

## 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>	<i>IWT120</i>
<b>Project title</b>	Tradition with conservation - Certified indigenous featherwork
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Brazil
<b>Lead partner</b>	RENCTAS - Brazilian Network to Fight the Trafficking of Wild Animals
<b>Partner(s)</b>	N/A
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Dener Giovanini</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	<i>HYR1</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<i>N/A (pleased see motivation below)</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).**

“Tradition with Conservation” officially started on the 01-07-22 and this report covers the months of July 22, August 22, and September 22.

The first months of the project has been used to carry out the administrative and contractual process with NIRAS-LTS, as well as carry out the preparation stage (M1 – M2) as described in page 5 of the proposal, in particular:

1. Respond to the caveat points and respond to the safeguarding concerns and points raised by NIRAS-LTS (July 22)
2. Carry out three monthly internal meetings to plan tasks, set internal deadlines and prepare the documents for the project delivery (July, August, and September 22)
3. Creation of a monitoring form for all members of the project team. The monitoring form covers activities and milestones, objectives, financial management, and planning and risk assessment (August 22)
4. Setting up the bank account for the project, to simplify the management of the budget (August 22).
5. During the General Assembly of the *Conselho Indígena Tapajós Arapiúns* (hereinafter: CITA) that took place on the 19/07/2022, the project team – represented by the Shaman Lucinato Tupinambá - informed indigenous leaders of the approval of the project Tradition with Conservation, and the negative impacts on biodiversity in selling feather headdresses and artifacts to tourists and traffickers. We gathered more interest from the indigenous leaders than we had at the application/needs analysis stage (6 indigenous people manifested interest in participating in the course to be developed and piloted).

6. The workplan for the first year of the project has been presented to the CITA by Lucinato Tupinambá, who represented Renctas and – as a shaman – has strong relationships with the local indigenous communities and Thiago Costa, as anthropologist. The workplan has been accepted with some requested changes by the indigenous leaders (please see answer to question 2 below).
7. Purchase of the artificial feathers for the piloting course.
8. Risk analysis for the first activities of the project.

During the month of September 2022, we carried out the following activities:

1. On the 6/09/2022, the Renctas team organised an internal meeting (participants: Thiago Vargas da Costa, Raulff Lima, Dener Giovanini, Lucinato Tupinambá). The meeting focussed on the discussion of the Activities 2 (Tradition with Conservation: Setting up a community-based organisation) and 3 (Development and piloting of the featherwork course with artificial feathers). In particular, we discussed the delivery of the piloting and the logistics, as well as the importance to ensure the course will engage min. 50% women as per proposal.
2. Planning of the Activity 1 and the creation of the Output 2 of the project (Monitoring Report about Amazon birds used for feather work), specifically the report structure and information to be included: history, types of feather art and uses, origin of feathers – species and places of capture, values practiced, quantities used, national trade, international trade, and social exploitation of communities.

**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.**

During the first months of the project, we had two main unexpected developments which we are currently tackling and find possible solutions (a change request will be likely submitted by end of November 2022):

1. Maria Eulália Campos had to leave Renctas for personal issues between July and August of 2022. We had to urgently restructured the project team to ensure continuity – especially during the preparatory phase of the project – where this figure was important for supporting the monitoring and delivery of the activities of the project. At the time being, Leonardo Magnani has taken the position of project assistant to cover the work of this role, while Dalmo Araújo, accountant, will become the Evaluation Manager/Financial Controller of the project.
2. The promotion of the funded project and the “real” start of the funded activities during the general assembly of the Tapajós Arapiúns Indigenous Council - CITA, has created a lot of interest from different indigenous leaders who want to involve their communities in the project. Although this is definitely something positive and the extent of interest also unexpected (we expected 3 communities, identified and involved during the project planning to express interest), the board directors and leaders of CITA, including Ms. Auricélia Arapiun CITA's coordinator and Mr. Anderson CITA's financial director had some feedback and suggestions on the workplan of the project, which we are currently considering and – if necessary – will be submitted as a change request by the end of December 2022. We are currently discussing internally how to integrate these new requests in the project workplan without creating big budget changes (e.g. from one year to another) and assessing potential risks that these changes could lead to.

Maria leaving Renctas was unexpected, and we are currently adapting the best alternative to ensure the best continuity in the project and the support that the project assistant provides. The impact is currently limited due to the project being at its initial phase, but a change request to formalise this will be sent by end of December 22.

The involvement of more indigenous communities in the project can have a potential positive impact on the project objectives and overall achievements. Moreover, as a local organization that work on a daily basis with indigenous communities, their interest and involvement is pivotal and we believe that offering this opportunity would lead to greater biodiversity conservation and tackling of illicit trafficking. The changes that the communities' leaders are proposing to better involve their communities are around the structure of the community-based organization (A1.1) and the course delivery. We will discuss the final changes and what is feasible to request to NIRAS-LTS in the next weeks and submit a change request agreed with the community leaders by end of December at the latest.

**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:

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

Yes  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?**

Besides the unexpected developments described above, we have no other issues.

**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](mailto: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**