

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

Half Year Report 3

Project reference	<i>IWT120</i>
Project title	Tradition with conservation - Certified indigenous featherwork
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Brazil
Lead Organisation	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)	05/11/2024 - HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.instagram.com/tradicaocomconservacao/

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

During the last 6 months, our staff was mainly focused on improving the production of indigenous featherwork art with artificial feathers and setting up the project's sales channels to meet the Output 3 goals. In this sense, all activities for Output 1 are practically finished and we also were able to give continuity to Output 2. All progress is described below for each concerned activity:

Activity 1.3 Course delivery in the local communities and featherwork creation:

A new partnership has been established with the Capixauã indigenous community of the Kumaruara ethnicity, which is located in the margins of the Tapajós River in Vista Alegre, Pará. The objective of this partnership was to train a permanent group of artisans that can produce featherwork art pieces in a high standard for project sales, which has so far led to the successful crafting of 60 featherwork pieces that are ready to be sold. We were able to fully train a group of 19 indigenous artisans from three different ethnicities (Kumaruara, Borari and Tupaiú) throughout [three workshops](#) conducted in the months of June up until October. We also conducted two other workshops in April to produce featherwork pieces for the CASACOR São Paulo art exposition, further detailed in the Output 3 activities. This reached six new indigenous artisans, of which three were women. In sum, all evidence points out that we will greatly surpass SMART Indicators 1.2 and 1.3 by the end of the project, as we have now trained a total of 81 artisans, of which 45 (55%) are female and 8 (10%) are below 25 years old. Activity 1.4 Biodiversity education activities with children in the communities was put on hold in the past sixth months, as we are prioritising featherwork sales, and will be finished until the next report.

Activity 2.3 Reports writing and translation in ENG/PT / MS8 / MS9

We were able to finish the first draft of the [Report 1](#) of Output 2, thus achieving milestone 8. The report will be published up until the end of this year. In this sense, the second report is already being produced and will be published in the beginning of 2025, thus allowing us to

achieve SMART Indicators 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 until the end of the project in June 2025. To do so, we will conduct dissemination events for both reports using our influence in international wildlife forums.

Activity 3.2 Chain of custody analysis and creation of a certification process / MS10
Activity 3.3 Creation of an online marketplace where certified products can be legally purchased / MS11

Our staff developed an online certification process for all featherwork pieces, thus concluding MS10. We also have created an [Instagram page and store](#) for the project and we are also currently finalizing the development of an original platform for sales. The publication of this last sales channel was unfortunately delayed as we faced bureaucracies from the Brazilian government that kept us from starting selling the pieces, as non-profit organisations such as ours are not allowed to operate in commercial transactions. In this sense, we were able to find a solution through a partnership with a third-party and shall finish MS11 in November, thus beginning sales in this same month. We ended up helping the indigenous communities to open an enterprise in their name managed by their leaders, to issue invoices. This also empowers them financially.

Other Activities: We conducted a new household income questionnaire in September to assess the income situation of 12 artisans of the new group established in the Capixauã community. We will probably conduct a third one before the end of the project to observe the impact of the project's sales in this community's income. Finally, [the participation of our project in the CASACOR São Paulo exhibition](#) was incredibly rewarding, as we were able to network with other projects that sell artisan crafts and also gained experience on this market niche. RENTAS also disseminated the project activities in partnership with a major Brazilian TV actress that has over 20 million followers. A [video](#) was published in her social media reaching out more than 500k views in the first day.

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.

A sudden change in our staff caused an unexpected delay in activities since Tiago Rodrigues left our NGO in September. We are still in the process of finding a replacement.

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: *If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome*

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)

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 2025)?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should 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 to your project 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.

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report.

Following the recommendations submitted in the AR2 feedback, we provided the safeguarding training for Thiago Vargas and also updated our [monitoring form](#) to include Risk Management and Safeguarding observations, which can be accessed by clicking the link. The reviewed Safeguarding Policy can also be accessed on the AR2 [evidence drive folder](#). The remaining feedback will be addressed until the next annual report, as requested by the reviewer.

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1st April 2024)	
Have you responded to any additional feedback (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	
For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1st April 2024)	
Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	
Submit to BCF-Reports@niras.com .	
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	