Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund
Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":
(https://iwt.challengefund.org.uk/resources/information-notes/).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2023

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line

- IWT Challenge Fund Project Information

Project reference	IWT120
Project title	TRADITION WITH CONSERVATION - CERTIFIED INDIGENOUS FEATHERWORK
Country/ies	Brazil
Lead Partner	RENCTAS
Project partner(s)	N/A
IWTCF grant value	£ 102,560
Start/end dates of project	07/01/2022 to 06/30/2025
Reporting period (e.g. April 2022-Mar 2023) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	July 2022 - Mar 2023 Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Dener Giovanini
Project website/blog/social media	
Report author(s) and date	Leonardo Magnani 23/04/23

Note:

- **Please ensure you have selected the correct template for your project and please remove the blue guidance notes from all sections before submission.**

- **Your report will be published on the IWT Challenge Fund website. If there is any confidential or sensitive information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.**

Report formats: This report should be sent in MS Word only (if you have concerns about layout you may submit a PDF but this is in addition to a Word version). If you have already answered a question in one section, do not repeat the information in another section, but refer back to the section number.

Not all guiding questions have to be answered - Project Leaders should exercise judgement as to those most relevant to the project.

.

1.   Project summary

In Brazil, thousands of wild birds are killed every year so that parts of their bodies can be used in the manufacture of indigenous featherwork. Our project focuses on providing an alternative income source leveraging traditional handicrafts to free communities from middlemen and illegal traders by substituting bird feathers for sustainable feathers in fabric when produced for trading. Thus, the project prioritizes young people and women, introducing a certification system to valorize indigenous featherwork made sustainably and animal-free.

2.   Project stakeholders/ partners

During the first year of the project, the main stakeholders/partners involved in the activities, have been indigenous communities in the Tapajos region. In particular, as part of the project, we have involved the General Assembly of the Indigenous people of the Tapajos River (in Portuguese: Conselho Indígena Tapajós Arapiúns, hereinafter: CITA). CITA has allowed us to engage with different ethnic groups of the lower Tapajos river (*Tapajó, Tupaiu, Tapuia, Munduruku, Munduruku-Cara Preta, Maytapu, Tupinambá, Arapium, Arara Vermelha, Jaraqui, Apiaká, Kumaruara e Borari*) to deliver the workshops. This has been a great achievement in terms of project dissemination, as we had foreseen to reach only three (3) ethnic groups in the application form.

Currently, the activities are focussed on the local level, but in the next phases of the project, we will start the promotion of certified featherworks at national and international level, for which the engagement of national and international stakeholders will become pivotal. The evidence that support this is the signing of the cooperation agreement with CITA (found in folder 04/2023).

3.   Project progress

3.1   Progress in carrying out project Activities

The first year of the project has been focussed on achieving the Output 1 of the project, therefore the majority of activities described below are focussed on O1. We have also step forward in achieving the other outputs, which are scheduled to be achieved later in the project lifecycle, but only small progress can be quantified so far.

OUTPUT 1.   A new Committee is set up to train focused individuals – particularly women and young people – in featherwork using artificial feathers and biodiversity education activities, as well as to oversee business operations.

July 2022:

The first month of the project has been used to set up the project, the contractual procedure with NIRAS and review the activities, taking into consideration changes since the submission.

August 2022

During the month of August, Dener, Raulff, and Thiago focused on project planning, defining the project monitoring method, and conducting preliminary team meetings.

September 2022

In September, Dener researched materials for feather substitutes, consulted suppliers, and finalized the selection of a supplier. Raulff worked on the preliminary planning of monitoring activities and created study/report outlines. Thiago made initial contact with local leaders to schedule the first meetings and subsequent focus groups.

On the 6th of September 22, the RENCTAS team met with *Pajé* (Shaman) Lucinato Tupinambá in Alter do Chão village. Lucinato discussed the general impact of selling artificial feather headdresses to raise awareness about the non-use and exploitation of real feathers. The proposal received support from organization leaders, including President Auricélia Arapiúns and Maria and Cristian.

During the meeting, they discussed the possibility of conducting a pilot workshop led by Lucinato to teach different headdress tying techniques. Lucinato mentioned several indigenous individuals who expressed interest in participating in the workshops.

The importance of headdresses in empowering indigenous communities was highlighted, and points such as gender roles in headdress making and the potential involvement of women were discussed. Thiago, as an anthropologist, was assigned the task of conducting field activities related to environmental education and awareness among young people in local schools.

Pilot Discussion:

They agreed that the workshops should last two days each to maximize participant engagement. Lucinato suggested having a fixed number of 20 participants from the beginning, who would be trained in all workshops to ensure better learning and engagement with the project.

They examined and approved the artificial feathers' quality, patterns, and colors, and discussed the techniques for bending and tying the materials to make the headdresses. The need to order small headdress feathers (penungens) was also identified.

October:

In October, Dener, Raulff, and Thiago conducted the first focus group meetings with the CITA. Details about the new project schedule were discussed, including changes in organization structure and reasons behind those changes.

November:

Dener focused on field studies of the sale of animal byproducts in Santarém and project management. Raulff gathered monitoring data in the Amazon and studied the sale of headdresses from the Tupinambá ethnic community in Parauá to tourists in Alter do Chão. Thiago participated in both field activities.

They visited markets in Santarém and discovered the illegal trade of animal byproducts, including charms made from animal parts. They also attended a film festival in Alter do Chão, where they observed the sale of headdresses made by the Parauá community.

December:

In December, they conducted focus groups in the Curucuruí and Solimões communities, receiving positive feedback and support for the project. The Solimões community suggested planting specific fruit trees to attract macaws and parrots, which will be evaluated by the project team.

January:

They conducted a focus group with the AIBAC (Borari Indigenous Association of Alter do Chão) who expressed full support for the project and expressed interest in participating in the workshops. Details for the pilot course on making artificial feather headdresses were finalized.

February:

The pilot course on making artificial feather headdresses was conducted, with over 90% of the participants being women. Approximately 33% of the participants expressed a commitment to actively engage in the project and saw it as a real opportunity for income generation.

Some participants voluntarily answered questions to gather more information about their profiles and perspectives on the project's importance, potential benefits, and cultural preservation.

OUTPUT 2. Two monitoring reports regarding Amazonian birds used for featherwork are published and increase knowledge on a regional, national and international scale.

The publication of the first report is scheduled for Year 2/Quarter 3 (end of 2023) and is planned to focus on a broader scope as during monitoring activities it was identified that there is a huge gape in information on illegal wildlife trade in the entire Brazilian Amazon region. We believe that first analysing the state of the art of IWT will further increase our ability to understand specifically Amazon birds IWT in the second report so they can be complimentary, as described in the application form. The progress of monitoring can be found through the different stages of data analysis (found in excel files in folder 11/2022, 02/2023 and 04/2023).

OUTPUT 3. A certification system of featherwork products made by artificial feathers is developed and introduced on an international level to protect bird species and an online marketplace allows the purchase the featherworks.

The identification of the criteria for the development of the certification system is scheduled to start in Year 2/ Quarter 2 (July 2023), however, the delivery of the course has allowed us already to gather key information for the creation of the certification system, such as how long does it take to create a featherwork, costs, and type of artificial feathers needed.

3.2   Progress towards project Outputs

1.   A new Committee is set up to train focused individuals – particularly women and young people – in featherwork using artificial feathers and biodiversity education activities, as well as to oversee business operations.

The committee is established and we have an ongoing relationship, certified by a memorandum of understanding, with the indigenous communities regional leadership. The piloting initial course have already taken place and the vast majority of participants were women and were very engaged with the project and its objectives. Please refer to pictures and signature lists as reference (specifically found in folder 02/2023). The biodiversity education course has yet to start. Therefore, this output is not yet achieved but it is likely to be achieved by the end of 2023.

The indicators, from the logical framework, are as follow:

1.1 By M27 of the project, the Committee is established
Comment: the Committee is established, as demonstrated by the Memorandum of understanding.

1.2 By the end of the delivery of the course (M32), 70 adults (50% women aged around 30 or less) are
    fully trained to handcraft featherwork artifacts using artificial feathers.
Comment: not all the courses have been delivered, but the % of participating women in the pilot and therefore first course is well above 50%, they composed 90% of all participants, they were 28 out of 32 participants.

1.3 By the end of M31, 100 individuals from the three communities fully participate in the biodiversity education course
Comment: as described above, the biodiversity education courses have yet to start, so this indicator is not yet quantifiable.

2. Two monitoring reports regarding Amazonian birds used for featherwork are published and increase knowledge on a regional, national and international scale.

We have started analysing the current situation in the Amazon and gathering primary and secondary data and the first report is scheduled to be ready by the end of 2023, as per application form. The output is not yet achieved but we believe substantial progress was made and will probably be made available in Q3 of this second year (Oct - Dec 2023) as scheduled.

The indicators, from the logical framework, are as follow:

2.1 The reports are downloaded around 250 times (100 by the end of 2023, 200 by end of 2024, 250 by June 2025)
Comment: the reports have not been created yet. Not applicable.

2.2 The reports are cited 8 times in scientific papers or used for research purposes (e.g. conferences) by the end of the project (June 2025).
Comment: the reports have not been created yet. Not applicable.

2.3 Dissemination events for the report reach min. 50 people by the end of the project (June 2025).
Comment: the reports have not been created yet. Not applicable.

3. A certification system of featherwork products made by artificial feathers is developed and introduced on an international level to protect bird species and an online marketplace allows to purchase the featherworks.

No relevant progress has been made toward this output, as the work is scheduled to start in Y2.

The indicators, from the logical framework, are as follow:

3.1 By M33 (March 2025) The certification system is agreed and signed by 12 organisations in 12 countries where demand for feather work pieces is high.
Comment: this indicator is not yet applicable.

3.2 By M18 (Dec. 2023), the online marketplace is accessible online.
Comment: this indicator is not yet applicable, however we will start working on it in the next months, so it is on schedule to be achieved.

3.3   Progress towards the project Outcome

Please report on progress made towards the project Outcome. You should make specific reference to the Outcome indicators including baseline condition and progress to date, and provide evidence against them. Consider the following:

- Are the indicators adequate for measuring the intended Outcome?

- Is the project likely to achieve the Outcome by end of funding? If not, what action will you take to ensure the situation can be improved?

The project outcome is to "Generate an alternative and legal income source for indigenous communities leveraging on their traditions to tackle the poaching of bird species for featherwork, while decreasing the demand of illegal artefacts". To assess the project outcome, during the planning phase we have identified these three indicators:
0.1 By the end of the project, increase the household income by min. 20% in relation to 2022; and decrease the number of households involved in legal income generation by min. 30%.
Comments: We have created an ad-hoc questionnaire that has been submitted to at least 30% of the participants and will be submitted by other participants in the next few months (Q1 / Y2).

0.2 Decrease of poaching reports of birds commonly killed for feather work by 30% in the area of the project, in comparison with 2022.

Comment: this indicator will be evaluated through the reports and we are currently gathering the data to build the first report, to be published by the end of 2023. We figured out there is no previous organized data to allow us to measure based on past evidence but as we progressing with the monitoring our

understanding is that we will be able to monitor the progress and impact by means of other results that are appearing, this will only be clear after the first report is concluded later on this year.

0.3 N° of certified featherwork pieces sold by the end of the project.
Comment: The development of the online marketplace has yet to start. Therefore it is not possible to measure this indicator.

Overall, during the first year of the project (July 22 - Mar 23) we have focussed our efforts in analysing the baseline and gathering data to assess the indicators, but most of the work has been focussed on engaging stakeholders, creating the course and piloting it. We are still far from reaching the project outcome, but essential steps have been taken towards it.

3.4   Monitoring of assumptions

A1: No other poverty alleviation projects are implemented in the communities.

Comment: To our knowledge, no other projects have been started in the Lower Tapajos region communities where we are working since July 2022. The assumption is still valid.

A2: No covid-19 waves force local lockdowns.

Comment: The covid-19 cases in the Pará region are relatively low (around 4 or 5 deaths per week) and no covid-19 waves have been registered since July 2022. Due to this reduction and the statement of the WHO that the Covid-19 pandemic is no longer a global emergency, we believe and hope this assumption is no longer relevant. This will be monitored until the end of 2023.

A3: Individuals apply the techniques they learn

Comment: The participants have started the courses but in the next phase of the project, they will produce more featherwork - also independently, e.g. without the shaman mentoring them. This assumption will be evaluated by the end of 2023.

A4: Forest conditions allow field research

Comment: this assumption has been valid and it still applies to the project. Due to the need to organise field research in the next phases of the project, this assumption is continuously monitored.

A5: There is enough demand for certified featherwork.

Comment: The work for the creation of the online market has yet to start, so it is not possible to evaluate the validity of this assumption.

A6: No delays for the incorporation of the organization due to bureaucratic procedures.

Comment: this assumption is no longer valid due to the change request submitted in Nov. 22 for changing the creation of the organisation with the indigenous committee, which is established.

A7: High interest and awareness in the community in enrolling to the train offered.

Comment: This assumption has proven valid and we received a lot of interest for the course. We are currently evaluating how to replicate the courses to allow all the interested people to benefit from them.

A8: Participants are motivated throughout the course and there are no dropouts.

Comment: We structured the course to be shorter than we had initially thought, to reduce the risk of dropouts or that people get involved in other activities. So far, we had no dropouts, but the assumption is still valid.

A9: Articles in national and international journals are accepted and published on time.
Comment: not applicable at this stage of the project.

A10: Researchers are interested in the project's topics and want to further expand the corpus of knowledge regarding it.
Comment: not applicable at this stage of the project.

A11: National organisations interest in promoting featherwork.
Comment: not applicable at this stage of the project.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on illegal wildlife trade and poverty reduction

From our application form, the impacts are as follow:
 The SHORT TERM impact on these communities (Alter do Chão, Suruacá, Muruari) are:
- Two comparative reports provide a robust corpus of knowledge regarding illicit trafficking of Amazon bird feathers and its effects are introduced.
COMMENTS: Data is being gathered and analysed for the publication of the first report.
- 70 individuals (50% women and girls) are capacitated to create featherworks and handicrafts using artificial, sustainable feathers
COMMENTS: We have currently reached 32 people during the piloting, and we are currently organising new courses to reach the target, which is on track. 90% of the participants were female.
- 100 individuals (50% women and girls), of min. 60 under the age of 30 y.o. have stronger biodiversity knowledge.
COMMENTS: Although the biodiversity course has yet to start, during the focus groups and the piloting activities we delivered biodiversity education sessions, particularly focussing on why it is important to tackle wildlife trafficking. The numbers, as above, are 32 people, of which 90% women.
- A certification system is introduced and recognised on different tiers, allowing to identify illegal featherwork and handicrafts. Each community has its own stamp valorising ethnic values and the traditional crafting system.
COMMENTS: The creation of the certification system has yet to start.
- A new online platform is introduced to market the certified products of the indigenous ethnic groups participating in the project
COMMENTS: The online platform has yet to be created.
- The number of poaching incidents and reports of Amazon birds is reduced by 60% in the area targeted by the project in comparison to 2020/2021.
COMMENTS: We are currently examining the incidents in the area (please see preliminary analysis in the folder 02/23). So far we identified there are too few recorded info on wildlife violations and birds seizure in our region, but this scientifcally doesn't mean it is because there is a short volume of violations, instead it can be due to the wide known fact that there are too few environmental inspection agents to the vastness of the entire Amazon region. Besides, the amount of agents have dropped by more than 50% in the past years.

The LONG TERM impacts on communities are:
- Three local communities have an alternative income generation opportunity more profitable and safer than illegal poaching and illicit activities.
COMMENTS: This indicator will be achieved - at the earliest - after Y2. However, many people participating in the piloting agree that artificial featherwork making is really interesting as an income generation opportunity.
- Local, regional, and international stakeholders are more aware of the trafficking of bird feathers and have more tools and knowledge to identify illegal products.
COMMENTS: The community dwellers that engaged in our piloting weren't really aware of how impacting and damaging IWT is. They had the chance to learn deeper about it as we presented environmental

education lectures before starting and during the piloting. Regional and international stakeholders, in the other hand shall become aware of more deeper knowledge on Amazon IWT as we publish our reports.
- Households can generate more income and do not need to depend on trafficking and poaching income.
COMMENTS: This indicator will be achieved - at the earliest - after Y2. However, many people participating in the piloting agree that artificial featherwork making is really interesting as an income generation opportunity.
- Intergenerational transfer of traditional handcrafting and featherwork takes into account the sustainable use of wildlife products.
COMMENTS: The delivery of the piloting and first course has demonstrated that many young people were interested in learning about traditional handicraft. 5 women aged 18 or less engaged in the course.

4. Thematic focus

The project contributes to reducing the demand of IWT products by swapping real feathers in traditional featherworks with artificial, fabric-made ones. Through different approaches, including capacity building and creation of a certification system, the project aims at reducing the demand and the provision of featherwork using real feathers for the public. The project tackles the trade of featherwork products while providing alternatives to indigenous people, carrying out biodiversity education, and certifying the products so that the demand is shifted to non-animal alternatives and indigenous people are fairly paid for their work.

During the first year of the project we have implemented the piloting of the course with different ethnicities in the Lower Tapajos river region, and we have delivered a course. This will be replicated and there is potential to scale up this approach on a wider geographical level (but also in terms of products, as traditional artefacts made of animal parts are also putting in danger reptiles and mammals).

The project also directly contributes to developing sustainable livelihoods to benefit people directly affected by IWT for it targets the more vulnerable such as women and young people to provide them with an alternative source of income to reduce poverty and develop a sustainable economic activity benefiting their households.

Regading notable achievements, we had fruitful discussions about methodologies and we acquired access to an extensive database of wildlife seizures in the entire Brazilian territory made by our national inspection agency IBAMA. We are using this detailed database to develop a report on Brazilian Amazon region for this project but we believe its fundamental that we extend this methodology to create a report on Brazil as a whole. We intend to do so in a future project as the efforts entailed are huge.

5. Impact on species in focus

Please describe the impact your project is having on the species in focus. Please support all comments with evidence and use indicators from your logframe.

The project focus on protecting mainly four species: the harpy (Harpia harpyja), the hyacinth macaw (Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus), the golden parakeet (Guaruba guarouba), and the bald parrot (Pyrilia aurantiocephala). These species are substantially used for manufacturing featherwork in Lower Tapajós and this project is the only local and regional initiative that addresses this issue with the local communities, providing them in one hand with awareness and with a sustainable alternative in the other.

While developing the monitoring, we figured out that are no population studies for these species specifically for our region and much worse, we figured out that is not even appropriate seizures reports that could enable us to monitor progress according to the development of projects activities. We figured out this gap in knowledge is not only a local, but a regional issue. Therefore our progress to monitor it derives from our ability to have acquired access to the Brazilian environment inspection agency database and to accessing all their wildlife seizures data to start the first study on the subject in this region, which we believe shall in the future allow to future comparisons and insights on the IWT as whole.

The evidence for our data analysis for build such report is attached on 3 excel sheets (found in excel files in folder 11/2022, 02/2023 and 04/2023).

But the results of the preliminary data we analysed can be seen on the excel sheet (folder 04/2023).

6.   Project support to poverty reduction

The expected beneficiaries of the project that we have been engaging in are low-income indigenous people living in the Lower Tapajos River region. These communities struggle to generate income and wildlife poaching and trafficking is one of their channels to generate income. The project, so far, has demonstrated to be very interesting for indigenous individuals - particularly women - to learn about the art of featherwork while using artificial feathers. At the same time, we are in close contact with the CITA (General Assembly of the Indigenous people of the Tapajos River) to ensure that their work is recognised and we can put a fair price to the featherworks created. We are currently waiting for the delivery of a new course and have a higher number of featherwork to start the sales, which will start before the end of 2024. This means that communities will see an increase of income already within the end of the next year, as soon as we are able to put the featherworks on the market.

The project - even though implemented in an upper middle Income country - is targeting households with very low income and is advancing the knowledge on income generation for poorer communities. We must note that this approach has the potential to be scaled up to other countries - particularly least developed - to promote income generation through traditional knowledge and artisanship. The engagement of communities in poaching and for the creation of artefacts to be sold on an international level is a problem that does not only affect Brazil and bird species, but it is global. We carried out an analysis on TRAFFIC reports and we have highlighted the following:

- In the Democratic Republic of Congo and in other countries of Central Africa artisan groups are involved in the carving of ivory. These ivory workshops produce traditional items and sculptures, such as human bust, bracelets, and carved tusks.

- In Myanmar, elephant products are sold as luxury goods and it is extremely important to notice that this does not only cover ivory, but also bones, pieces of skin, and tail hair. The researchers recorded 7882 pieces of worked ivory, 51 items of non-ivory (skin or bones) and 789 tail hair rings in 7 markets in Myanmar. These products are mainly sold to foreigners, especially tourists.

We have provided two examples (one from Africa and one from Asia) of how artefacts made of animal parts are produced in low income countries and sold to the international markets.

However, the 2021 Report Identification of Commonly Traded Wildlife in Southeast Asia provides several other examples of mammals, birds and reptiles from low income countries (such as Mozambique and Tanzania) transformed and sold as artefacts (besides other products).

Although the process and mechanisms vary from country to country, the bone structure of our Tradition with Conservation project has the potential to be replicated in other countries by valorising local knowledge and the skills of artisans and crafters to create alternatives and certified options for income generation using local and sustainable non-animal raw materials.

7.   Gender equality and social inclusion

All projects are required to promote equality between persons of different gender and social backgrounds. Describe how your project has proactively contributed to ensuring individuals achieve equitable outcomes and how you have engaged participants in a meaningful way. Please provide evidence.

Please quantify the proportion of women on the Project Board[1].	20% (1 out of 5)
Please quantify the proportion of project partners that are led by women, or which have a senior leadership team consisting of at least 50% women[2].	50%

The project aimed at reaching at least 50% women and girls to promote their economic independence in indigenous communities. To achieve this, we promoted the course to the communities and we actively tried to reach women to gather their interest. The evidence of womens high participation can be seen in the piloting pictures and attendance list (mainly on pictures and videos on folder 02/2023).

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The monitoring of the project has been carried out through:

1. Online monitoring form. We created an online monitoring form based on the project outcomes and outputs that needed to be completed every month. The form evaluated the work toward the outputs and project milestones and goals. You can find the form and the answers in the evidence folder.
2. Monthly meetings. We organised monthly meetings - sometimes internal, other times involving the relevant stakeholders, to discuss the project and the milestones to be achieved.
3. Milestones. We identified milestones throughout the project that needed to be achieved. For the first year:
   MS1: Business plan ready - This milestone has been changed due to the creation of the Committee instead of the business. However, through the focus groups that took place between September 22 and January 23, we have developed and shared the income generation strategy. A draft of the business plan is on development.
   MS2: The organisation is ready to start its work in compliance with legal and financial requirements. This milestone has been changed with the Change form request submitted in Nov. 2022. The committee instead, has been established with the memorandum and it is working on the activities.
   MS3: The course is completed and ready to be piloted. The course has been completed and piloted already.

9. Lessons learnt

On a managerial level, it has been challenging setting up the monitoring procedures for this project as it was the first time working with the UK IWT Challenge Fund. We monitored the project on a monthly basis, assessing the work that each month the staff was carrying out, but this did not allow us to have a comprehensive view of the activities and how they will achieve

---

[1] A Project Board has overall authority for the project, is accountable for its success or failure, and supports the senior project manager to successfully deliver the project.

[2] Partners that have formal governance role in the project, and a formal relationship with the project that may involve staff costs and/or budget management responsibilities.

the output. For this reason, it has been decided to shift the monitoring strategy from Y2 on the activities, to also simplify the reporting and measurement of the indicators.

On a project delivery level, the creation of a committee instead of a business (as it was described in the application form and successively change with the change request of Nov. 22) has been an important lesson, as during application stage the engagement of some communities highlighted the need for a business-like structure, but the successive engagement of different ethnicities required a more comprehensive approach to ensure all their voices are heard. Moreover, this has allowed us to reduce the time to establish the business with the creation of the committee - which had lower administrative requirements and was easier to set up.

10.   Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

Not applicable.

11.   Risk Management

- Have any new risks arisen in the last 12 months that were not previously accounted for?

- Has the project made any significant adaptations to the project design to address changes to risk?

- If you have an existing risk register, please submit an updated version of your risk register with your Annual Report. Please note this is a new requirement of projects within the last year and existing projects are encouraged to develop a risk register for their project if they don't already have one. The template can be found on the IWT Challenge Fund website.

In the past 12 months, no major issues have occurred that we did not account for. We have monitored the risks on a monthly basis - through the online form. To be noted that the risk "Administrative and community barriers in setting up the community-based organisation" is no longer applicable and was bypassed by the creation of the committee that performs the sale role and the indigenous communities have been forthcoming to establish.

Monthly monitoring has been useful to manage staff workload as well, as one of the risk we identified was the risk of possible work-life imbalance of the project staff. The fact that one of our employees - Maria - had to leave Renctas last year, has put pressure on other members of the team, but this has been managed constantly.

12.   Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

Please use this section to provide any further comments on progress that have not been covered elsewhere in this report. Issues that might be covered in this section include:

- Has the design of the project been enhanced over the last year, e.g. refining methods, or exit strategy?

- Discuss any significant difficulties encountered during the year and steps taken to overcome these if not already discussed elsewhere.

13. Sustainability and legacy

The project's team has had particular care for social promotion and inclusion. We promoted the project among the main local organizations and leadership of each community that was planned to be reached, this took place first during informal meetings and afterwards during different focal groups that were held. All community leaders with no exception committed themselves to sharing the project's info and extend the invitation to join the project we made to them to all their community members. This was clearly successfull as the engagement in the piloting was planned to be of 10 participants but it reached 32 participants. It is also important to emphasize that we prioritize women as the project's target audience due to their general lack of financial resources in the region. We expected 50% of participants would be women but we were able to reach 90% of women (all evidences of high women participation on piloting can be accessed on folder 02/2023).

The premisses of the project are still held true and are still valid, so far not only we have had a high acceptance rate with the idea but not only that, everything is being proved right, such as the feasibility of producing artificial featherwork and the locals' evident interest and due engagement. Our longterm partnership just recently established with CITA (the regional indegenous leadership council) will ensure the sustained legacy of the project proposed activities and the manufacturing of artificial featherwork in the years to come.

14. IWT Challenge Fund identity

The project team and the indigenous leaders established as a communication strategy for the project the implementation of a broad dissemination and publicity action. For this, the leaders understood that it would be better to carry out the communication actions alongside a awareness campaign regarding the purchase and selling of indigenous artifacts, which should occur by the month of Augus onwardst. This strategy aims to create a great impact with the publicizing of the project, mobilizing the media and publicizing the sale of the products produced, as well as the UK Challenge Fund donation for the project. In addition to the launch of the website, a campaign will be conducted on social networks in order to publicize the project and make society aware not to buy indigenous artifacts produced with animals hunted in the wild. The IWT Challenge Fund will be mentioned both on the project's platform that will be developed next year and in the social networks.

15. Safeguarding

Biodiversity Challenge Funds are committed to supporting projects develop and strengthen their safeguarding capabilities and capacity to prevent, listen, respond and learn. Defra will not automatically penalise projects where safeguarding concerns are identified, but will help projects respond and learn from the experience.

Has your Safeguarding Policy been updated in the past 12 months?	Yes
Have any concerns been investigated in the past 12 months	No

Does your project have a Safeguarding focal point?	Yes Dener Giovanini ██████████
Has the focal point attended any formal training in the last 12 months?	Yes

What proportion (and number) of project staff have received formal training on Safeguarding?	Past: 50% (2) Planned: 50% (2)

Has there been any lessons learnt or challenges on Safeguarding in the past 12 months? Please ensure no sensitive data is included within responses.

Although no specific challenges regarding safety and safeguarding have arisen, we recognized their unique cultural context and the need for appropriate approaches to safeguarding. ndigenous communities often have distinct cultural practices, norms, and values that shape their understanding of well-being, community dynamics, and child-rearing practices. This requires a participatory approach that respects indigenous knowledge, traditions, and decision-making processes. This was put in place as we extended the management of the created committee to the most important regional indigenous representatitve organization called CITA.

Does the project have any developments or activities planned around Safeguarding in the coming 12 months? If so please specify.
In the next 12 months we will carry out the biodiversity education course, which will involve minors. Before the start of the course, all involved staff will have to complete a safety and safeguarding course for child protection.

16. Project expenditure

Please expand and complete Table 1. If all receipts have not yet been received, please provide indicative figures and clearly mark them as Draft. The Actual claim form will be taken as the final accounting for funds.

- **Table 1: Project expenditure <u>during the reporting period</u> (April 2022-March 2023)**

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2022/23 Grant (£)	2022/23 Total actual IWT Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL	£29,730	£29,730		

Highlight any agreed changes to the budget and **<u>fully</u>** explain any variation in expenditure where this is +/- 10% of the budget. Have these changes been discussed with and approved by IWT Challenge Fund?

Table 2: Project mobilising of matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023)

	Matched funding secured to date	Total matched funding expected by end of project
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project.		
Total additional finance mobilised by new activities building on evidence, best practices and project (£)		

17.   OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds Secretariat to publish the content of this section (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

In this section you have the chance to let us know about outstanding achievements of your project or significant strides towards attaining a particular goal so far that you consider worth sharing with the wider Biodiversity Challenge Fund community. This could relate to achievements or considerable progress already mentioned in this report, on which you would like to expand further, or achievements that were in addition to the ones planned and deserve particular attention. It may also include advancements towards any IWT Challenge Fund Programme Objectives such as support to conventions, agreements or treaties, poverty reduction or gender equality. We may use material from this section for various promotion and dissemination purposes, including for example, publication in the Defra Annual Report, IWT Challenge Fund promotion material, or on the IWT Challenge Fund website. **Please limit text to 400 words.**

Please also include an engaging image, video or graphic* that you consent to be publicised alongside the above text. Please ensure:

- that you have left the above agreement clause to indicate your consent. Text without this will not be used

- any images or videos are sent as separate files and not embedded in the body of the report

*If you have no photos or videos for reasons of sensitivity, then please state that clearly and the Defra Comms team can work to create an alternative graphic.

Image, Video or Graphic Information:

File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)	File Name or File Location	Caption, country and credit	Online accounts to be tagged (leave blank if none)	Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
Impact Improve the sustainable livelihood opportunities of indigenous communities while protecting bird species in the Amazon forest.		We have piloted the course to use traditional artisanship as a means to generate income without killing Amazon bird species to create featherworks. The course was very well received by the indigenous communities.	
Outcome Generate an alternative and legal income source for indigenous communities leveraging on their traditions to tackle the poaching of bird species for featherwork, while decreasing the demand of illegal artifacts.	0.1 By the end of the project, increase the household income by min. 20% in relation to 2022; and decrease the number of households involved in legal income generation by min. 30%. 0.2 Decrease of poaching reports of birds commonly killed for feather work by 30% in the area of the project, in comparison with 2022. 0.3 N° of certified featherwork pieces sold by the end of the project.	0.1 We are currently starting the courses and delivering questionnaires to evaluate the baseline for the income generation. 0.2 We are currently evaluating the number of incidents of poaching for featherwork in 2022. So far we identified there are too few officially recorded info on wildlife violations and birds seizure in our region, we believe thats due to few environmental inspection agents available to the vastness of the entire Amazon region. Besides, the amount of agents have dropped by more than 50% in the past years. 0.3 We still have to start the sales of featherwork.	- Deliver the courses and start selling the featherwork, which will allow households to start seeing alternative income using non-animal products. - Develop the first report by the end of 2023. - Create enough featherwork products to start the certification and the sales online.
Output 1.	1.1 By M27 of the project, the Committee is established	1.1 The Committee has been established and it is operational.	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
A new Committee is set up to train focused individuals and – particularly women and young people – in featherwork using artificial feathers and biodiversity education activities, as well as to overseeing business operations.	1.2 By the end of the delivery of the course (M32), 70 adults (50% women/25 aged 30 or less) are fully trained to handcraft featherwork artifacts using artificial feathers. 1.3 By the end of M31, 100 individuals from the three communities fully participate in the biodiversity education course	1.2 We have currently delivered the course to 32 participants and we are planning the new courses. 1.3 We still have to start biodiversity education activities.	
1.1 Tradition with Conservation: Creation of the Committee of the Tapajos river		Complete	
1.1.1 Development and delivery of focus groups with relevant stakeholders and communities for the creation of a business plan		Complete. All focus groups with different ethnicities have been completed.	
1.1.2 Creation of the Committee		Complete. Memorandum signed.	
1.1.3 Setting up agreement with providers (e.g. artificial feather makers) and creation of website and marketing channel		In progress.	The creation of the website and marketing channels will be created as part of A3.3. This will happen within the end of 2023.
1.2 Development and piloting of the featherwork course with artificial feathers		Complete	
1.2.1 Course development with traditional feather work makers		Complete	
1.2.2 Purchase of the materials and definition of the course logistic		Complete	
1.2.3 Course promotion and registration of 40 people (50% adults, 50% young people, 50% gender ratio) (piloting)		Complete	
1.2.4 Piloting of the course		Complete	

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
1.2.5 Course feedback and improvement		Complete	
1.3 Course delivery in the local communities and featherwork creation		In progress. The first course has started and we are currently planning on delivering the other courses.	
1.3.1 Promotion and registration of participants in the course		In progress. Please read above.	
1.3.2 Delivery of the course and featherwork creation using artificial feathers		In progress. Please read above.	
1.4 Biodiversity education activities with children in the communities		Not yet started.	Scheduled to be delivered in Y2.
Output 2. Two monitoring reports regarding Amazonian birds used for featherwork are published and increase knowledge on a regional, national and international scale.	2.1 The reports are downloaded around 250 times (100 by the end of 2023, 200 by end of 2024, 250 by June 2025) 2.2 The reports are cited 8 times in scientific papers or used for research purposes (e.g. conferences) by the end of the project (June 2025). 2.3 Dissemination events for the report reach min. 50 people by the end of the project (June 2025).	2.1 The report has not yet been created. Not applicable 2.2 The report has not yet been created. Not applicable 2.3 The report has not yet been created. Not applicable	
2.1 Monitoring of the species used for featherwork		Started.	The work is in progress and we will have the report (output 2) by the end of the year. The analysis of species used for featherwork is in progress.
2.2 Evidence gathering and data analysis		Started.	The work is in progress and we will have the report (output 2) by the end of the year. The analysis of poaching reports in the Amazon is in progress

Project summary	SMART Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2022 - March 2023	Actions required/planned for next period
			and we will continue to deliver it in the next months.
2.3 Reports writing and translation in ENG/PT		Not yet started.	
Output 3. A certification system of featherwork products made by artificial feathers is developed and introduced on an international level to protect bird species and an online marketplace allows to purchase the featherworks	3.1 By M33 (March 2025) The certification system is agreed and signed by 12 organisations in 12 countries where demand for feather work pieces is high 3.2 By M18 (Dec. 2023), the online marketplace is accessible online.	3.1 The certification system has not yet been agreed, although communities are aware as it was discussed during the focus groups. However, we still have no update on this indicator. 3.2 We are starting the creation of the market place in the next month, so it will be achieved as scheduled.	
3.1 Identification of criteria and standards to certify the featherwork products made my indigenous people using artificial feathers		Started during the piloting.	As we will start to develop the certification system in Y2, we will put together the data gathered in the piloting and discuss the certification process in the next months.
3.2 Chain of custody analysis and creation of a certification process		Not yet started.	Planned for Y2/Y3. We are delivered the courses to have enough featherwork products to sell before commencing this activity.
3.3 Creation of an online marketplace where certified products can be legally purchased		Not yet started.	Planned for Y2/Y3. As above.
3.4 Promotion to the certified products to organisation in countries where demand is high		Not yet started.	Planned for Y2/Y3. As above.

- **Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)**

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
Impact: Improve the sustainable livelihood opportunities of indigenous communities while protecting bird species in the Amazon forest. (Max 30 words)			
Outcome: (Max 30 words) Generate an alternative and legal income source for indigenous communities leveraging on their traditions to tackle the poaching of bird species for featherwork, while decreasing the demand of illegal artifacts.	0.1 By the end of the project, increase the household income by min. 20% in relation to 2022; and decrease the number of households involved in legal income generation by min. 30%. 0.2 Decrease of poaching reports of birds commonly killed for feather work by 30% in the area of the project, in comparison with 2022. 0.3 N° of certified featherwork pieces sold by the end of the project.	0.1 Household Income Questionnaire will be delivered with local communities before (M1), mid term (M21) and at the end of the project (M34). 0.2 Two monitoring reports published during the project implementation. The monitoring reports will looks at the number of citizens reports of illegal activities regarding the species covered by the project. 0.3 Invoices of paid featherworks and number of certificates of authenticity issued. 0.4 Online marketplace developed by the project	A1: No other poverty alleviation projects are implemented in the communities. A2: No covid-19 waves force local lockdowns. A3: Individuals apply the techniques they learn A4: Forest conditions allow field research A5: There is enough demand for certified featherwork.
Outputs: **1.** A new Committee is set up to train focused individuals and – particularly women and young people – in featherwork using artificial feathers and biodiversity education activities, as well as to overseeing business operations.	1.2 By M27 of the project, the Committee is established 1.3 By the end of the delivery of the course (M32), 70 adults (50% women/25 aged 30 or less) are fully	1.1 Memorandum of the committee, rules and minutes of the meetings 1.2 Participant list with name, date, location and activities. Final assessment and validation tools (e.g. certificates)	A6: No delays for the incorporation of the organization due to bureaucratic procedures. A7: High interest and awareness in the community in enrolling to the train offered.

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
	trained to handcraft featherwork artifacts using artificial feathers. 1.3 By the end of M31, 100 individuals from the three communities fully participate in the biodiversity education course	1.3 Participant list with name, date, location and activities. Final assessment and validation tools (e.g. certificates)	A8: Participants are motivated throughout the course and there are no dropouts.
2. Two monitoring reports regarding Amazonian birds used for featherwork are published and increase knowledge on a regional, national and international scale.	2.1 The reports are downloaded around 250 times (100 by the end of 2023, 200 by end of 2024, 250 by June 2025) 2.2 The reports are cited 8 times in scientific papers or used for research purposes (e.g. conferences) by the end of the project (June 2025). 2.3 Dissemination events for the report reach min. 50 people by the end of the project (June 2025).	2.1 Google Analytics 2.2 Online citations and minutes from conferences 2.3 Participant list of the events	A9: Articles in national and international journals are accepted and published on time. A10: Researchers are interested in the project's topics and want to further expand the corpus of knowledge regarding it.
3. A certification system of featherwork products made by artificial feathers is developed and introduced on an international level to protect bird species and an online marketplace allows to purchase the featherworks	3.1 By M33 (March 2025) The certification system is agreed and signed by 12 organisations in 12 countries where demand for feather work pieces is high	3.3 Mapping of feather work demand on an international level 3.4 Certification agreements	A11: National organisations interest in promoting featherwork.

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
	3.2 By M18 (Dec. 2023), the online marketplace is accessible online.		

- Annex 3 Standard Indicators

The Biodiversity Challenge Funds (BCFs) use high quality and accessible Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) to enable scaling, replication and increase the impact of the funds and the projects we support.

By asking project teams to align indicators with the IWT Challenge Fund Standard Indicators, we aim to increase our contribution to the global evidence base for activities that support biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction and capability & capacity.

The tables below are provided to assist project teams in reporting against Standard Indicators. Please report against the Standard Indicators that you have selected specifically for your project in Table 1 below. Refer to the Standard Indicator Guidance & Menu available on the IWT Challenge Fund website for guidance on how to select indicators, as well as how to disaggregate reporting within your chosen indicators.

New projects should complete the Y1 column and also indicate the number planned during the project lifetime. Continuing projects should copy and paste the information from previous years and add in data for the most recent reporting period.

We recognise that our menu cannot cover all the potential monitoring needs for all projects – where necessary you can select indicators from other sources or develop your own. See our BCF MEL guidance on best practices for selecting and developing indicators.

- **Table 1**   **Project Standard Indicators**

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with IWTCF Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
IWTCFA14 IWTCFCO1	0.1 By the end of the project, increase the household income by min. 20% in relation to 2022; and decrease the number of households involved in legal income generation by min. 30%.	0.1 Average percentage increase per household against baseline. and Number of people reported with changed behaviour in IWT post-intervention.	Percentage Number	Stakeholder group: indigenous communities	0				
IWTCFA15	0.2 Decrease of poaching reports of birds commonly killed for feather work by 30% in the area of the project, in comparison with 2022.	Number reporting a decrease in unsustainable practices as a result of project activities.	People	Gender	0				
N/A	0.3 N° of certified featherwork pieces sold by the end of the project.	0.3 N° of certified featherwork pieces sold by the end of the project.	Number						
IWTCFA03	1.1 By M27 of the project, the Committee is established	Number of cooperatives established	Number	Committee	1				
IWTCFA01	1.2 By the end of the delivery of the course (M32), 70 adults (50% women/25 aged 30 or less) are fully trained to handcraft featherwork artifacts using artificial feathers.	Number of people who received training in sustainable livelihood skills	Number	Gender	32				
IWTCFC05	1.3 By the end of M31, 100 individuals from the three communities fully participate in	Number of people reached with behaviour change messaging (i.e. audience).	Number	Stakeholder group:	0				

IWTCF Indicator number	Name of indicator using original wording	Name of Indicator after adjusting wording to align with IWTCF Standard Indicators	Units	Disaggregation	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
	the biodiversity education course.			Indigenous people					
IWTCF-D14	2.1 The reports are downloaded around 250 times (100 by the end of 2023, 200 by end of 2024, 250 by June 2025)	Number of downloads of new peer reviewed publications.	Number	Per year	0				
N/A	2.2 The reports are cited 8 times in scientific papers or used for research purposes (e.g. conferences) by the end of the project (June 2025).	2.2 The reports are cited 8 times in scientific papers or used for research purposes (e.g. conferences) by the end of the project (June 2025).	Number		0				
IWTCFC05	2.3 Dissemination events for the report reach min. 50 people by the end of the project (June 2025).	Number of people reached with behaviour change messaging (i.e. audience).	Stakeholder group: civil society		0				
IWTCF-D27	3.1 By M33 (March 2025) The certification system is agreed and signed by 12 organisations in 12 countries where demand for feather work pieces is high	Number of partnerships established	Number	Partnership for the purchase/sales of certified featherworks	0				
IWTCF-D18	3.2 By M18 (Dec. 2023), the online marketplace is accessible online.	Average monthly number of website visitors.	Number	Average duration session.	0				

In addition to reporting any information on publications under relevant standard indicators, in Table 2, provide full details of all publications and material produced over the last year that can be publicly accessed, e.g. title, name of publisher, contact details, cost. Mark with an asterisk (*) all publications and other material that you have included with this report.

- **Table 2**   **Publications**

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

- **Checklist for submission**

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the **correct template** (checking fund, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and **deleted the blue guidance text** before submission?	YES
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to BCF-Reports@niras.com putting the project number in the subject line.	
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with BCF-Reports@niras.com about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the subject line.	YES
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	YES
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see section 17)?	
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	YES
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	