



**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	IWTR9S2/1022
Project title	Tanzanian national SMART rollout to strengthen counter wildlife trafficking.
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania.
Lead Organisation	Wildlife Conservation Society.
Partner(s)	Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA) and College of African Wildlife Management (CAWM).
Project leader	Aaron Nicholas
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	https://tanzania.wcs.org/Landscapes/Ruaha-Katavi.aspx

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.

Under Output 3:

Site 3 (of 4) SMART training was conducted at Maswa Game Reserve for 20 days from the 3rd to 22nd June 2024. It was led by the 6 TAWA trainers - Joel Pallangyo, Vyoma Nyakame, Bethsheba Andrew, Donald Shija, Ayoub Fundi and Alphonca Sangawe. Oversight was provided by the TAWA HQ and WCS SMART teams. Training was delivered to 20 Maswa rangers (7 female, 14 male) and 1 officer from TAWA Lake Zone office. NB, the ratio of women to men rangers is 28%, while the proportion of women trained was 33%.

The training included theory and practical sessions convened at the reserve headquarters, including the following topics: i) SMART introduction; ii) SMART Desktop & SMART Mobile; iii)

SMART device care & troubleshooting; iv) Adaptive feedback; v) Data collection exercises using SMART Mobile; vi) Data analysis; vii) Reporting and adaptive feedback.

Maswa then started deploying SMART and producing related monthly reports from July 2024. Site 4 SMART training was conducted at Swagaswaga Game Reserve for 20 days from the 2nd to 21st September 2024. Again, this was led by the six TAWA SMART trainers and oversight was provided by the TAWA HQ and WCS SMART teams. Training was delivered to 21 Swagaswaga rangers (2 female and 19 male). NB, the ratio of women to men rangers is 90%, while the proportion of women trained was 93%.

Again, the training included theory and practical sessions convened at the reserve headquarters, including the following topics: i) SMART introduction; ii) SMART Desktop & SMART Mobile; iii) SMART device care & troubleshooting; iv) Adaptive feedback; v) Data collection exercises using SMART Mobile; vi) Data analysis; vii) Reporting and adaptive feedback.

Post-training, a 12-day patrol was conducted, leading to the drafting of a first SMART report. The familiarisation process therefore continues.

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.

Overall, the planned timetable is being adhered to.

We observed that some of the SMART handheld devices (Blackview BV9300) are struggling to receive satellite signal, particularly when vehicles are moving at high speeds or when there is inadequate coverage caused by clouds or dense forest. This issue results in the appearance of straight lines on patrol tracks. To address this, we have minimized the interval between tracking points and are also advising rangers on the best placement of device (both in vehicles and while on patrol) to maximize signal capture.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes/ <u>No</u>
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/ <u>No</u>
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes/ <u>No</u>
Change Request reference if known: <i>Not applicable.</i>	

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

Actual spend: £ XXXXXXXXXX

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: £0

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?

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.

The project continues to work closely with TAWA to ensure that the 1/3 gender target for output 3 is realized. This was achieved in Maswa, but the existing gender ratio in Swagaswaga did not allow for this target to be met (even though the number of women rangers trained exceeded the site's gender ratio).

In terms of tracking impact, in total, 15 SMART reports have been generated to date (6 from Kijereshi, 6 from Mkungunero and 3 from Maswa Game Reserve). From these reports, it is evident that patrol coverage in Kijereshi and Maswa have been very good, while coverage in Mkungunero was best in eastern and central parts of the reserve. We are now developing a sense of illegal activities in each area and how these must be addressed and will be looking at how IWT focal species are potentially impacted, while also tracking reserve tourism incomes as a positive contribution towards reducing local poverty too.

Every opportunity has been taken to acknowledge the IWT Challenge Fund during all training courses conducted. We will be looking for ways to share some higher-level impacts of this work more widely in the coming period.

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1 st 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 ?	Done
For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1 st 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.	Yes
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?	N/A
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.	