

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

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2023

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

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

RENCTAS is now monitoring IWT120 "Tradition with conservation - Certified indigenous featherwork" by activity according to the logframe instead of by month. This has been implemented since the arrival of Tiago Carvalho, our new Project Assistant intern, in late May. Please see the end of Question 1 for more details.

Over the last 6 months we have worked on the following activities as predicted by IWT120's Implementation Timetable for Q1 and Q2 of Year 2.

1.3 Course delivery in the local communities and featherwork creation:

- ***1.3.1 Promotion and registration of participants in the course.***
- ***1.3.2 Delivery of the course and featherwork creation using artificial feathers.***

1.4 Biodiversity education activities with children in the communities.

We have delivered a indigenous featherwork earring course with the Conselho Indígena Tapajós Arapiúns (CITA) on May 26 for 47 participants. Planning began in April. Pajé Lucinato Tupinambá oversaw the workshop with great expertise and dedication. According to the collected participant list (Mean of Verification), the gender distribution of the participants was 29 (61%) women and 18 (39%) men, which surpassed SMART Indicator 1.2 (50% women) gender equality expectations.

Only 4 participants were underage and the group's average age was 29 years old, considering that one of the participants did not provide his age, which was also under the age range predicted by the Indicator. Course participants also represented 7 local indigenous ethnicities: Arapiun (26), Tupinambá (6), Kumaruara (6), Borari (2), Munduruku (1), Tupayú (1), Tapajó (1) and there were 4 non-indigenous riverine participants.

The activity was essential in offering a sustainable alternative to the production of traditional indigenous earring featherwork for commerce. During the course, participants were increasingly made aware of the problems behind selling indigenous featherwork made from animal parts to

non-indigenous individuals and wildlife trafficking. Participants clearly saw the artificial featherwork workshop as an alternative to preserve their traditions and combat wildlife trafficking while still obtaining income. RENTAS identified the course as funded by the IWT Challenge Funds and the UK government during workshop lectures. The IWTCF's logo was explicitly used in the presentations.

Another course on the production of headdress featherwork pieces was delivered in August. There were only 11 participants due to an important national indigenous event that was happening in Brazil at the same date (Marco Temporal Indígena voting). 7 (63%) of the participants were women and 4 (37%) men, which is still achieving the project's goal according to SMART Indicator 1.2. 5 ethnicities were present: Borari, Arapiun, Tupinambá, Kumaruara, Munduruku.

All of the participants were trained in the production of traditional indigenous headdress pieces with artificial feathers and also watched a lecture on environmental education that explained the importance of combating wildlife trafficking and were presented with artificial featherwork as a sustainable solution for commerce with non-indigenous individuals. Pajé Lucinato Tupinambá oversaw this workshop too.

Considering SMART Indicator 1.3 "By the end of M31, 100 individuals from the three communities fully participate in the biodiversity education course", we are achieving great progress. There are still some courses to be held and we have already trained 54 indigenous peoples of multiple ethnicities, the majority of them (36) being women. Important assumptions A7 "High interest and awareness in the community in enrolling to the train offered" and A8 "Participants are motivated throughout the course and there are no dropouts" are still valid from the experiences considered in this report.

1.2 Development and piloting of the featherwork course with artificial feathers

- 1.2.3 Course promotion and registration of 40 people (50% adults, 50% young people, 50% gender ratio) (piloting).

- 1.2.5 Course feedback and improvement.

Course promotion is still ongoing and has already surpassed the registration of 40 people according to the goals set on the piloting. We have collected feedback on the course through forms filled by the participants and video interviews. Several participants have also filled out socioeconomic forms to assess their general profile afterwards.

2.1 Monitoring of the species used for featherwork and 2.2 Evidence gathering and data analysis

Activities are going as planned. First monitoring report expected to be done by the end of the year. The progress can be seen in excel folders of our dating analysis system.

In addition to the predicted activities, we have also carried out:

An online social media campaign during World Environmental Week, June 5 to 9. We disseminated 9 posts on our Brazilian and international social media (Linkedin, Twitter and Instagram), reaching about 432 likes per post (3.884 in total). All posts identified the IWT120 project as financed by the IWTCF, recognizing the UK government's contribution and had the logo. It was a great effort to share the project with our local community and engage future participants.

In July, RENTAS conducted changes in the monitoring process: we are now monitoring our actions by activities according to the logframe instead of by month through Monday.com and an online form. For example, the featherwork courses that were conducted in May and in August were each monitored separately by filling an internal form and tagged according to the logframe activity 1.3 and its respective Smart Indicators and Means of Verification.

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.

IWTCF SMART Indicator changes generated halted IWT120's development in July, as we had to stop to rebuild our monitoring structure to adapt. This delayed the conclusion of activity 1.1.1 and MS1, the development of the Business Plan, since we were conducting this simultaneously to all other activities for Q1 and Q2 of Year 2. Nevertheless, it was an important adjustment and we are now more efficient. The Business Plan should be available in November.

MS4 - Certificates delivered to all the participants has not been accomplished due to activity **3.2 Chain of custody analysis and creation of a certification process** being delayed by the Monitoring adaptation process. We will deliver it accordingly in Q3.

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: **No**

Change request reference if known: **No**

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)

Actual spend: £ ██████████

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: £

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 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.

NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No other issues aside from the ones considered above.