# 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.**

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| Project reference | *This should be the project reference provided in your offer paperwork and* ***not*** *your application number* |
| **Project title** |  |
| **Country(ies)/territory(ies)** |  |
| **Lead Organisation** |  |
| **Partner(s)** |  |
| **Project leader** |  |
| **Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)** |  |
| **Project website/blog/social media** |  |

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| **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. |
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| **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.**  |
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| **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/ No |
| Formal Change Request submitted:  | Yes/ No |
| Received confirmation of change acceptance:  | Yes/ 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*  |

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| **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? |
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| 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. |
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**Checklist for submission**

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| 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.  |  |