



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



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

Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

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 2024

Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

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

Project reference	IWT 121
Project title	Living with Wildlife: Improving Livelihoods in Mole Ecological Landscape
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Ghana
Lead Organisation	Nature and Development Foundation
Partner(s)	Mole National Park, C.K. Tedom University of Technology and Applied Science
Project leader	Mustapha Kaluwe Seidu
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024
Project website/blog/social media	https://ndfwestafrica.org/living-with-wildlife-improving-livelihoods-in-the-mole-ecological-landscape/

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end of September).

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your M&E systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

Output 1: During the reporting period from April 2024 to September 2024, all planned project activities were executed successfully as intended. For Project Output 1: Training and support were provided to women and men in two Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) to implement nature-based sustainable livelihood strategies aimed at reducing poverty and inequality. Specifically, over this period, 200 women from five communities within the Chakali Sungmaaluu and Moagduri Wuntanluri Kuwomsaasi (MWK) CREMAs received training on improving shea nut collection technology using shea rollers. Each of the 200 women beneficiaries was supplied with shea rollers, basins, safety boots, and gloves to ensure the safe and efficient collection of organic shea nuts. The indicator chosen for measuring the adoption of shea roller techniques and knowledge of best practices in the collection and processing of shea nuts is both appropriate and relevant, as beneficiaries provided positive feedback during a monitoring visit regarding the effectiveness of the

device. Furthermore, 60 additional beneficiaries were trained in apiculture, with each participant receiving three bee hives, a complete bee suit, a smoker, a hive tool, and a pair of safety boots. The indicator for assessing the profitability of sustainable bee farming enterprises after one year is relevant, given that earlier beneficiaries are close to the harvesting stage and will soon realise financial returns from their efforts. In addition, 60 new beneficiaries were trained in sustainable rodent farming, each receiving a cage with Togo Hares (two females and a male). The indicator for evaluating the profitability of sustainable rodent farming enterprises after at least a year is pertinent as earlier beneficiaries who have taken good care of the animals are beginning to generate income from sales. The 40 beneficiaries trained in the project's first year also participated in the training for this year as a refresher course.

For Output 2: The development and introduction of agroforestry systems to park-fringing communities to enhance resilience and tolerance for wildlife have seen significant advancements over the past six months. Notably, a total of 25,152 seedlings were distributed to 180 farmers, from nine communities within the two CREMAs. This represents 88% of the target. Before the above, the 180 beneficiaries were selected and trained in agroforestry management, fire prevention, and crop raiding prevention. During the same reporting period, a market linkage workshop was held to connect CREMAs with a shea-buying company, and about 60% progress has been made toward signing an off-take agreement between the buyer and the CREMAs.

For Output 3: The capacity of the MWK and Chakali Sungmaaluu CREMAs are being enhanced in terms of management practices and support for law enforcement. Procurement of all equipment necessary for setting up ten information centres has successfully been completed and sites in ten communities have been identified for the installation within both CREMAs. A management document for the information centres is being developed in partnership with the communities. Additionally, the necessary gear to equip future citizen rangers has also been procured and twenty individuals have been selected to be trained as citizen rangers. Engagement has been made with ten schools to promote behavioural change and establish wildlife clubs. A total of 1,023 students have been reached with conservation education sessions. Concerning the wildlife clubs; each school visited has appointed at least two teachers to oversee the clubs and discussions on inaugurations are underway.

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.

For the common good of the project, arrangements were made between CK-Tedam University (an implementing partner of the project) and NDF (lead implementer of the project) to have NDF take over procurement of remaining beehives, Rodent cages, Rodents, and start-up toolkit for VSLA cooperatives. The arrangement became needful due to the cumbersomeness and long bureaucratic nature of the partners procurement processes.

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 change request was submitted during the period.

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.

We currently do not expect to have any significant underspend in the financial year.

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

Due to the procurement arrangements made between CK-Tedam and NDF, beneficiaries have been provided with the planned quantities of items for livelihood support enterprises. The adoption of measures to prioritize logistics is ensuring that activities are implemented for the attainment of intended results.

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report. If your project was subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment please use this space to comment on any changes to international human rights risks, and to address any additional mitigations outlined in your offer letters. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.

In our most recent annual report, the following comments were received;

- Ensure disaggregated gender data is always presented
- Select 1 option only on the GESI table
- Is it possible to formally capture additional poverty dimensions of health, safety, food security, confidence and empowerment?
- Is any change in attitude being more formally captured from executive members?

Responses to the comments/queries were scheduled to be submitted in the next annual report.

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.	N/A
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	N/A
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.	NO

For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	YES
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	YES
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	YES
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project?	YES
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	YES