhesi Game Reserves, MBOMIPA WMA
Project leader	<i>Trevor Jones</i>
Report date and number	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	<i>stzelephants.or.tz</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).

1.1 Conducting orientation and sensitization meetings with partners and at village and sub-village level for the establishment of VSLAs, beekeeping and poultry health interventions

- Orientation and sensitization meetings conducted in villages around Rungwa, Kizigo and Muhesi Game Reserves, VLSAs established, preparation for poultry trials and beekeeping underway (to optimise peak honey production periods). In the villages around MBOMIPA WMA, this activity is planned for November 2022 to build on positive momentum generated from the MBOMIPA Cup Football Tournament (October 2022).

1.2 Establish and training 20 Village Savings and Loan Associations (25 members per VSLA) with 500 members in 10 villages

- 20 VSLAs (504 members) are currently operational in eight villages. 12 have been formed within the project period (309 members).

2.1 Provide vehicle for increasing human-wildlife conflict response capacity to RKM GR, together with training on effective use of vehicle for HWC response

- Vehicle handed over to Muhesi Game Reserve on 14 August 2022. Training principles to be shared with the Commanding Officer in November (due to delayed feedback from our training expert).

2.2 Enable HWC response by MBOMIPA VGS and RKM GR Rangers through fuel provision

- 1,200 litres of fuel provided for protection activities for MBOMIPA VGS. We are in the process of finalising details of VGS HWC support and fuel allocations.
- 1,711 litres of fuel provided for protection and HWC response to Rungwa, Kizigo and Muhesi Game Reserves (including via matched funding).

2.4 Local Elephant Monitors conduct one-on-one training for 3000 community members at home and at farms on elephant behaviour and safety around elephants

- From July to August, LEMs met an average of four farmers per week: 112 farmers were trained.

- From August onwards, all Local Elephant Monitors were focused on training at our Tembo Cup Outreach events (see 2.5).

2.5 Conduct wide-scale education and outreach programs (Tembo Cup Football Tournament)

- Three Tembo Cups were conducted from July-September in the villages around Muhesi Game Reserve, Rungwa Game Reserve and Kizigo Game Reserve. More than 18,000 people attended matches, outreach events and film nights. A fourth football tournament will be implemented with villages around MBOMIPA WMA in partnership with the NGO Lion Landscapes in Year 1 Q3.

4.1 Train 5 RKM GR rangers and 2 MBOMIPA VGS (2 women) to become aerial observers

- We have selected candidates for training, but due to aircraft and pilot licensing delays (see Section 2 for more details), this activity has been delayed to Year 1 Q3. If we experience further delays, we will begin with classroom instruction for MBOMIPA VGS on completing aerial patrol data sheets, photography and use of GPS units to collect waypoints and tracklogs before practical instruction is done with the aircraft present.

4.3 Enable 23 days of strategic patrols by 4 Village Game Scout teams every month in MBOMIPA WMA

- From April to September, 237 days of foot patrols and 40 days of vehicle patrols were conducted by VGS in MBOMIPA WMA; therefore, the number of monthly patrols was met.

4.5 Generate ground and aerial patrol maps and trend analysis reports for protected area managers

- 12 maps and 3 reports describing analysis of ground patrols were shared each month (April to September) with protected area managers.
- Although STEP's new aircraft arrived in August 2022, we were unable to begin aerial patrols during the reporting period due to licensing delays, as such no maps or reports of aerial patrols were produced.

4.6 Conduct refresher training for 39 VGS and 14 RKM GR rangers in human rights, just arrest and post-arrest procedures

- All MBOMIPA VGS were trained in and signed a code of conduct as part of a contract renewal process with the WMA which include detailed expectations on respect for human rights and just arrest and post-arrest procedures. Training for RKM GR rangers is planned for Year 1 Q3.

4.7 Support MBOMIPA WMA VGS to provide witness testimony in court cases

- The project supported one VGS to testify in a bushmeat (economic case) at the Iringa District Magistrate Court in September 2022, the case is still ongoing.

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.

Aircraft and pilot licensing challenges: Aerial patrols are planned to start in Q3 of Year 1 in the project implementation timetable. STEP's new aircraft arrived in Tanzania in August 2022, but we experienced pilot and aircraft licensing delays at the Tanzania Civil Aviation Authority (TCAA). Before the aircraft could operate, the TCAA needed to conduct an inspection of the aircraft and issue a Certificate of Airworthiness. There was a long waiting time until a TCAA inspector became available to inspect STEP's aircraft, as all inspectors were assigned to conduct inspections elsewhere in Tanzania. The Certificate of Airworthiness was finally issued by the TCAA on 19th October 2022, two months after the arrival of the aircraft in Tanzania. Our South African pilot also went through the procedure of acquiring his Tanzanian licence, as Tanzania does not recognize licences from other countries for pilots operating Tanzanian-registered aircraft. Although the pilot conducted and passed his General Flying Test (GFT) with an approved instructor from a registered aviation school, the TCAA subsequently brought in a new rule whereby all GFTs need to be supervised by an approved TCAA inspector, resulting in further unexpected delays. The South African pilot is scheduled to undertake a second GFT in November 2022. Depending on progress, at the end of November 2022, we will assess whether we are able to meet our Year 1 target of 60 flight hours (as this target was based on an assumption that the aircraft would be operational from October 2022), or if we need to submit a change request to revise the target flight hours.

Instant Detect 2.0 delivery timeline: The first phase of trialling ZSL's Instant Detect 2.0 system was planned to start in Q3 of Year 1 in the project implementation timetable. Although ZSL remains committed to STEP and MBOMIPA WMA as field testing partners, ZSL is experiencing delays in receiving the system hardware from their supplier (their supplier is facing a backlog of orders following the Covid-19 pandemic). ZSL has informed STEP that delivery of the system will not be possible in Q3. In Q3, we will continue to communicate regularly with ZSL on a revised delivery timeline. Due to the ZSL delays, we have also begun exploring alternative suppliers for similar technology. We will continue to assess the situation in Q3 and submit a change request if necessary for either a revised timeframe for the trial, or a switch to an alternative supplier.

MBOMIPA engagement delays: In an effort to ensure all current (and future) actors in MBOMIPA have a shared vision and agreed-to principles for engagement, STEP's CEO has proposed the formation of the MBOMIPA Coalition to coordinate engagement. This has led to a delay in the implementation of some of the livelihood-focused interventions of this project around MBOMIPA WMA in order to ensure alignment with existing (and planned) work. A coordination document has been finalised and implementation is planned in November 2022 with Lion Landscapes.

- This will result in a slight shift of the Village Savings and Loan timing. If groups begin in November, they will be ready for lending in November which may be too late for the main agricultural input purchasing timeline for maize. However, we expect to be able to measure the impact of increased availability of credit during the other agricultural seasons and during the 'hunger season' between February-April. This is expected to be particularly acute in 2023 due to poor harvests, caused by low rainfall, in the 2021-2022 growing season.
- Coalition formation will also impact the breadth of the resilience framework. Due to the diversity of members and their respective program focus areas, a coalition-level framework will encompass a wider variety of indicators. Therefore, STEP will likely focus on the Resilience Index and Measurement Analysis developed by FAO to assess the impact of VSLAs.

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:	No
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	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?

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 to 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?

None.

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. LINK to document [here](#).

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**