

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	IWT 115
Project title	Demand reduction for threatened freshwater turtles and tortoises in Bangladesh
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Bangladesh
Lead partner	Wildlife Conservation Society, Bangladesh
Partner(s)	
Project leader	Dr. Md. Zahangir Alom, Country Representative, WCS Bangladesh
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	July 1 - September 30, 2022, HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	None

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).

The project started on 1st July 2022 with progress on activities made during this reporting period as outlined below against each activity and the submitted implementation timetable.

Activity 1.1: Media search and data analysis to identify FTT consumption and trade hotspots and continue monitoring of seizures.

Media data on the illegal trade of FTTs (Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises) was collected throughout the reporting period with 18 live FTT individuals reported in the media as confiscated since July 1. This included individuals from three species, the Indian softshell turtle, the Indian roofed turtle and the Indian flapshell turtle. Progress on this activity has been made as planned.

Activity 1.2: FTT market surveys.

An FTT market survey protocol has been drafted and is being reviewed. This activity is slightly behind the planned schedule but is progressing and initial surveys will be completed in the next quarter.

Activity 1.3: Develop and finalise map of FTT consumption and trade hotspots and consult with key stakeholders.

Based on the media data, we have generated a map of FTT confiscations. A more detailed map showing sub-district level confiscations is being developed and will be used to inform the locations of market surveys. We have also drafted a map of the distribution of Hindu communities (a key consumer group for FTTs according to previous research) across Bangladesh. This map, along with the media map and FTT

market survey result will help to identify core FTT consumer hotspots to sample the 200 households for KAP surveys.

Activity 1.4: Develop pre and post KAP survey in consultation with the key stakeholder (e.g., Forest Department (BFD)).

Within the reporting period WCS Bangladesh staff who will be involved in the KAP surveys successfully completed an online course on Social & Behavioural Research from the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) program. We also drafted the required WCS' Institutional Review Board (IRB) application for approval prior to any survey involving human subjects. This activity is behind the planned schedule for implementation and the timeline is being adjusted to accommodate delays.

Activity 1.5: Conduct pre-KAP survey in identified FTT consumption and trade hotspots.
Activity not scheduled until Y1 Q4.

Activity 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, and 1.10: Activities not scheduled until Y2, Y3 and Y4.

Activity 2.1: Develop awareness raising key messages and materials

Activity not scheduled until Y1 Q4 and Y2. Messages will be determined by the results of the KAP survey.

Activity 2.2: Documentary film on reducing FTT consumption.

We have started drafting Terms of Reference (ToR) for the filmmaker. This ToR will be advertised once the KAP survey results are available, as they will be used for developing the film.

Activity 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7: Activities not scheduled until Y2, Y3 and Y4.

Activity 3.1: Organise two virtual meetings between India and Bangladesh

The first of these meetings is scheduled for Y1Q4 or Y2Q1 under the project implementation plan. Initial discussions have commenced with government partners in Bangladesh to arrange this meeting and WCS Bangladesh has also held initial discussions with WCS India to secure their support in reaching out to relevant government agencies in India.

Activity 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5: Activities not scheduled until Y2, Y3 and Y4.

Activity 4.1: Prepare background document and draft proposal for listing all the threatened FTT species under the Wildlife Act, 2012.

Activities not scheduled until Y1Q4.

Activity 4.2: Prepare a proposal to clarify definitions of Schedule I and II protected species in the Wildlife Act, 2012.

An initial draft of the proposal to clarify definitions of Schedule I and Schedule II protected species in the Wildlife Act, 2012 has been completed. Once finalised, the document will be submitted to the Bangladesh Forest Department for review before submission to the Ministry of Environment.

Activity 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, and 4.5: Activities not scheduled until Y1Q4 (4.2 and 4.4), Y2, Y3 and Y4 (4.3 and 4.5),

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 project submitted a change request in response to initial feedback received on notification of the grant. A revised logframe was submitted to LTS and accepted.

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: **None provided with approval.**

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 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.

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**