



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2018)

Project reference: 25-002

Project title: A model for conservation, stabilisation and development in South Sudan

Country(ies)/territory(ies): South Sudan

Lead organisation: Fauna & Flora International

Partner(s): Caritas Austria, Community Organisation for Development (COD), Bucknell University, South Sudan Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism

Project leader: Nicolas Tubbs

Report date and number: 1st July 2018-31st October 2018 HYR1

Project website/blog/social media etc.

www.fauna-flora.org, <https://www.fauna-flora.org/countries/south-sudan>

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

The project started on the 1st of July 2018 and hence this report covers the first four months of implementation rather than a full six months/half year.

Output 1: 430 km² of Game Reserve (GR) and Community Managed Area (CMA) habitat under stronger conservation management, with local women and men better informed about biodiversity and engaged decision-making

The stakeholder mapping exercise to identify all key stakeholders (and their roles) to be involved in demarcation roadmap has been completed. We are compiling this into a detailed report (which is currently in draft form). The government of South Sudan has been actively engaged these past months in order to secure the governments' backing of the demarcation process. Furthermore, we have gathered all historical boundary information including discrepancies in the literature and clarity on land tenure and any customary rights. This information is now being compiled in a detailed report (which is currently in draft form).

Output 2: Collaborative routine and intelligence-led patrols in Game Reserves and community ranger teams in Community Managed Areas are deterring and responding to wildlife crime

Patrol activities have been successfully rolled out throughout this reporting period, despite accessing the field site being extremely challenging as it was the rainy season. To illustrate this, it took the field team >8hrs to drive 25km. None the less, all logistics and project

operations were put in place to support patrol activities throughout this period. Furthermore, Standard Operating Procedures were drafted and are now being trialled/tested/fined tuned. All patrol findings (qualitative and quantitative) are entered digitally in a central data base.

Output 3: Livelihoods activities appropriate to existing local norms and constraints to wellbeing are strengthening the assets of 900 people (150 households) against external shocks

Since the award of this project, Fauna & Flora International initiated implementation of conservation activities as initially planned. Livelihood focused activities are led by our partner Caritas Austria, overseeing the work of their local partner COD. As we were finalising the sub-grant agreement with them, it appeared that the requirements tied to their match-funding were a lot more restrictive than initially discussed during the design phase of this project. Despite this making no change to the project and its implementation, it did change the distribution of funds across budget lines for Caritas and its local partner COD. This drove us to submit a change request (which the Darwin Initiative approved) but it obviously resulted in a slight delay in implementing livelihood activities. We are confident this slight delay will be caught up, especially considering the inception phase of the project was during the rainy season which would have slowed field implementation regardless. In the meantime, Caritas Austria/COD have recruited the project staff and focused on project planning as much as possible.

2a. 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 unexpected development reported under Output 3 in the section above does not qualify as a notable problem but was unexpected. The delay in finalising the contract with Caritas is not expected to have any major impact on project implementation, nor is it expected to affect the budget and overall timetable of project activities.

Worth mentioning here that the project leader has held several meetings with DFID for who additional/dedicated outputs have been produced including a Conflict Analysis, and Conflict Analysis Matrix and most importantly an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance (OSJA) Human Rights Guidance. DFID has expressed great interest in this project and is keen to see this project closely liaise and feed back to both DEFRA and DFID directly considering how this project overlaps with the two agencies' focus and interests in a particularly complex setting like South Sudan.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS: **Yes/No**

Formal change request submitted: **Yes/No**

Received confirmation of change acceptance **Yes/No**

3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes **No** Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to 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 rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

There has been staff turnover in the project officer (consultancy basis, not directly funded by the Darwin Initiative) but we've managed to secure a smooth transition.

Also, worth flagging that this project has already benefitted from high profile since Fauna & Flora International's South Sudan work featured on BBC Radio 4's Today programme on the 9, 10th and 11th of October on the side lines of the International Wildlife Trade Conference organised in London.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document. Additionally, if you were funded under R24 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**