



**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 2025

Please note all projects that were active before 1st October 2025 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 131
Project title	Countering jaguar conflict and IWT in the Bolivian Amazon
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Bolivia
Lead Organisation	WWF UK
Partner(s)	WWF Bolivia, University of Oxford, Pando Jaguar Alliance, Pando Autonomous Departmental Government
Project Leader	Valeria Boron (as per our latest Change Request)
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31/10/2025; HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	

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 monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) 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.

The following activities took place to support the achievement of project M&E

Activity 0.3 Search for the presence of jaguar body parts in local physical markets in the MSRC, as well as online marketplaces in Pando.

Three searches were conducted in the Puerto Rico market and five in the city of Cobija, Pando, to identify potential points of sale for jaguar-derived products such as teeth, skins, claws, oils, or other items used for ornamental or medicinal purposes.

In Cobija, five stalls were identified in the Central Market and three in the Abasto Market that sell oils and ointments made from various animals. The vendors at these stalls (all women)

offered tiger/jaguar oil, promoted as a remedy for rheumatic pain. Although some did not have the product readily available, they offered the option to place an order, suggesting the existence of an informal supply network for these types of products. However, there is no certainty that the product offered is truly derived from jaguar, due to the lack of traceability and scientific verification.

In the Puerto Rico market, three stalls were identified selling wooden crafts and natural remedies. These stalls displayed shelves with animal oils, including tiger/jaguar and river dolphin, among others. One stall had animal teeth that were offered as jaguar teeth; however, after a detailed observation we concluded that they were from an adult puma, highlighting the difficulty in accurately identifying the origin of such products in informal settings.

Periodic searches were also conducted on online platforms. Only rattlesnake teeth were found being offered, promoted as charms for good fortune, along with three listings for natural oils, some of which were animal-based. However, none of the listings referenced tiger/jaguar products, indicating a low visibility or presence of this type of trade online within the specific context of Pando.

The following activities took place to support the achievement of output 1

Activity 1.2. Produce the behaviour change campaign's messages, branding and communications materials, leveraging local knowledge, legal aspects, and reinforcing a sense of jaguar conservation identity.

The behaviour change campaign messages were produced based on the results from the households' baseline surveys (298 interviews) and focus groups conducted in each of the project six communities. We produced the first phase of communication materials, which consists of five different videos as part of a communication campaign called: "The jaguar is the answer", in turn part of a wider WWF Bolivia campaign called "Jaguar I want you alive" (video 1: jaguar features; video 2: jaguars importance in ecosystems; video 3: laws protecting jaguars; video 4: threats affecting jaguars; video 5: co-existence). Each video has two versions: a longer and a shorter one to increase knowledge and awareness on jaguars, since focus groups highlighted that we needed to start with basic information on jaguars.

The second phase of the campaign is being designed now, focusing on reducing fear of encounters with jaguars and on how to keep livestock secure, as these emerged as critical pathways of change to increase coexistence and reduce jaguar killing during interviews and focus groups.

1.3 Roll out behaviour change campaign through locally relevant dissemination activities and messengers, reaching 1400 people in the six targeted communities.

The five videos produced in the first phase of the campaign are being shared on Whats app, Facebook and Tiktok as well as during awareness meetings/workshops in the six communities, which took place in October and will be reported on with more details in the annual report. We also produced merchandise with two slogans ("Jaguar I want you alive" and "The jaguar maintains the equilibrium in forests") which is being shared during meetings/workshops. Lastly, in May, as part of the Pando department jaguar day, we held a jaguar awareness fair in Cobija city centre. Our stand was in collaboration with a youth group (10-16 years old) on jaguar features, its importance, and threats. We estimate to have reached ca 100 people.

The following activities took place to support the achievement of output 2

Activity 2.2. Training 170 households (benefitting ca. 850 people) on sustainable, jaguar-friendly livelihoods emphasising no poaching/trafficking principles and how to report conflict and trafficking incidents.

All trainings delivered reflects needs expressed during focus groups.

We conducted training in three project communities (Limón, Irak, and Campeones) on safe and best practices for acai collections, including how to use safety kits to collect acai berries without risks of falls and injuries. In total these trainings benefitted 60 families/households (25 in Limón, 20 in Irak and 15 in Campeones).

In the communities of Irak and Limón, additional trainings were held on how to extract açai pulp using artisanal equipment. These benefitted 50 families/households (30 in Irak and 20 in Limón). In both communities, the main users of the equipment will be women, while men will be responsible for providing the fruit, promoting a collaborative dynamic in the production process. In Curichón, support was provided to 12 members (11 women and 1 man) of the Community Tourism Association of Curichón to participate in a Sustainable Tourism training workshop held in the city of Cobija, organized by the Tourism Secretariat of the Autonomous Departmental Government of Pando. The event lasted two days and included a visit to a local sustainable tourism enterprise, allowing participants to gain practical insights and strengthen their capacities.

Activity 2.3. Provision of equipment for jaguar friendly livelihoods (e.g. Brazil nut & Acai collection kits and storage, commercialization materials) to 170 households.

All equipment provided reflects needs expressed during focus groups.

Sixty families/households from three communities (Limon, Campeones, Irak) were provided with tools and equipment to harvest palm fruits (acai, majo palm, royal palm), as well as safety equipment to conduct the harvest.

In the communities of Irak and Limón, artisanal pulp extraction kits for açai were also distributed. Three kits were delivered in Irak, and one kit in Limón, benefiting 30 families/households in Irak and 20 families/households in Limón.

Activity 2.4 Support 90 additional households (ca. 450 people), 15 in each of the 6 communities, with technical support and conflict mitigation.

Through coexistence workshops across the six project communities, we were able to identify families that own domestic animals (such as pigs, cows, ducks, and chickens) and select the first 33 beneficiaries families (five per community, except for Irak, with eight). Selected families meet specific criteria: owning domestic animals at the time of delivery, securing animals at night if provided with enclosures, correctly installing deterrent tools, participating in monitoring activities, and reporting any predation events to community coexistence monitors. Priority is given to families that have recently lost animals, followed by those with past losses or those raising livestock near forested areas.

During October and November, we will deliver materials such as pig enclosures and cow bells. These tools aim to protect domestic animals and reduce human–jaguar conflicts. While WWF will supply the materials, the communities themselves will handle construction and installation, promoting local ownership and participation.

During the workshops, community members reaffirmed their commitment to fostering coexistence between people and jaguars in the Amazon. It was agreed that the entire community would be actively involved in the process and that each selected household would receive one anti-depredation measure. For smaller households, these measures may be shared with neighbours to enhance overall effectiveness.

Implementation and results will be jointly monitored by community members and WWF Bolivia's technical team. The project will be continuously refined based on the experiences of participating families, ensuring that material distribution reflects each household's specific needs and livestock numbers.

The following activities took place to support the achievement of output 3

Activity 3.2. Co-design a response and responsibilities protocol to jaguar conflict and trafficking, with authorities and the Pando Jaguar Alliance, in alignment with WCS' efforts elsewhere.

AND

Activity 3.3. Support to institutional agreements for communication channels, data sharing, and database management for conflict and jaguar poaching and trafficking data, in conjunction with WCS.

We continue to coordinate with the Pando Department government, and the members of the Pando Jaguar Alliance, including WCS. In May we met with the Jaguar Alliance (WWF, WCS, Manuripi Reserve, GIZ, CIPCA – an NGO working with local communities, University of Pando, environmental youth groups, Pando Departmental Government) as part of Pando Jaguar day. Each organisation presented their jaguar IWT work to maximise synergies, collaboration and impact.

Under coordination from the Pando authorities, we also held meetings with WCS management and wildlife trafficking project leaders to learn about their progress in developing a protocol for addressing and combating species trafficking in Pando and a database for recording trafficking cases. As a result, we agreed that WCS would share both the protocol and the database with the Pando authorities by the end of October. The Department would then proceed to make them official and mandatory management tools in the department through decrees. To begin filling the database, the Pando government will first need to review the template developed by WCS to define priorities within the framework of the requirements of the competent national authority.

Activity 3.4 Design and disseminate technical guidelines and conflict and trafficking response protocols to authorities and relevant institutions.

We have started coordination to tailor the felid ID guide developed by Panthera and other partners in 2020 for the Santa Cruz Department to the Pando Department. The guide includes features of the different cat species present and trafficked in Bolivia, comparison charts of their body parts, and a summary of laws protecting these species. All authors of the guide gave permission to tailor the guide and shared the editable files and images.

The Pando government welcomed the initiative and confirmed the utility of tailoring, updating, and reprinting the ID guide. We are now working with the Pando government on the specific elements it would like to include in this tailored version to ensure it fully meets their needs.

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.

The Pando department updated its land use plan, increasing the areas designated for conservation. While this is a welcomed development for conservation goals, it created tensions and backlash from some local actors and communities. In turn, this meant that it has been challenging to work in communities under a direct narrative of jaguar conservation. We instead opted to focus on balance between human activities, forests, and nature more widely. Therefore, the work to support the inclusion of no poaching commitments in community manifestos has been delayed until May or June 2026.

The coordination with WCS to continue the work under activities 3.2 and 3.3 took longer than planned. In addition to the agreements reached at the meeting with the Pando authorities on the database and protocol, it is necessary to strengthen coordination between the members of the Jaguar Alliance and the public agencies responsible for combating wildlife trafficking, as there is limited understanding of their functions and the regulations governing the fight against wildlife trafficking, in addition to the fact that their budgets are quite limited or non-existent. This highlights that our work to strengthen and implement coordinated protocols and databases to prevent and address trafficking and conflict as well as building capacity is particularly relevant, requiring dedicated time and resources.

During the workshops held in the project communities, we observed that people do not have a genuine motivation to protect jaguars. In general, there is no cultural connection, no legends, nor any elements of Amazonian identity that promote a close relationship with the species. This disconnect may be because many of the residents are migrants or descendants of people from Bolivia's highlands, where the ecosystem is very different and the relationship with the forest is not as deep or intrinsic. While communities have expressed interest in conserving the forest because it provides them with resources, the jaguar is not among their conservation priorities. Nevertheless, there is openness to testing anti-predation measures, as long as these help protect their animals. Community members have stated that they are willing to coexist with jaguars if they do not prey on their livestock, otherwise killing them becomes necessary. This highlights the importance of developing awareness and cultural connection strategies, while supporting anti-depredation measures as part of broader conservation efforts.

Lastly, during subsequent visits and initial focus groups, we observed differences in the level of participation of women and the detail of information provided in the meetings. We therefore consider it necessary to have specific spaces for conversation and to develop spaces of trust among women in the communities of the project.

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:	Yes
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*

Guidance for Section 4: The information you provide in this section will be used by Defra to review the financial status of projects. This review will identify projects at random for spot checks on financial management and will include requests for evidence of the actual spend information provided below. Please ensure the figures you provide are as accurate as possible and that you have the evidence to support it. You do not need to provide it now.

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)

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 2026)?

4c. If you expect an 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, and not later than 31st December. 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 BCFs management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

Suspensions or allegations related to fraud and error concerns should be reported to fraudanderror@Defra.gov.uk

No

6. Project risk management

6a. If your project has an Overseas Security and Justice assessment, please provide an update on any related risks, and any special conditions in your award paperwork if relevant for your project.

The project does not have an Overseas Security and Justice Assessment. We keep the project risk register up to date and will submit it with our annual report in April 2026.

6b. Have any concerns or allegations relating to sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment been reported in the past 6 months?

Suspensions or allegations related to safeguarding concerns should be reported to ODA.Safeguarding@defra.gov.uk

7. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent Annual Report. As a reminder, all projects that were scored as 'Not Yet Sensitive' in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment of their latest Annual Report should demonstrate how they are meeting the minimum GESI-Sensitive standard.

1. Please add references of the surveys mentioned in the Report. Small sample of participants, please explain those limitations (Next annual report).

We would welcome more details on what this refers to. In the annual report we mention a survey (53 participants) that was conducted in 2023, before the project started. We are aware of the limitations of small sample size of participants, hence, to collect a robust baseline, we conducted a more extensive survey (293 participants) at the beginning of the project.

3. The project could strengthen monitoring of GESI outcomes, not just capturing participation rates, to capture changes in empowerment, access to benefits, and decision-making. (Next annual report).

The project recognizes the need to go beyond quantitative indicators of participation and is working to strengthen monitoring systems to capture qualitative changes in empowerment, access to benefits, and participation in decision-making. To this end, several complementary actions are being implemented:

- Socioeconomic baseline and participatory assessment: Complementing the assessment at the start of the project, through participatory processes, dimensions such as access to decision-making, resources, services, and human security are being analyzed further, with the aim of identifying gender and social inclusion gaps and establishing a baseline to measure changes over time.
- Use of tools with an intersectional and gender approach: WWF Bolivia and its partners are implementing the *Inclusion Toolkit*, which offers guidance on intersectional analysis, prevention and referral of cases of gender-based violence, protocols for engaging with Indigenous peoples, and inclusive practices. This will allow for documenting not only participation but also the quality of empowerment processes.
- Participatory monitoring and feedback mechanisms: Strengthening the complaints and feedback mechanism through a WhatsApp line and community outreach strategies will allow women and other groups to safely express their concerns and inputs. This channel will also generate qualitative information on empowerment and perceptions of inclusion.
- Community spaces for reflection: Separate spaces for women and men are promoted to foster open dialogue and identify perceived changes in trust, leadership, and decision-making power at the household and community levels.
- Capacity building for local partners: Training WWF staff, consultants, and local partners on gender equality, social inclusion, and safeguards ensures that monitoring and evaluation frameworks incorporate empowerment and access indicators, not just participation figures.

These combined actions will allow the project to more robustly monitor transformative outcomes related to gender and social inclusion, demonstrating progress in empowerment, equitable access to benefits, and meaningful participation in decision-making.

4. Please clarify the proposed exit strategy (October report)

Sustainability/sustainable exit and scaling are well embedded in the project design, through the following components:

- Incorporating protocols and no jaguar poaching commitments into established norms: The IWT and conflict protocols will be formalised through Pando Departmental decrees so that they become institutionalised, mandatory, and will continue to be valid/used after project completion. Similarly, communities' commitments to not kill jaguars will be incorporated into communities' manifestos, achieving greater formality and continuity beyond project duration.

- Focus on trainings and increased capacities and inter-institutional coordination:
The increased capacity on conflict/IWT response, related protocol, data sharing and coordination agreements between the Jaguar Alliance participating institutions will remain in place beyond project timeline. Similarly, trainings on sustainable and jaguar friendly livelihoods will be low-cost, easy to implement practices, for target communities to replicate, and transfer skills across generations and neighbouring communities.
- Project repository of all resources/materials produced:
We will ensure that the project builds such repository so that all materials are easily accessible post project completion e.g. technical guides and other materials produced. These will also be shared with other communities (and posted online).
- Workshop for further exit planning during project year 3:
In the first half of year 3 we will organise a workshop with the Pando government, the Pando Jaguar Alliance and all project partners to present the status of activities, stock take current capacities and resource availability amongst partners, and plan future priorities accordingly. We will also collaboratively explore further ideas to maximise project outcomes longevity and sustainability.
- Continued funding:
At the same time, we understand the importance of continued long-term funding for jaguar conservation. WWF has a dedicated jaguar fundraising and advocacy team and are exploring innovative financial mechanisms including jaguar bonds. Furthermore, the landscape where the project takes place is a WWF priority and will most likely continue to receive financial support.

6.To further strengthen impact delivery, the project could consider strengthening partnerships with external actors (e.g. WCS or local development agencies) to enhance uptake and replication of successful approaches in adjacent areas (October report).

Coordination with WCS and other actors of the Pando Jaguar Alliance is a crucial part of the project, and we continue to work to strengthen it (see section 1, activity 3.2 and 3.3, and section 2 of this report for more details). In addition to WCS, engagement with over 15 institutions, local, national authorities and Pando and National Jaguar Alliance members, as direct beneficiaries (e.g. training) and partners contributes to scalability. Their departmental and national reach, mandate to address IWT beyond jaguars, allows the capabilities gained from the project to reach a wider geography, benefit additional taxa, and extend beyond project timeline.

Lastly, project lessons and resources (e.g. technical guides) will be shared across WWF global Network, the IUCN Human-Wildlife Conflict Group, and the Jaguar Roadmap 2030 Committee which includes CITES and CMS representation, to encourage replication across jaguar range.

7.Consider expanding the use of qualitative tools to capture behaviour change and continue to document changes due to external factors (October report).

While we are confident that the project's quasi-experimental design will effectively isolate the drivers of change through the inclusion of matched control communities, we recognise the value of complementing quantitative data with qualitative insights. To this end, we will conduct key informant interviews in every community within both the treatment and control groups. These interviews will provide an in-depth understanding of the behavioural and contextual dynamics underlying any observed changes, or the absence of change, as well as barriers to adoption of desired practices. This qualitative component will also support the interpretation of results in light of external factors that may influence community attitudes or behaviours.

8.

9.