

## Darwin Initiative/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019)

<b>Project reference</b>	25-002
<b>Project title</b>	A model for conservation, stabilisation and development in South Sudan
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	South Sudan
<b>Lead organisation</b>	Fauna & Flora International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Caritas Austria, Community Organisation for Development (COD), Bucknell University, South Sudan Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism
<b>Project leader</b>	Nicolas Tubbs
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2019-31 <sup>st</sup> October 2019
<b>Project website/blog/social media etc.</b>	<a href="http://www.fauna-flora.org">www.fauna-flora.org</a> , <a href="https://www.fauna-flora.org/countries/south-sudan">https://www.fauna-flora.org/countries/south-sudan</a>

**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 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2018.

**Output 1: 430 km<sup>2</sup> 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 demarcation process became very smooth once the community recognised the boundary of Bire Kpatuos Game Reserve of the reserve to be formed by the watershed between two river systems. The boundary demarcation process also detailed the landmarks, rivers and details of the community boundary. As of September 2019, the boundary has been established with agreement from the local communities, state and national government. The final step to complete the process was putting up the signposts which was done within this month of October.

Important to note, the southern boundary of the Game Reserve is formed by the international border between South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The demarcation process therefore involved understanding and agreeing on the boundary of the reserve which was not an international border, recognising that particular section is an international matter between two nations and is outside the scope of our work and mandate.

As mentioned above, there is now a final map produced of Bire Kaptuos Game Reserve Boundary which has been approved and agreed upon by community stakeholders and Government in County, State and National Level.

The Undersecretary to the Wildlife Service asserted that, as Bire Kpatuos is a Game Reserve, the state within which it lies holds full authority over approving its boundary and having received the approval of WLS Gbudue State Director, he confirmed the newly demarcated boundary has been approved by the South Sudanese government. Worth noting that Legally gazetting the

boundary of a protected area into South Sudanese law has not been done before by the relatively newly independent country. The Undersecretary verbally committed to initiating the process but recognising there is a political process here which the project team will have little influence over to hold to a timeline.

As to the second Game Reserve, we completed an estimated 80% of the community demarcation of the boundary. It has become apparent here that historical efforts to demarcate the boundary resulted in two boundaries, one for the game reserve and the other for a forest reserve. Our task and challenge over the next months here is to ensure a single boundary.

**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**

Regular patrols in the Game Reserve were rolled out throughout this period, involving Community Wildlife Ambassadors and Rangers. Worth noting that the frequency of patrols has increased significantly and is now averaging between 4-5 patrols/month, each 5 days in length.

**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**

Progress of livelihoods activities is ongoing, though obviously slowed down by the rainy season which makes field activities exceptionally challenging, particularly because of the trying road condition and access to the Game Reserve, yet the pace will pick up again after October, the wettest month of year. Worth noting here that we completed the design of the ODK Household Survey and rolled it out during this period, providing insights into socio-economic levels, human health, knowledge of wildlife laws, relationship with wildlife and natural resource use. We surveyed 97% of the households living at the edge of Bire Kaptuos Game Reserve. Initial results indicate:

- Low levels of knowledge of Wildlife Laws
- A moderate proportion of household with an extensive but relatively low levels of natural resource use
- A high proportion of households already having received training on sustainable livelihoods activities

A full analysis of these results is underway and will be further detailed in the next annual report.

We maintain close engagement of the 196 households previously reported on who remain actively engaged in livelihood activities.

**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.**

There are no notable problems or unexpected developments to report on here. Worth noting however that the Peace Agreement for the Transition Government is due to expire in November. We are obviously monitoring the situation very closely in case this results in instability in Juba as well as in the project Area.

**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?**

N/A

**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 R25 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 DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto: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: 25-035 Darwin Half Year Report**