

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Project reference	IWT-113
Project title	Legal Intelligence and Community Governance for Cheetah Illicit Trade (LICIT II)
Countries/territories	Ethiopia, Somaliland
Lead partner	Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)
Partners	Legal Atlas, TRAFFIC
Project leader	Dr. Laurie Marker, Executive Director, CCF
Report date and number	31/10/2023 HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	www.cheetah.org

Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable

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.

The project partners made the following progress over the period covered by this report:

- CCF completed surveys of potential conservancy areas, analysis of survey data, and preparation of background/baseline materials for project consultants. Consultants used these materials to prepare their report and recommendations for a conservancy model (Activity 1.1.2). These activities were completed behind schedule, but the delay was not material. See Section 2 below and Annex A, B.
- CCF continued work with project consultants on development of the conservancy governance model (Activity 1.1.3). This Activity is currently behind schedule, but completion is anticipated in October/November 2023; see Section 2 below.
- CCF continued to build the Somaliland Association of Community-Based Natural Resource Management Organisations (SACSO). Formation of SACSO (Activities 1.4.1, 1.4.2) was completed in Project Year 1, on schedule; Year 2 actions to date have included drafting and signing an organizational Charter and preparing and sending a questionnaire for member organizations to solicit more detailed information about their interests and resources. See Annex C, D.
- Continued building a TWIX-compatible wildlife crime information exchange database and information exchange system (mailing list) for Somaliland (Activity 2.2.3). This Activity is currently behind schedule; see Section 2 below. See Annex E, F.

- Identified national focal points for the wildlife crime information collection and exchange platform in Somaliland (Activity 2.2.4). This Activity was completed on schedule. See Annex G.
- Organized and delivered a workshop on a TWIX-compatible wildlife crime database for Somaliland Forestry, Range, and Wildlife Crimes Task Force members (Activity 2.2.5). This Activity was completed ahead of schedule. See Annex H, I.
- Project partner TRAFFIC organised and delivered a 2-day workshop on basic TWIX skills in Addis Ababa for 25 focal persons and law enforcement staff from participating agencies (Activity 2.1.3). This Activity was completed on schedule. See Annex J.
- TRAFFIC started conducting follow up one-on-one training for TWIX focal points of law enforcement agencies in Ethiopia on the usage of the Eastern Africa-TWIX website and how to train fellow officials (Activity 2.1.4). This Activity was begun ahead of schedule;
- TRAFFIC also finished design and development of a bespoke 'Preparations to join TWIX' guide for deployment in Somaliland and potentially to other regional states (Activity 2.2.2). This activity was completed slightly behind schedule, but the delay was not material. See Annex K.
- Project partner Legal Atlas began the process of organising and conducting regular meetings of the Drafting Committee formed to prepare a text of a new Somaliland national wildlife and forestry law (Activity 4.1.5). This Activity is ahead of schedule. See Annex L.

The project is generally on schedule. Some activities have been delayed (see Section 2 below) but enough time and flexibility remain to accommodate this and make any needed adjustments to the timeline and work plan. Based on experience to date, partners judge that project Indicators remain valid. Indicators 1.4, 1.6, 3.1, and 3.2 related to work scheduled for completion in the first 18 months of implementation have been fully achieved. Assumptions remain valid in relation to work completed or in progress. Some assumptions relate to future activities and have yet to be tested. The selected Standard Indicators refer to results that will not be measurable until the end of project Years 2 or 3.

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.

In terms of the project timeline, the most significant obstacles have been bureaucratic delays at IGAD and issues with scheduling project consultants' travel to Somaliland.

The IGAD bureaucracy can be slow-moving, and recent turnover in high-level positions has brought in new officials who are not familiar with the project. CCF and Legal Atlas staff are working to arrange a visit to IGAD headquarters in November 2023, to engage directly with IGAD staff and advance project activities.

Delayed travel by project consultants had a knock-on effect on activities and deliverables connected to their work. Most of the delayed activities are now completed, however, or nearly so, e.g. Activities 1.1.2, 1.1.3, and 2.2.2. See Section 1 above.

None of these issues has risen to a level that would require submission of a change request, and none is anticipated to significantly affect the project timetable or budget.

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
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	N/A
Change request reference if known:	N/A

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: £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.

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?

List of Annexes:

- A. Community Conservancy Report
- B. CBNRM in Somaliland Final Report
- C. SACSO Charter
- D. SACSO Questionnaire
- E. Database survey
- F. Database headings translation
- G. Database connections
- H. Somaliland Wildlife Crime Database Workshop Agenda
- I. Somaliland Wildlife Crime Database Workshop Report
- J. Ethiopia Twix Workshop Agenda
- K. Draft guidelines, TWIX compatible database for Somaliland
- L. Legal drafting committee meetings