

## Darwin Initiative Main and Post Project Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin Report” guidance: (<http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms>). It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

### Darwin Project Information

Project reference	26-001
Project title	Community livelihood and capacity support for securing Zimbabwe’s wetland biodiversity
Country/ies	Zimbabwe
Lead organisation	BirdLife Zimbabwe
Partner institution(s)	Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust (CELUCT), Zimbabwe AIDS Prevention Project-Regai Dzive Shiri (ZAPP-RDS) Trust, BirdLife International (BLI), Environmental Management Agency (EMA).
Darwin grant value	295,610.00 GBP
Start/end dates of project	01 June 2019-31 March 2022
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2019 – Mar 2020) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	June 2019-March 2020, Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Togarasei Fakarayi
Project website/blog/social media	The project will use existing BirdLife Zimbabwe website and social media  <a href="http://www.birdlifezimbabwe.org/">http://www.birdlifezimbabwe.org/</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/BirdLifeZimbabwe">https://www.facebook.com/BirdLifeZimbabwe</a>
Report author(s) and date	Togarasei Fakarayi, Fadzai Matsvimbo; 30 April 2020.

### 1. Project summary

The Driefontein Grasslands is a Ramsar site and an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) that support globally threatened bird species. It is the only remaining landscape in the country, where the three globally threatened (grassland specialists) Grey Crowned Crane (EN), Wattled Crane (VU) and Secretary Bird (VU) exist in the same area. The Driefontein Grasslands is characterised by a network of wetlands that provide habitat for biodiversity, cranes in particular and also important for rural communities living in this area. Local communities have become increasingly dependent on the wetlands in this IBA. Despite rich biodiversity, Driefontein Grasslands has been under increasing pressure from anthropogenic activities that include wetland degradation through unsustainable agricultural practices, uncontrolled fires and

overgrazing. Areas where subsistence farming is taking place experienced increasing pressure on wetlands resulting in habitat loss for cranes. Poverty has been the main driver of habitat degradation in Driefontein Grasslands. The local communities in this biodiversity-rich area have limited resources to engage in alternative livelihoods. Small scale subsistence agriculture is the main activity practiced by rural communities in this IBA despite the fact that most land is not suitable for cultivation and most crops frequently fail. Balancing biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods is a priority for securing the future of globally threatened species in this IBA. In 2010, BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ) developed a Crane Conservation Action Plan where most of these problems were identified. These problems were also identified through engagement with communities by BLZ between 2010 and 2018. An Environmental Management Plan for Driefontein Grasslands developed by Environmental Management Agency (EMA) in 2017 identified similar conservation challenges. This project provides options for alternative livelihoods to help reduce human pressure on wetlands while strengthening capacity of communities to manage land sustainably. The project seeks to demonstrate viability of income generating livelihoods (bee keeping, poultry and pig production) that are not wetland dependent, while improving habitats of globally-threatened biodiversity.

## **2. Project partnerships**

The project is being implemented in partnership with CELUCT, ZAPP-RDS, EMA and BLI. BirdLife Zimbabwe is the Lead organisation in the implementation of this project. Over the last 10 months of project implementation there has been a good collaboration with all the partners. Partners were involved in both project planning and implementation. Planning meetings conducted with partners in June 2019 discussed details on the project and work plans. More than three follow-up meetings were conducted with partners to help guide them during project implementation. CELUCT, ZAPP-RDS and EMA have been directly involved on the ground in the delivery of some of the project components in their areas of expertise. CELUCT had its first experience of working in the Driefontein area for the first time during this project. BLZ introduced CELUCT to the target villages for bee keeping during the baseline survey exercise. CELUCT was instrumental in providing bee keeping training to communities and led setting up of two bee apiaries in Chinyaure Community (evidence of training provided in section 3.1 annex 12a-b). The training were conducted with the help of BLZ field Officer. This enabled sharing of knowledge and skills between CELUCT and BLZ in this process. BLZ and CELUCT have strengthened their working relationship through this project with sharing of knowledge and experiences during the course of the year. ZAPP-RDS facilitated trainings in poultry and pig production held at Shashe, Daviot and Markdale communities. The trainings were conducted with the assistance of BLZ where there were shared knowledge in project implementation among the two partners. During the trainings coordinated by ZAPP-RDS in Driefontein Grasslands technical experts from Agricultural Technical and Extension (AGRITEX) and Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprise Development (WACSMED) departments were engaged by ZAPP-RDS and provided technical expertise to these trainings (evidence provided in section 3.1 annex 11a). Networks were established between the involved institutions, BLZ and target communities. EMA worked closely with BLZ in conducting two ground surveys of cranes carried out in August 2019 and January 2020. BLZ and EMA also conducted joint trainings of the four target communities in wetland and fire management. EMA played an important role in coordinating district meetings jointly facilitated by EMA and BLZ (evidence provided in section 3.1 annex 13). During the process there was transfer of knowledge and skills between EMA and BLZ on biodiversity survey techniques, wetland monitoring and facilitation of district meetings. The Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) was involved during ground surveys of cranes conducted in Driefontein Grasslands. BirdLife International (BLI) provided technical input during planning and implementation of the project. All the project partners including BLI participated in the project launch reinforcing their commitment to work together to deliver the project.

In terms of strength, CELUCT and ZAPP-RDS have capacity to work with communities and relevant government departments. The different skills and specialities among these partners has made the engagement with the community more fruitful and dynamic with large turnout for all the trainings.

EMA as a regulatory authority has vast experience on wetland and fire issues. This was integrated well in this project. The regulatory authority has brought huge national attention to the

project through the media publicity organised with journalists. On another hand given the large areas and issues they cover it is inevitable that changes of programme activities happens quite often.

BLI has vast experience in providing technical support during project planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. It has been useful in sharing lessons learnt across the continent especially provide guidance on what works and doesn't work in some situations.

One of the challenges was that it was difficult to bring together partners during the course of project to review work progress due to commitments on the project and other programmes within the 10 months period of the project. However, BLZ followed up separately on all partners.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities**

This project has started on 1 June 2019. The report covers progress of activities from 1 June 2019 to 31 March 2020.

##### **Output 1**

A project launch event conducted in Harare on 10 September 2019 raised awareness on this project. This was a delayed event due logistical arrangements that took into consideration a date that suits all the key stakeholders. The project was officially launched by the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (METHI). All project partners including BLI attended this launch event. The four target communities (Shashe, Chinyaure, Markdale and Daviot) were represented at the launch by local community conservation group leaders. Other key stakeholders who supported the launch included Gutu Rural District Council, the District Administrator (Gutu District), ZPWMA, and Forestry Commission (Annex 1). The Deputy Director from the METHI expressed gratitude to BLZ and its partners for spearheading wetland conservation in Driefontein. In his official speech the guest speaker expressed gratitude to BLZ work and indicated that although BLZ is an NGO they see this organisation as a desk in the ministry due to great impact on biodiversity work delivered by BLZ. He had confidence that this project would improve both biodiversity and community livelihood in Driefontein Grasslands contributing to achievement of the international conventions that include CBD and Ramsar and national biodiversity targets in the country.

Two separate face to face meetings conducted with the Gutu Rural District Council Chief Executive Officer and Gutu District Administrator in June 2019 were successful. The purpose of the meetings was to formalise implementation of this project in Gutu District and discuss areas for collaboration. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was developed and signed between BirdLife Zimbabwe and the local authority-Gutu RDC (Annex 2). In August 2019, two separate face to face meetings were also conducted with the District Environmental Officer and the Natural resources Officer of Gutu RDC. These meetings deliberated on the project plans, target beneficiaries and implementation modalities as well as an update of the work covered up to August 2019.

Mapping of key wetlands in core crane breeding and foraging areas in the Driefontein Grasslands was initiated in July 2019. This was done by a team contracted from the University of Zimbabwe (Geography and Environmental Science Department). An area covering a total of 58,802.61 hectares was mapped. A map was produced in August 2019 showing land cover categories of wetlands, grasslands, cultivated lands and forestry (Annex 3).

Different roles of men and women in biodiversity conservation and livelihood activities were identified during informal brief meetings held with the communities in August 2019 and September 2019. Both men and women are involved in agricultural activities (crop production in particular) which is currently the main source of income in the area, and responding to fires. However, a discussion with women revealed that in most cases decisions on the use of household incomes are dominated by men although consultations with spouses are done especially on revenue generated in the name of husband. Men seem to make more decisions than women at both household and community level. Information gathered revealed that village

development committees are dominated by men although there is women involvement and participation as well as holding positions in these committees. People living with disability and young people seem to be silent in decision making although they are recognised groups in the communities. However, this still needs further ascertained. Data on gender will continue to be collected and gender gaps identified addressed during the project.

Trainings on fire management conducted in October 2019 were successful. The trainings were jointly conducted by EMA and BLZ. Four separate trainings each lasted a day were conducted for Shashe, Chinyaure, Daviot and Markdale villages. A total of 180 villagers who comprised of 98 females and 82 males were trained (Annex 4). The training content included causes of fire, different types of fires, fire management, national legislation, policies and Statutory instruments on fire issues in the country. A total of 150 fire beaters and 10 fire knapsacks procured in September 2019 were distributed across the four target and six nearby villages. Each of the villages received one fire knapsack and at least 10 fire beaters. Additional 9 fire knapsacks were procured in March 2020. In November 2019, trainings on sustainable wetland management were conducted with the four target communities. The trainings were facilitated by EMA and BLZ. Each training lasted a full day. A total of 172 people comprised of 109 females and 63 males were trained (Annex 5).

Two ground surveys of cranes were conducted during the year (Annex 6). The first ground surveys of cranes were carried out in August 2019 by a team of six people with two vehicles. The surveys were conducted in collaboration with EMA and ZPWMA with support of the local communities. Cranes are 'Specially Protected Bird Species' under the Parks and Wildlife Act of 1975 (amended in 1996). A total of 54 Wattled Cranes and 125 Grey Crowned Cranes were recorded in August 2019. These comprised of 8 breeding pairs of Wattled Cranes, 1 Juvenile, 2 chicks, and flocks of 9, 10, and 15. The Grey Crowned Cranes comprised of 6 pairs and flocks of 50, 37, 13 and 12. Threats to sites were identified during these surveys. Also awareness on crane conservation was raised among villagers whom the team came across with during the ground surveys. A second ground survey of cranes was conducted in January 2020. The survey was conducted jointly with the ZPWMA, and EMA. A total of 52 Wattled Cranes and 62 Grey Crowned Cranes were recorded. Key threats identified during the survey include, veld fires, and overgrazing. Other threats include human disturbances (traffic through wetlands and grasslands) especially in the past season where rains were below average. Other localised threats include brick moulding at wetland sites used by cranes.

Local villagers from the four target villages went through one day training in Important Bird Area (IBA) monitoring in November 2019 (Annex 7). The participants were divided into two groups to ensure active participation of these trainees. The participants came from the four target villages and three came from nearby villages. The first training was conducted with participants from Daviot, Markdale, and nearby village Widgeon. The second group had participants drawn from Shashe and Chinyaure Villages. A total of 32 villagers (7 females and 25 males) were trained in IBA monitoring. The villagers were trained on the application of the Global IBA monitoring framework based on the state pressure response model. Training content covered included definition of an IBA, why IBAs are important and importance of monitoring IBAs and simple and practical tools that communities can employ to carry out IBA monitoring.

An IBA monitoring form for this reporting year was completed (Annex 8). The form was completed by BLZ with input from EMA and the local communities.

Sensitive wetlands including seeps were identified in Chinyaure and Daviot Communities. These were identified by local villagers, BLZ and EMA. The villagers have requested BLZ and EMA to assist protecting seeps in these communities. Engagement of other key stakeholders by EMA and BLZ for the protection of sensitive wetlands was initiated. A team from Gutu District who included the District Official, Forestry Department, EMA and AGRITEX visited the project area on 17 March 2020 (Annex 9). BLZ and EMA led the team to some of the key wetland areas that require protection for them to have appreciation for the need to protect wetlands. The Officials from Gutu District also visited livelihood projects at Shashe and Chinyaure to help them understand the link between livelihood and biodiversity conservation in this area. Meetings were conducted with villagers in Chinyaure and Shashe where villagers were encouraged to protect wetlands and biodiversity in the area. This forms part of initial discussions with communities for developing agreements in wetland protection while benefitting from the livelihood projects that

are being implemented by BLZ and partners in the Driefontein Grasslands. However, at least a meeting is yet to be conducted with each village for this process.

## Output 2

A baseline survey and vulnerability assessment on household incomes was conducted in Driefontein Grasslands between July and September 2019 (Annex 10). This survey carried out by BLZ and CELUCT with input from ZAPP-RDS was conducted in the four target communities of Shashe, Chinyaure, Daviot and Markdale. Data on various variables including characteristics of households, household incomes, sources of incomes and vulnerable households was collected during the baseline survey. Vulnerable households (with low incomes) identified include female and child headed households, household with people living with disability, elderly and sick people. This baseline was conducted through questionnaire surveys. Data was collected from a total of 161 households from the four target communities and a few household sampled from a nearby village. Information gathered revealed monthly household incomes of USD50 or less for about 51% of the household respondents. The results confirmed 65% of respondents who indicated monthly household income of USD75 or less. Subsistence crop production was identified the main source of income in the area. During the baseline survey it was established that loss of cattle to a Theileriosis disease between 2018 and 2019 in the target communities exacerbate poverty. Most households lost their cattle which form part of their sources of incomes. Livestock also plays an important role in providing draught power for agriculture and putting fireguards. Loss of livestock therefore exposed villagers to limited resources available for their survival.

The villagers at Shashe and Markdale were trained by ZAPP-RDS in poultry production on 28-29 December 2019 and 26-27 February 2020 respectively (Annex 11a-b). A total of 45 villagers comprising of 23 females and 22 males were trained at Shashe. At Markdale a total of 42 villagers (23 females and 19 males) were trained. Training in pig production conducted at Daviot Village from 28-29 December 2019 trained a total of 42 people (23 females and 19 males).

Three trainings, each one lasting for two days on bee keeping were conducted in Chinyaure Community between September 2019 and February 2020. The trainings were facilitated by CELUCT with assistance from BLZ. The first training (Annex 12a) on bee keeping was conducted in September 2019. The training conducted with Chinyaure Community was attended by a total of 95 people. These comprised of 53 women and 42 men. The second training (Annex 12b) conducted in December 2019 was attended by a total of 84 people (45 females, 39 males) and third training conducted in February 2020 was attended by 68 villagers (36 females and 32 males). Local villagers were equipped with skills and knowledge in bee keeping.

Building materials for pigsty and fowl runs were procured between December 2019 and January 2020. Additional materials were procured in March 2020. Two pigsties were constructed at Daviot Village. The first poultry house was constructed at Shashe Village. At Markdale, all is set for the construction of the first fowl run. Most of the materials have been procured, delivered and a suitable site has been identified. The village head has given permission for the piece of land to be used for the fowl run. Construction was delayed by the lockdown in the country due to COVID 19.

Bee keeping materials that included bee suits, gum boots, smokers and bee brushes were procured in December 2019. The materials are yet to be delivered to the project area. As soon as setting of all bee apiaries is complete the materials will then be handed to local communities. Construction of the first batch of bee hives was completed. This was done with the assistance of local carpenters and supervised by CELUCT. A total of 320 bee hives were produced. Timber for the construction of the second batch of bee hives procured in March 2020 is awaiting delivery to project area. Set up of bee apiaries was initiated in February 2020 facilitated by CELUCT with the assistance of BLZ. Two bee apiaries were set up in Chinyaure Community. Inspection of these site is being done by the local villagers using skills and knowledge they gained from the trainings.

Fencing materials (30 rolls X 50Kgs) to assist paddock restoration was procured in December 2019. Meanwhile, some of the areas to be restored were identified between December 2019 and January 2020 with the help of EMA and local communities.

During the poultry and pig production trainings at Shashe, Daviot and Markdale, local communities were introduced to small scale business enterprise and marketing. Further training on this aspect will be conducted in the year 2020-21.

### **Output 3**

A preparatory planning meeting conducted by BLZ and EMA in February 2020 discussed the content for the National Wetlands Committee. Currently, plans are in place to hold the first National Wetlands Committee meeting in the first quarter of the year 2020-21.

District meetings to raise awareness on the project and the Driefontein Environmental Management Plan (EMP) conducted with each of the three districts were successful. The first meeting was conducted with Gutu District in November 2019. The second and third meetings were conducted with Chikomba and Chirumanzu Districts respectively in March 2020 (Annex 13). These meetings were facilitated by EMA and BLZ. The Driefontein Environmental Management Plan documents (hard copies) were distributed at district level, shared with stakeholders during these meetings. The meetings were attended by key stakeholders who have influence on environmental issues at district level.

## **3.2 Progress towards project Outputs**

**Output 1:** Wetland habitat under improved conservation management for globally threatened indicator species within Driefontein Grassland IBA increased and supporting increasing trend in breeding pairs of target species.

Mapping of the key wetland areas provide the baseline that will help monitor the wetland habitat in the project area (evidence provided in section 3.1-annex 3). Training of 172 local villagers in sustainable wetland and 180 villagers in fire management provided local people who live in this biodiversity area with skills and knowledge for improved habitat management (evidence provided in section 3.1 – annexes 5 and 5). Currently, local villagers are aware of the importance of wetlands, biodiversity and threats that affect wetlands and threatened species. Following the trainings of 32 people in IBA monitoring local villagers have started contributing information on crane sightings. Two ground surveys of cranes conducted in 2019 and 2020 have contributed information on the population status of the target bird species in this area and therefore help to inform management and policy towards improved conservation of wetlands and biodiversity in this IBA. The District meetings conducted stimulated commitment by the District Officials for active participation in ensuring biodiversity conservation in the project area. The Driefontein Environmental Management Plan also sets out how local authorities can participate in wetland conservation. This is particularly important to have a guiding framework. It is highly likely that the project will have supported improved wetland habitat management given the level of commitment by the local villagers (participation in trainings, meetings) and support of the local authorities based in the area.

**Output 2:** Four Villages located in proximity of key crane breeding and foraging areas, have adopted three alternative Income Generating Activities (IGAs), with active participation of women (at least 50%) and young people increasing their monthly household incomes by a minimum of 50%.

The four target villages who received training in the three IGAs (evidence provided in section 3.1) have adopted in alternative livelihood activities which are non-wetland dependent. A total of 87 people (45 females and 42 males) have gained skills and knowledge in poultry production, while a total of 42 villagers (23 females and 19 males) adopted pig production. Setting up of these IGAs have been initiated and there is potential for the villagers to start generating revenue from the three livelihood activities. Two bee apiaries with a total of 320 bee hives established in Chinyaure are already in place as an alternative livelihood for communities. Procurement of the first batch of day old chicks (1000) and stock feeds for poultry production for Shashe and Markdale Villages done in March 2020 pave way to poultry IGAs by the communities. There is good progress at Daviot Village where two pigsties are in place and procurement of stock feeds and 43 pigs was done. By year 3, this project will achieve at least 50% increase of the monthly household incomes.

Crop failure has been experienced in this area due to poor soils and rains received. Most of the target villagers have a focus on the alternative livelihood activities. Chicken and pork meat are currently on high demand on the market as most people are slowly moving away from beef due to a cattle Theileriosis disease that affected the area. The poultry and pig activities are likely to attract good market during this project and yield significant income for the target project beneficiaries.

The output indicators are tracked during project implementation. To ensure that the livelihood activities benefit target people as per our indicators, a baseline conducted was complemented by registration process of project beneficiaries. Vulnerable households and people as per the project indicators were registered. Each beneficiary is categorised by gender and status of vulnerability is provided. On trainings and meetings, participant's lists are categorised by gender as part of measuring the indicators.

**Output 3:** Implementation of Driefontein Environmental Management Plan (EMP) mainstream into Zimbabwe's government and civil society operation strategies for the benefit of communities and biodiversity conservation.

The three district meetings conducted during this reporting year have opened up mainstreaming of the Driefontein EMP into government's and civil society operation strategies (evidence provided in section 3.1-annex 13). The commitment by the different government departments who participated in the meetings already demonstrated support to implementation of this EMP at district level. Most of the local authorities who participated in the District meetings work closely with communities in this IBA. They welcomed the Driefontein EMP through this project and expressed great interest towards its implementation for the benefit of communities and wetland biodiversity. BLZ, CELUCT and ZAPP-RDS have also demonstrated civil society partnership working closely with government departments towards implementation of the Driefontein EMP. With government and civil society commitment, it is likely that this output will be fully achieved by close of project.

**Output 4:** Lessons shared nationally, in Africa and beyond in integrated wetland management for livelihood and biodiversity benefits.

The Driefontein wetlands and biodiversity featured on national television and radio stations between January and February 2020 (<https://www.zbcnews.co.zw/ema-partners-local-organisation-to-preserve-wetlands/>). This raised awareness about importance of wetlands, Ramsar site and biodiversity in Driefontein Grasslands. In February 2020 BLZ shared summary stories with BLI and in the same month held a Skype meeting sharing project achievements in the project. This formed preparations for developing lessons learnt in this project.

### 3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

**Outcome:** Adoption of alternative income-generating activities by villagers living in core crane area in Driefontein, **reduces degradation of wetlands critical** for globally-threatened biodiversity, **supporting livelihoods, species conservation and management plan implementation.**

The four target villages in the Driefontein IBA have been trained in the three livelihood IGAs by CELUCT and ZAPP-RDS with assistance of BLZ and relevant government institutions (evidence provided in section 3.1.). These communities are currently involved as beneficiaries and actively participating in setting up their livelihood activities. A total of 196 villagers who comprised of 122 females and 74 males from Shashe, Chinyaure, Daviot and Markdale Villages were registered beneficiaries of the IGAs (annex 14a-d). Currently, there is change of behaviour among local villagers who are now starting to see benefits of wetland and biodiversity conservation in the form of livelihood support provided through this project. The local villagers are contributing crane sighting data through BLZ field Officer. During the ground surveys of cranes, most randomly asked villagers have information on when and where they see cranes and how many numbers. The villagers themselves are pushing for the protection of the sensitive seeps an indication of how they understand the importance of wetlands. In November 2019, local villagers in Daviot

stopped people (outsiders) from collecting sand from the wetlands. This shows that the villagers themselves are now aware of impacts of wetland degradation and economic losses if such wetlands are destroyed

The capacity building jointly conducted by BLZ and EMA contributed to improved knowledge on wetland management as well as policy issues on wetlands among the communities. Communities are aware of legal requirement in terms of wetland conservation. The villagers who were trained in wetland and fire management (evidence provided in section 3.1.) now have a good understanding of key threats (fire, cultivation of wetlands) that affect wetlands in Driefontein Grasslands. This helps them make informed decision at local level on sustainable wetland management. Plans are in place to put fireguards (between April-June 2020) before the fire season and villages have already equipped with knowledge and skills for putting standard fireguards around key wetlands and forests to ensure protection of breeding sites of cranes and sensitive ecosystems. The 32 villagers from the four target and nearby villages who received training in IBA monitoring have started contributing species monitoring data. This is key in ensuring conservation of globally threatened bird species and contribute effectively in the implementation of the Driefontein EMP. Local communities have started realising the link between wetland conservation and community livelihoods.

During the year local communities have been instrumental in identifying some of the sensitive wetland areas that require protection. These include areas with seeps (heart of wetland) that need to be protected from cattle trembling. Five sensitive wetlands (seeps) in grazing lands that require protection have been identified so far in Daviot (1), Chinyaure (3) and Shashe (1). The process is still ongoing where more sensitive wetlands are expected to be identified through a participatory process. This will contribute to reduction in wetland degradation. During wetland training, EMA the environmental regulatory authority has urged communities to abide to the law by conducting agricultural activities on designated land, encouraged those who already have encroached into sensitive wetland areas revert to designated areas. Follow-up and checks on this will be conducted by EMA together with community leaders and BLZ to ensure that sensitive wetland areas that are also breeding and foraging sites for cranes are protected.

Two ground surveys of cranes conducted jointly by BLZ, EMA and ZPWMA during this reporting year provided data on the status of breeding pairs of both species of cranes. Monitoring data by BLZ field Officer with the help of local communities complement survey data (Annex 15). Status of both breeding pairs and flocks of cranes as well as data on the Secretary bird will be monitored in the next two years and comparative analysis will be done to check improvement on habitat management and species occupancy.

Active participation of communities in IGAs and biodiversity conservation and commitment of project partners and relevant government institutions in this project indicates positive results towards achievement of this outcome by the end of the project. Currently, the indicators are adequate for measuring this project outcome.

### **3.4 Monitoring of assumptions**

#### **Outcome Assumptions**

Assumption 1: Government field extension officers remain committed in providing field technical assistance required by communities on livelihood initiatives and site monitoring.

Comment: The above assumption remains true. During the year there has been active participation of government departments namely EMA and ZPWMA in conducting ground surveys of cranes (evidence provided in section 3.1). EMA has been very instrumental in the joint trainings and district meetings conducted during the year. In March 2020, District Officers from Gutu who visited the area provided technical input to livelihoods that are being implemented in this IBA. The IGAs trainings coordinated by ZAPP-RDS had active participation of government field extension officers (evidence provided in section 3.1).

Assumption 2: Income generating activities remain viable with no unforeseen setbacks.



Comments: Currently no income was generated but the targeted IGAs are still perceived to be viable.

Assumption 3: Extreme drought conditions are not experienced during the project to the extent of affecting water levels in the wetland including the IGAs.

Comment: There has been below rainfall received in the country during the reporting year. However, there is enough water until the next rain season to support both IGAs and wetland biodiversity.

## **Outputs Assumptions**

### ***Output 1***

Assumption 1: People are willing to invest part of their time and adopt use of technology in species and habitat monitoring.

Comments: This still holds true, local villagers are being motivated by long-term commitment by BLZ in supporting wetland conservation and the support provided in the form of livelihoods.

### ***Output 2:***

Assumption 1: Willingness of women in particular to take a leading role in biodiversity monitoring and livelihood business enterprise.

Comments: There has been active participation of women in both livelihoods and biodiversity monitoring activities. More than 50% of livelihood beneficiaries are women (Evidence provided in section 3.3.). However, more female participants than males still need to be encouraged to actively participate in IBA monitoring.

Assumption 2: Uptake of the livelihood options is well received by the community.

Comments: This is true, communities are excited about the livelihood activities that are being implemented. These activities are empowering them. In Shashe and Daviot communities have even gone as far as taking responsibility of providing bricks for the construction of fowl run and pigsties structures. This showed commitment by these local communities in taking responsibility of the livelihood options being provided to them by BLZ.

### ***Output 3***

Assumption 1: Stakeholders at national level are willing to participate in the Driefontein Environmental EMP implementation meetings.

Comments: The national meeting has not been conducted yet. However, there has been active participation of stakeholders during the district meetings conducted with all the three districts.

### ***Output 4:***

Assumption: SSG members have interest for exchange and learning visits.

Comments: During this reporting year, local villagers have already raised the issue of site exchange and learning visits. They already expressed interest in the exchange and learning visits and therefore they are highly likely to participant in the exchange visits.

## **3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation**

**Project Impact:** Driefontein Grasslands Ramsar Site in Zimbabwe is managed to enhance community livelihoods and conserve wetland habitat for endangered biodiversity informing wider wetland management in Zimbabwe and beyond.

Project contribution to higher-level impact on biodiversity: The project is contributing to current data and conservation of the globally threatened bird species in Driefontein Grasslands (evidence provided in sections 3.1 and 3.3). Building of local capacity in sustainable wetland and fire management and IBA monitoring (evidence provided in section 3.1) is contributing to improved wetland and biodiversity conservation in this Ramsar site. Mainstreaming of Driefontein Grasslands EMP into district plans through engagement of district stakeholders contributes towards sustainable management of the Driefontein Ramsar site as well as informing wetland management in Zimbabwe.

Project contribution to higher-level impact on human development and wellbeing (poverty alleviation). The three IGAs implemented are targeting to reduce poverty among rural communities living in this IBA and therefore contributing to achievement of this impact. Bee keeping, poultry and pig production trainings conducted for the four communities and adoption of these IGAs by communities were key in enhancing livelihood of communities in this IBA (evidence provided in section 3.1). Livelihood improvement of these communities in this project directly contributes to poverty alleviation.

#### **4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)**

The project is contributing to achievement of SDGs 1 (No poverty), 2 (Zero Hunger) and 15 (Life on land). Poverty alleviation through income generating activities are contributing to delivery of SDGs 1 and 2. The livelihood activities in form of bee keeping, poultry and pig production being established in Driefontein will reduce poverty among the rural communities. Currently most villagers in Driefontein have low monthly household incomes which are below the poverty datum line. Most people in this IBA are not able to meet their daily needs in terms of food security, payment of school fees and personal health requirements. Local communities in Driefontein have been empowered through knowledge and skill building for adoption in the IGAs and income generation. Poverty alleviation among local villagers is linked to reduction of human pressure on biodiversity thereby curbing biodiversity loss. Crane and wetland habitat conservation activities being undertaken in this project are contributing to delivery of SGD 15.

#### **5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements**

This project is directly contributing meeting of Aichi target 10 of the CBD that prevents prevention of the loss of known threatened species, and improve and sustain conservation status of these species particularly of those in decline or endangered by 2020. The Grey Crowned Crane is an endangered species and is among the species whose conservation is promoted in this project.

The project contributes to meeting the National Biodiversity Targets 1, 3, 12, 13 and 16 and the corresponding Aichi Targets through, building capacity of local communities in biodiversity conservation, supporting community-based conservation programmes and promoting community-based enterprises.

**Target 1:** By 2020 at least 75% of the population is aware of the values of biodiversity and steps they can take to conserve and use it wisely

Under this target BirdLife Zimbabwe and EMA contributed to being one of the champions taking a lead in running a biodiversity programme (<https://www.zbcnews.co.zw/ema-partners-local-organisation-to-preserve-wetlands/>) and contributing to a functional community-based biodiversity programme per district. BirdLife Zimbabwe has brought in key players in the conservation of wetlands in Driefontein that are contributing to the implementation of the Driefontein management plan (local communities, government departments, civil society-evidence provided in section 3.1).

**Target 3:** By 2020 reduce the rate of loss of natural habitats including forests by at least 50%.

Under this target one of the aims of the Zimbabwe government is to achieve 15% reduction in area burnt per year. The fire and sustainable wetland management training conducted in Driefontein Grasslands by BLZ and EMA (evidence provided in section 3.1) contribute to meeting this set target by equipping villagers with skills and knowledge on how to manage and fight fires.

**Target 12:** By 2020, implement policies and strategies to maintain and restore ecosystem, integrity and reduce ecosystems degradation to enhance the livelihoods and well-being of all Zimbabweans, especially women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable

The bee-keeping training (evidence provided in section 3.1) contributes to the setting up of a viable biodiversity related- community-based enterprises as one of the indicators under this target. Furthermore the encouragement of participation of women makes sure that gender balance is achieved in biodiversity conservation initiatives.

**Target 13:** By 2020 combat desertification, and enhance ecosystem resilience through conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems

Paddock restoration and sustainable management of sensitive wetlands identified that include seeps contribute to meeting this target.

Under the Ramsar convention, this project forms part of implementation of the Driefontein EMP. Capacity building on sustainable wetland and fire management conducted in Driefontein grasslands aimed at improving knowledge and skills among communities and stakeholders in site management. This contributes meeting obligations of the Ramsar Convention. EMA is the focal institutions for implementation of Ramsar activities in the country. It is directly involved in the project implementation.

This project was launched by a senior official from METHI in September 2019 (evidence provided in section 3.1). METHI is the focal point for CBD and the project implementers interacted with METHI at this event. In addition, EMA falls under METHI and preparations for National Wetlands Committee meeting are handled in consultation with METHI.

## **6. Project support to poverty alleviation**

The IGAs that are being implemented in this project are directly contributing to poverty alleviation through increasing monthly household incomes. Communities have adopted these IGAs and are expected to generate income that will help improve their livelihoods. The baseline survey (evidence provided in section 3.1) conducted in Driefontein has already indicated low household incomes due to poverty. The project beneficiaries are rural communities living in Driefontein Grasslands and drawn from the four target villages (Shashe, Daviot, Chinaure and Markdale) who are living in the core crane area. A total of 196 people comprising of 122 females and 74 males drawn from a total of 196 households are beneficiaries of this project (evidence provided in section 3.3). The beneficiaries include women, youths, orphans and vulnerable children and people living with disability.

In Daviot the proceeds of piggery project activity is expected to improve household incomes enable villagers to meet payment of school fees for their children, ensure food security among other household needs. At community level, Daviot villagers have plans to make contributions for the construction of a primary school especially for Early Childhood Development (ECD). Currently the children of the villagers are walking 8.7km one way to the nearest school. A similar situation is also being experienced in Chinaure Community where school children are walking 10 km one way to a nearest primary school. This is another poverty gap where medium to long-term impact of this project is expected to address.

Achievements this year towards poverty alleviation include establishment of IGAs in the form of bee keeping, poultry and pig production. Beneficiary who included households with people living with disabilities, orphan and vulnerable children and widows were identified and targeted in this project. As a result of these livelihood activities and biodiversity monitoring there is increased awareness on globally threatened birds and wetlands in the Driefontein Grasslands IBA. The wetlands in Driefontein play an important role in sustaining livelihoods therefore improved management of these wetlands yield ecosystem benefits that are key in human livelihood improvement in a changing climate.

## **7. Consideration of gender equality issues**

Gender equality has been mainstreamed across all project activities. There has been involvement of both women and men as well as youths and people living with disability in the

livelihood and biodiversity monitoring trainings (evidence provided in section 3.1). The project promoted more active participation of women than men especially in livelihood activities as women in these communities play an important role in ensuring food availability for children. Women are also key in passing on knowledge and skills especially to the young generations. More than 50% of people registered project beneficiaries and who also participated in trainings are women (evidence provided in sections 3.1 and 3.3). This was targeting empowering women and also prepare them to effectively get involved in decision making at household and village levels. People living with disability, orphans and vulnerable people have been identified and included as part of project beneficiaries. Before the project, the needs of these people were not fully addressed. In most cases they could not be actively involved in community projects since they were viewed as having limited capacity. In most villages there was consideration of physical input in community group projects. Households who could not participate or provide monetary contributions in the group projects due to poverty, disability, poor health, old age were marginalised. Female-headed households especially widows sometimes find it difficult to engage in group projects due limited income and burden of carrying all household responsibilities. This project has taken a different approach as it gave priority to such marginalised group of people in the communities. Trainings and IGAs and biodiversity conservation are also empowering such group of people. Participation of more female candidates than males in bee keeping activities also indicated empowerment of this group of people in Driefontein (evidence provided in section 3.1). In the past bee keeping activities were mainly practised by men. Plans are in place to continue engagements with women, orphan and vulnerable children and people living with disability to monitor their participation throughout the project and get their views on how best to improve their active participation including in leadership levels.

## **8. Monitoring and evaluation**

During this reporting year, the monitoring and evaluation of this project was centred on the tracking of indicators in the log frame. Reference was made to the log frame during planning for trainings to ensure that output will be fulfilled. The project management team coordinated the application of the log frame across all activities conducted during the year. The key indicators of achievement monitored include output indicators for biodiversity conservation and community livelihood improvement. Biodiversity conservation indicators were measured through number of trainings conducted, participants involved with more active participation of women, species and biodiversity monitoring activities, and meetings conducted. IGAs output indicators were measured through number of people trained, gender and IGAs being established. For the key output indicators means of verification in the form of training reports from both lead and partner organisations were collected and reviewed to track the project indicators. Participatory project monitoring was also applied to hear community voice and opinions on this project. Feedback from local villagers helped the project team to make adjustments where possible on both IGAs and trainings. For instance, villagers in Shashe have initiated construction of the fowl run on their own and speeded up the process. Getting feedback from communities was also done by all project partners involved in implementation of project activities on the ground. Feedback was obtained through direct communication with BLZ field Officer who is based in the project area or directly from chairpersons of Site Support Groups. The BLZ field Officer always engage frequently with the target communities and hear their views. Some feedback were also obtained through informal and formal discussions with villagers during visits. For instance ZAPP conducted a support visit in February 2020 to get more feedback on trainings from the communities. Adaptive management was applied by the project team through use of community and stakeholder feedbacks.

On biodiversity, application of the IBA monitoring tool has been initiated for biodiversity monitoring. This tool is used to monitor bird species population, threats and wetland habitat condition.

Monitoring processes and systems included;

- Production of activity reports for all the meetings, trainings, and surveys

- Participatory monitoring to hear collective voice and taking that feedbacks into current and future planning.
- Application of the IBA monitoring tool with input from communities and stakeholders for biodiversity monitoring. An IBA monitoring form was completed for this year.
- Observations on the application of trainings by villagers. For instance communities took a leading role in identification and pushing for the protection of seeps in their villages. This indicated a better understanding of wetlands at local level.

## 9. Lessons learnt

Lessons learnt during this reporting year ranges from overall project management to site level. For effective management one of the key lessons learnt is that it is essential to ensure inclusive of key stakeholders in the project design, planning and implementation. This will create buy-in of the project at local, district and national levels as well as helping minimise challenges to be encountered in the project.

Maintaining good relations with relevant key government departments, civil society organisations and communities is instrumental in ensuring project success. The government stakeholders were engaged during project development. Upon awarding of this grant, the project had already received support from the relevant government departments. This helped smooth active participation of government stakeholders. Local communities were also involved during the design of this project. In this regard, the livelihood interventions being implemented were informed by the communities. Uptake of livelihood activities was well received by local communities as these activities addressed their needs.

One of the lessons learnt also was that there is potential for knowledge sharing on livelihoods and biodiversity conservation across the target villages. Active participation in the project of the target villages has been impressive. The involved communities are being motivated by the alternative livelihoods to be implemented. They are realising the opportunities associated with biodiversity conservation.

Biodiversity monitoring can take many shapes in communal areas but its quality depends on practical tools that generate useful knowledge and inform local decisions for improved management of sites. Direct community involvement in the project is essential in ensuring biodiversity conservation in the Driefontein Grassland Ramsar site. Instituting effective citizen science education among members of local communities and other key stakeholders is key in ensuring flow of biodiversity data from Driefontein Grasslands IBA. During the IBA monitoring trainings, it was interesting to note that local villagers were able to understand well the IBA monitoring framework and generate meaningful information from it. However, female participation in IBA monitoring trainings was low. In future a strategy through provision of promotional materials for women participants will be done to encourage women participation in these training. A quota for women will be set for each participating village.

Partnership in project implementation has been important as this yielded diverse ideas leading to success in project implementation. The partnership enabled shared knowledge, building capacity and advance of conservation work through team work. However, the partners involved needed some follow-ups and guidance to ensure that they meet their deliverables in time.

**Recommendation:** The project team must be proactive and decisively manage challenges encountered in the project. The Project Leads in particular need to develop skills required to proactively identify the challenges that could impact their project, and to effectively manage their projects even when these challenges occur.

## **10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

N/A as this is our first end of year report.

## **11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

During the year the project design was enhanced a coordinated and collaborative approach taken. The participation of other key government departments such as ZPWMA, AGRITEX has been key in strengthening the project.

The COVID19 pandemic which as swept across the world has had impact on project implementation. BirdLife Zimbabwe developed its own internal response, one of which was halting all travel for the staff. This was done to reduce exposure of staff to Covid19 as well protecting vulnerable communities who have limited access to health care facilities.

The country then proceeded to go into lockdown, restricting movement of people and banning public gatherings. As a result meeting that had been planned had to be cancelled. Services by the different providers became slow (banks, shops) as they were now working with minimum number of staff possible.

The organisation responded by having staff work from home. As part of adapting to this pandemic BLZ has used this 'lull' in travel and gatherings to plan for projects in-depth.

In the last quarter (Q4) of the project, BLZ faced a challenge of pre-financing activities for Q4. Communication with the Darwin Initiative was done requesting for an advance for this quarter and some funds were provided. BLZ is currently looking into possible options to deal with such challenges and will communicate with the Darwin Initiative about this.

## **12. Sustainability and legacy**

The project has received buy-in from the communities and government structures. The involvement of the key government departments in project implementation shows high potential of project sustainability. These departments include those at district level. Post the project, this work will be mainstreamed in district environmental and developmental plans where more support including technical aspects will be provided. Recently, local media engaged during the year helped to raise awareness about this project, wetland conservation and Ramsar site in particular. This attracted attention of the country. At national level, the project is feeding in the implementation of the Driefontein EMP. Implementation of the EMP is a continuous process hence this guarantee sustainability of the project. The local Site Support Groups also play a key role in strengthening local networks among villagers in biodiversity conservation. Local communities showed high commitment to the project and there has been good update of project IGAs and biodiversity monitoring by the villagers.

The planned exist strategy is still valid. Plans are in place to establish a Steering Committee that is inclusive to help guide project activities beyond this funding. IGAs being established will be instrumental in sustaining community livelihoods that will lead to reduction of pressure on wetlands and biodiversity.

## **13. Darwin identity**

The Darwin identity was publicised during the project launch event. The Darwin Initiative was acknowledge for funding this project during the launch. A banner displayed during the project launch carried the Darwin Initiative logo.

The Darwin funding is recognised as a distinct project in the Driefontein Grasslands. Currently, the Darwin funded project is the only project run by BirdLife Zimbabwe in Driefontein Grasslands. It is well recognised by project partners, communities and local

stakeholders as a distinct project. However, this project is contributing to implementation of the Driefontein EMP.

Civil society and relevant government departments involved are familiar with the Darwin Initiative through this project. They understand the Darwin Initiative a donor that provide financial support to projects of this kind.

#### **14. Safeguarding**

BLZ has shared its safeguard policies with all project staff, and partners. In addition it was stressed to the partners that BLZ would take matters of violating safeguards seriously.

Some of the practical ways in which the organisation deals with protecting women who take part in the training include

- 1) Conducting training close to the villages to ensure that women travel in daylight
- 2) When conducting training further away, transport arrangements are made so that no one has to travel at night
- 3) Addressing local villagers in the way they feel comfortable, whilst it is common in the workplace to address each other on first name basis, this is not the case for the communities. The project leaders and partners have adopted the same way of addressing local communities, for instance use of totems to show respect of villagers.
- 4) At the beginning of each training, rules of engagement are continuously stressed, for instance no abusive or derogatory language will be tolerated from either the facilitators or the participants. This has ensured that the trainings are a safe place to converse respecting the views by all
- 5) All consultants hired by BLZ and/or those provide short-term services are expected to adopt the safeguard policies- these are also signed as part of the contract of any consultant hired.

## 15. Project expenditure

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020)**

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2019/20 Grant (£)	2019/20 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				Draft-delayed payment to partners to be done.
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				1,090.00 was moved from the original overhead budget of 2,890.00 to other cost budget upon request
Travel and subsistence				Draft. The variance was attributed to some activities of the last quarter that were delayed due to COVID-19 and pre-financing challenge.
Operating Costs				Variance is due to delayed project activities
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				Draft- processing of some payments for the last quarter is yet to be completed.
<b>TOTAL</b>				



## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2019-2020

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2019 - March 2020	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Driefontein Grasslands Ramsar Site in Zimbabwe is managed to enhance community livelihoods and conserve wetland habitat for endangered biodiversity informing wider wetland management in Zimbabwe and beyond.</p>		<p>Monitoring of globally threatened bird species initiated, development of local capacity and engagement of both district and national level stakeholders in wetland and site management are contributing towards improved management of the Driefontein Ramsar site. Awareness on birds and wetland conservation raised during the year influenced community participation for improved biodiversity conservation. The three IGAs activities established enhance community livelihood and are linked to wetland conservation where local communities have already been engaged for sustainable wetland management.</p>	
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <p>Adoption of alternative income-generating activities by villagers living in core crane area in Driefontein, reduces degradation of wetlands critical for globally threatened biodiversity, supporting livelihoods, species conservation and management plan implementation.</p>	<p>0.1 Four villages sharing habitats with cranes in the IBA have adopted three alternative sustainable income generating activities (IGAs) increasing the incomes of 170 households by at least 50% by end of project.</p> <p>0.2 Capacity in sustainable wetland management, fire management and IBA monitoring by the communities in four villages within the IBA developed by Year 1.</p> <p>0.3 At least 10 key wetland areas identified in the target area. Management by communities improve the status of these habitats. Breeding pairs of crane species occupy at least 6 of the 10 wetland habitats by the end of the project.</p>	<p>Three alternative livelihoods in the form of bee keeping, poultry and pig production have been established for the four target villages. 196 households are beneficiaries of these livelihood activities. A total of 1000 day old chicks and stock feeds was procured in March 2020 for the first batch of poultry production. Local capacity in poultry and pig production built among the beneficiary communities between December 2019 and February 2020 prepared the villagers to engage effectively in these livelihood activities. A total of 129 people were trained in poultry and pig production. Two bee apiaries with a total of 320 bee hives established in Chinyaure community is set to benefit a total 65 villagers.</p>	<p>Provision of additional chicks and stock feeds and monitoring of the livelihood activities.</p> <p>Follow-up IBA monitoring training</p> <p>More sensitive wetlands to be identified and managed by communities.</p> <p>Continue biodiversity monitoring including breeding pairs of cranes.</p> <p>Continue with sharing of lessons learnt.</p>

	<p>0.4. Number of breeding pairs of globally threatened wetland bird species (Wattled and Grey-crowned cranes) in core areas targeted by the project in the Driefontein Grasslands IBA increased by at least 25% (from 2018 baseline) by the end of the project.</p> <p>0.5 The project model and lessons learnt shared with community, government, and civil society stakeholders within and beyond Zimbabwe by end of project. At national level this will be built into ongoing implementation of the Crane Action Plan (2010) and the Environmental Management Plan for Driefontein.</p>	<p>Local capacity in sustainable wetland management, fire management and IBA monitoring built among local communities were successful (evidence provided in section 3.1).</p> <p>Process of identifying key wetlands for protection by communities was initiated. Five sensitive have been identified with assistance of communities for protection.</p> <p>During the year crane monitoring was initiated through two ground surveys conducted, and frequent field monitoring by BLZ field Officer with assistance of villagers.</p> <p>Publicity by media Between January and February 2020 shared lessons across Zimbabwe about importance Driefontein wetlands (evidence provided in section 3.2).</p>	
<p><b>Output 1.</b></p> <p>Wetland habitat under improved conservation management for globally threatened indicator species within Driefontein Grassland IBA increased and supporting increasing trend in breeding pairs of target species</p>	<p>1.1 Key wetland areas (core crane breeding and foraging areas) mapped by end of Year 1 (BEY1).</p> <p>1.2 Consultative community meetings with District Environmental Officers to agree on modalities for adhering to avoidance of cultivation of sensitive wetland areas BEY1.</p> <p>1.3 Increased capacity of at least 170 community members (including at least 85 women and 25 young people) representing 4 Villages in sustainable wetland management, and fire control through provision of fire-fighting training and gear.</p> <p>1.4 At least 10 % increase of wetlands with improved management status by end of project (BEP) in crane core</p>	<p>Mapping of the key wetland areas was completed in August 2019 (evidence provided in section 3.1).</p> <p>Consultative meetings with communities and District Environmental Officers were initiated where modalities for reducing wetland cultivation were discussed. Local communities were encouraged to avoid cultivation of wetlands. However, follow-up meetings were yet to be done for the development of the agreements with communities.</p> <p>Trainings in wetland and fire management were conducted where at least 172 villagers who included more than 85 women and 25 young people were trained (Evidence provided in section 3.1)</p> <p>Baseline on wetland was recorded through mapping (evidence provided in section 3.1.)</p>	

	<p>areas, against baselines recorded in Year 1.</p> <p>1.5 At least 25% increase in crane breeding pairs BEP, against 2018 baselines</p> <p>1.6 At least 28 people from the four villages are trained, capable of conducting detailed IBA monitoring, and coordinate with at least 280 villagers in active citizen science activities providing data on species sightings and threats in the IBA by Year 3.</p>	<p>Monitoring of cranes was initiated through ground surveys and field monitoring. This is ongoing process to generate data on breeding pairs and flocks of cranes.</p> <p>A total of 32 people (7 females and 25 males) from the four target villages and 3 people from three nearby villages were trained in IBA monitoring in November 2019. Plans are in place to conduct follow-up training on IBA monitoring with this group (evidence provided in section 3.1).</p>	
Activity 1.1. Mapping of critical wetland areas	Completed	Add crane monitoring data to the mapped wetlands	
Activity 1.2. Conduct consultative meetings with District Environmental Officers, and hold meetings with communities collecting gender disaggregated data			
Activity 1.3. Conduct training in sustainable wetland management, firefighting and prevention with active participation of women	Completed	Follow-up training to be done in the 2020-21 year.	
Activity 1.4. Procure and distribute firefighting equipment	Completed		
Activity 1.5. Conduct crane surveys	Completed for the year	Two ground surveys for the year 2020-21 to be conducted.	
Activity 1.6. Training of local villagers in IBA monitoring	Ongoing, the first IBA monitoring training was conducted in November 2019,	Follow-up training to be conducted.	
Activity 1.7. Conduct site monitoring using BirdLife IBA monitoring framework	Ongoing, with knowledge build among villagers site monitoring was initiated.	Participatory site monitoring to continue in the year 2020-21.	
Activity 1.8. Set fireguards around sensitive forests and restored areas	Villagers received knowledge from the trainings on how to do this	Fireguards will be established between April and June 2020 as for EMA guidance on this exercise.	

<p>Activity 1.9. Develop Village Land Use Plans, facilitate their approval and signing at village and ward levels.</p>	<p>This is planned for the next period</p>	
<p>Activity 1.10. Develop local agreements with communities on protecting identified sensitive wetlands.</p>	<p>Ongoing. Identification of sensitive wetlands by communities with the help of EMA and BLZ was initiated.</p>	<p>Conduct meetings with communities to develop local agreements for the protection of the identified wetlands.</p>
<p>Activity 1.11. Project Launch to raise awareness on project</p>	<p>Completed</p>	
<p><b>Output 2.</b> Four villages located in proximity of key crane breeding and foraging areas, have adopted three alternative IGAs, with active participation of women (at least 50 %) and young people, increasing their monthly household incomes by a minimum of 50%.</p>	<p>2.1 Baseline household income and vulnerability assessment data for 4 target villages collected by end of year 1</p> <p>2.2 A business plan for IGAs in place by year 1.</p> <p>2.3 At least 170 people (with at least 50% being women, and at least 10% are OVC and people with disability) trained on establishing target IGAs by end of Year 1.</p> <p>2.4 At least 40 villagers including 50% being women and 10% being OVC and people with disability adopt small scale pig production enterprise by Year 2.</p> <p>2.5 At least 90 villagers comprising of a minimum of 50 women and 9 OVC in this group collectively run a viable poultry production, join the Zimbabwe Poultry Production by end of Year 1.</p> <p>2.6 40+ villagers including (50% being women) adopt bee keeping as small scale business by Year 2.</p> <p>2.7 170+ households (including those of female-headed, OVC and people with disability) have their income</p>	<p>A baseline survey was conducted (evidence provided in section 3,1)</p> <p>A business plan is not yet developed. However, issues of marketing and business on poultry and pig production were introduced during trainings at Shashe, Daviot and Markdale.</p> <p>Three separate trainings and two meetings on establishment of IGAs were conducted with Shashe, Daviot and Markdale Villages (evidence provided in section 3.1). 129 villagers were trained in poultry and pig production, and at least 68 villagers were trained in bee keeping.</p> <p>A total of 40 people with more than 50% women were registered beneficiaries of pig production activity and adopted pig production enterprise (evidence provided in section 3.3).</p> <p>A total of 91 villagers from Shashe and Markdale Villages were registered beneficiaries of poultry production and have adopted the poultry production (evidence provided in section 3.3). A total of 87 (46 males and 41 males) villagers already received training in poultry and pig production (evidence provided in section 3.1).</p> <p>A total of 65 villagers have adopted bee keeping as small scale business. Training in this bee keeping enterprise was provided to at least 68 villagers (evidence provided in section 3.1)</p>

	<p>increased by at least 50% by end of Year 2.</p> <p>2.8 At least 2 paddocks for controlling cattle grazing restored by villagers using part of income generated in each of the four villages.</p> <p>2.9 At least 30 people (ToT) representing the four villages trained in small scale business enterprise and marketing of produce by end of Year</p>	<p>A total of 196 households have been identified IGAs beneficiaries, registered and set to benefit from the livelihood activities (evidence provided in section 3.3)</p> <p>Five grazing areas to be restored were identified by communities. Meanwhile fencing materials for paddock restoration procured in December 2019 is awaiting delivery to the project area.</p> <p>ToT not yet conducted. However, introduction to marketing was covered during the poultry and pig production trainings conducted between December 2019 and February 2020.</p>	
Activity 2.1. Carry out a baseline survey and vulnerability assessment on household incomes for Shashe, Chinyaure, Daviot and Markdale Villages	Completed		
Activity 2.2. Conduct training in poultry production	Completed		Follow up monitoring
Activity 2.3. Conduct training in pig production	Completed		Follow up monitoring
Activity 2.4. Conduct training in bee keeping	80 % complete		Practical on apiary monitoring and set up of the remaining apiaries to be conducted.
Activity 2.5. Purchase materials for pig sty and poultry house	90 complete		Few additional materials may be required
Activity 2.6 Facilitate construction of pig sty and poultry house.	Ongoing		First structures completed for Shashe and Daviot Villages. Establishment of fowl run at Markdale will commence soon. Brooding houses, toilets and store room still to be constructed.
Activity 2.7 Purchase bee keeping materials	80% Completed		Second batch of timber to be delivered to Chinyaure Community.
Activity 2.8 Facilitate construction of bee hives	Ongoing		Second batch of at least 320 bee hives to be constructed.
Activity 2.9 Inspection of sites for bee apiaries	Ongoing		Current sites are being inspected. New apiary sites to be identified.

Activity 2.10. Restoration of paddocks to regulate cattle grazing	Ongoing. Sites for restoration have been identified and fencing materials procured.	Delivery of fencing materials and facilitate fencing of paddocks.
Activity 2.11. Training in small scale business enterprise and marketing	Only introduction to this subject done during poultry and pig production trainings.	Trainings in small scale business enterprise and marketing to be conducted.
Activity 2.12. Development of a business plan linked to markets	Not yet done	Plans are in place to carry out this in the next period.
Activity 2.13. Poultry business registration to the Zimbabwe Poultry Production, honey and pig production certification and marketing	Not yet done	This will be done in the next period.
<b>Output 3.</b> Implementation of the Driefontein EMP mainstreamed into Zimbabwe's government and civil society operation strategies for the benefit of communities and biodiversity conservation.	3.1 At least three National Wetland Committee meetings supported by BLZ conducted where structures and measures for implementing the EMP are set up by Year 2.  3.2 At least four meetings conducted with each of the three Rural District Councils within the Driefontein Grasslands influencing mainstreaming of the Driefontein EMP into their district plans.	A district meeting was conducted with each of Gutu, Chikomba and Chirumanzu district where awareness on the Driefontein EMP was raised (evidence provided in section 3.1).
Activity 3.1. Conduct National Wetland Committee meetings	Not yet done, only a preparatory meeting between BLZ and EMA was done in January 2020.	Planned for next period, at least one is scheduled for the first quarter of the year 2020-21.
Activity 3.2. Conduct meetings with District Environmental Officers and Rural District Councils of Gutu, Chikomba and Chirumanzu.	Ongoing. At least three meetings conducted so far	Additional (at least three more) meetings will be conducted in the next period.
Activity 3.3. Leadership training covering group governance, conflict resolution and gender	Not yet done	Planned for next period
<b>Output 4.</b> Lessons shared nationally, in Africa and beyond in integrated wetland management for livelihood and biodiversity benefits.	4.1 Widely shared lessons learnt documents and news articles across Driefontein, Zimbabwe and beyond reaching at least 50 institutions in	Some lessons on the importance of wetlands in Driefontein Grasslands were shared across the country through news and documentary broadcasted on the national television and radio stations between January and February 2020. Plans

	<p>Zimbabwe and 120 BirdLife partners across the globe.</p> <p>4.2 At least two learning and exchange visits conducted with community members visiting other wetland areas in Zimbabwe.</p> <p>4.3 At least one lessons learnt workshop conducted at national level, attended by at least 40 people from communities, civil society organisation and relevant government departments advocating for adoption of good wetland management practices in Zimbabwe.</p>	<p>are in place for producing news articles to be shared across websites of project implementers (evidence provided in section 3.2).</p>	
<p>Activity 4.1. Produce articles to be uploaded online in respective project partner websites</p>	<p>The information is being collated</p>	<p>The articles will be produced in the next period.</p>	
<p>Activity 4.2. Collate, design and print lessons learnt document and disseminate across Driefontein and SSGs in Africa</p>	<p>Lessons learnt are currently being collated.</p>	<p>Continuous collation of the lessons, design and printing of lessons learnt will be done in the next period.</p>	
<p>Activity 4.3. Share lessons learnt with members of National Steering Committee, Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry, and portfolio committee on environment in the Zimbabwean Parliament</p>	<p>Planned for coming years</p>		
<p>Activity 4.4. Facilitate two exchange visits by SSG members visiting other wetland areas in Zimbabwe to learn good management practices.</p>	<p>This was planned for coming years</p>		
<p>Activity 4.5. Development, packaging and dissemination of CEPA materials</p>	<p>Collation of materials initiated. However, most will be done in the next period,</p>		
<p>Activity 4.6. Produce guidelines on IGAs linked to wetland management that provide recommendations on mechanism for livelihood transformation for saving threatened biodiversity</p>	<p>Ongoing. The model of IGAs in Driefontein is already being set up where information will be collected for the production of the guidelines.</p>	<p>Guidelines On IGAs will be produced in the next periods.</p>	
<p>Activity 4.7. Conduct a lessons learnt sharing workshop at national level</p>	<p>This was planned for the coming years</p>		

## Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p><b>Impact:</b> Driefontein Grasslands Ramsar Site in Zimbabwe is managed to enhance community livelihoods and conserve wetland habitat for endangered biodiversity informing wider wetland management in Zimbabwe and beyond.</p>			
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Adoption of alternative income-generating activities by villagers living in core crane area in Driefontein, reduces degradation of wetlands critical for globally threatened biodiversity, supporting livelihoods, species conservation and management plan implementation.</p>	<p>0.1 Four villages sharing habitats with cranes in the IBA have adopted three alternative sustainable income-generating activities (IGAs) increasing the incomes of 170 households by at least 50% by end of project. 0.2 Capacity in sustainable wetland management, fire management and IBA monitoring by the communities in four villages within the IBA developed by Year 1. 0.3 At least 10 key wetland areas identified in the target area. Management by communities improve the status of these habitats. Breeding pairs of crane species occupy at least 6 of the 10 wetland habitats by the end of the project. 0.4. Number of breeding pairs of globally threatened wetland bird species (Wattled and Grey-crowned cranes) in core areas targeted by the project in the Driefontein Grasslands IBA increased by at least 25% (from 2018 baseline) by the end of the project. 0.5 The project model and lessons learnt shared with community, government, and civil society stakeholders within and beyond</p>	<p>0.1 Baseline, initial and end of project socioeconomic reports 0.2 Training reports, completed IBA monitoring forms 0.3 Baseline and end of project reports with maps. project biodiversity reports with maps 0.4 Reports based on baseline bird survey and end of project reports 0.5 National reports to Ramsar capturing lessons learnt and biodiversity conservation achieved by the project in Driefontein Grasslands.</p>	<p>Government field extension officers remain committed in providing field technical assistance required by communities on livelihood initiatives and site monitoring. This is possible considering that BLZ had established good working relations, and in the past collaborated with these key stakeholders on various activities. Income generating activities remain viable with no unforeseen set backs Extreme drought conditions are not experienced during the project to the extent of affecting water levels in the wetland including the IGAs</p>



	Zimbabwe by end of project. At national level this will be built into ongoing implementation of the Crane Action Plan (2010) and the Environmental Management Plan for Driefontein.		
<p><b>Output 1</b></p> <p>Wetland habitat under improved conservation management for globally threatened indicator species within Driefontein Grassland IBA increased and supporting increasing trend in breeding pairs of target species</p>	<p>1.1 Key wetland areas (core crane breeding and foraging areas) mapped by end of Year 1 (BEY1).</p> <p>1.2 Consultative community meetings with District Environmental Officers to agree on modalities for adhering to avoidance of cultivation of sensitive wetland areas BEY1.</p> <p>1.3 Increased capacity of at least 170 community members (including at least 85 women and 25 young people) representing 4 Villages in sustainable wetland management, and fire control through provision of fire-fighting training and gear.</p> <p>1.4 At least 10 % increase of wetlands with improved management status by end of project (BEP) in crane core areas, against baselines recorded in Year 1.</p> <p>1.5 At least 25% increase in crane breeding pairs BEP, against 2018 baselines</p> <p>1.6 At least 28 people from the four villages are trained, capable of conducting detailed IBA monitoring, and coordinate with at least 280 villagers in active citizen science activities providing data on species</p>	<p>1.1. Biodiversity monitoring reports</p> <p>1.2. Project reports</p> <p>1.3 Training reports and completed IBA status report for Driefontein.</p> <p>1.4. Biodiversity monitoring reports</p> <p>1.5. Biodiversity monitoring reports</p> <p>1.6. Training and IBA reports</p>	<p>People are willing to invest part of their time and adopt use of technology in species and habitat monitoring. This is highly likely as livelihood improvement will be a motivation.</p>

	sightings and threats in the IBA by Year 3.		
<p><b>Output 2</b></p> <p>Four villages located in proximity of key crane breeding and foraging areas, have adopted three alternative IGAs, with active participation of women (at least 50 %) and young people, increasing their monthly household incomes by a minimum of 50%.</p>	<p>2.1 Baseline household income and vulnerability assessment data for 4 target villages collected by end of year 1</p> <p>2.2 A business plan for IGAs in place by year 1.</p> <p>2.3 At least 170 people (with at least 50% being women, and at least 10% are OVC and people with disability) trained on establishing target IGAs by end of Year 1.</p> <p>2.4 At least 40 villagers including 50% being women and 10% being OVC and people with disability adopt small scale pig production enterprise by Year 2.</p> <p>2.5 At least 90 villagers comprising of a minimum of 50 women and 9 OVC in this group collectively run a viable poultry production, join the Zimbabwe Poultry Production by end of Year 1.</p> <p>2.6 40+ villagers including (50% being women) adopt bee keeping as small scale business by Year 2.</p> <p>2.7 170+ households (including those of female-headed, OVC and people with disability) have their income increased by at least 50% by end of Year 2.</p> <p>2.8 At least 2 paddocks for controlling cattle grazing restored by villagers using part of income generated in each of the four villages.</p>	<p>2.1. Baseline and vulnerability assessment survey report on current household incomes.</p> <p>2.2. Business plan document</p> <p>2.3 Training report</p> <p>2.4. Progress reports</p> <p>2.5. Progress and village reports</p> <p>2.6. Monthly Village reports</p> <p>2.7 Progress report</p> <p>2.8 Mid-term project report</p> <p>2.9 Training and project reports.</p>	<p>Willingness of women in particular to take a leading role in biodiversity monitoring and livelihood business enterprise. One of the four SSGs in Driefontein Grasslands is led by a woman. There is high potential to motivate more women in active participation in biodiversity conservation. Uptake of the livelihood options is well received by the community beneficiary. This is very likely because these were ideas suggested by the communities during engagements with them.</p>

	2.9 At least 30 people (ToT) representing the four villages trained in small scale business enterprise and marketing of produce by end of Year		
<b>Output 3</b> Implementation of the Driefontein EMP mainstreamed into Zimbabwe's government and civil society operation strategies for the benefit of communities and biodiversity conservation.	3.1 At least three National Wetland Committee meetings supported by BLZ conducted where structures and measures for implementing the EMP are set up by Year 2.  3.2 At least four meetings conducted with each of the three Rural District Councils within the Driefontein Grasslands influencing mainstreaming of the Driefontein EMP into their district plans.	3.1. A National Steering Committee for implementing the Driefontein EMP in place. 3.2. Monitoring and evaluation reports.	Stakeholders at national level are willing to participate in Driefontein EMP implementation meetings. This is possible considering that BirdLife is a key stakeholder in National Wetlands Committee, and EMA hosts this committee.
<b>Output 4</b> Lessons shared nationally, in Africa and beyond in integrated wetland management for livelihood and biodiversity benefits.	4.1 Widely shared lessons learnt documents and news articles across Driefontein, Zimbabwe and beyond reaching at least 50 institutions in Zimbabwe and 120 BirdLife partners across the globe. 4.2 At least two learning and exchange visits conducted with community members visiting other wetland areas in Zimbabwe. 4.3 At least one lessons learnt workshop conducted at national level, attended by at least 40 people from communities, civil society organisation and relevant government departments advocating for adoption of good	4.1. Publicised articles, and lessons learnt documents. 4.2. Learning and site exchange reports. 4.3. Workshop report	SSG members have interest for exchange and learning visits. This possible as most SSG members in the BirdLife network have expressed great interest before for such visits. BLI has experience in facilitating such activities as well as sharing lessons across Africa.

	wetland management practices in Zimbabwe.		
<p><b>Activities</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Mapping of critical wetland areas</li> <li>1.2. Conduct consultative meetings with District Environmental Officers, and hold meetings with communities collecting gender disaggregated data</li> <li>1.3. Conduct training in sustainable wetland management, firefighting and prevention with active participation of women</li> <li>1.4. Procure and distribute firefighting equipment</li> <li>1.5. Conduct crane surveys</li> <li>1.6. Training of local villagers in IBA monitoring</li> <li>1.7. Conduct site monitoring using BirdLife IBA monitoring framework</li> <li>1.8. Set fireguards around sensitive forests and restored areas</li> <li>1.9. Develop Village Land Use Plans, facilitate their approval and signing at village and ward levels.</li> <li>1.10. Develop local agreements with communities on protecting identified sensitive wetlands</li> <li>1.11. Project Launch to raise awareness on project</li> </ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. Carry out a baseline survey and vulnerability assessment on household incomes for Shashe, Chinyaure, Daviot and Markdale Villages</li> <li>2.2. Conduct training in poultry production</li> <li>2.3. Conduct training in pig production</li> <li>2.4. Conduct training in bee keeping</li> <li>2.5. Purchase materials for pig sty and poultry house</li> <li>2.6. Facilitate construction of pig sty and poultry house</li> <li>2.7. Purchase bee keeping materials</li> <li>2.8. Facilitate construction of bee hives</li> <li>2.9. Inspection of sites for bee apiaries</li> <li>2.10. Restoration of paddocks to regulate cattle grazing</li> <li>2.11. Training in small scale business enterprise and marketing</li> <li>2.12. Development of a business plan linked to markets</li> <li>2.13. Poultry business registration to the Zimbabwe Poultry Production, honey and pig production certification and marketing</li> <li>3.1. Conduct National Wetland Committee meetings</li> <li>3.2. Conduct meetings with District Environmental Officers and Rural District Councils of Gutu, Chikomba and Chirumanzu.</li> <li>3.3. Leadership training covering group governance, conflict resolution and gender</li> <li>4.1. Produce articles to be uploaded online in respective project partner websites</li> <li>4.2. Collate, design and print lessons learnt document and disseminate across Driefontein and SSGs in Africa</li> <li>4.3. Share lessons learnt with members of National Steering Committee, Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry, and portfolio committee on environment in the Zimbabwean Parliament</li> <li>4.4. Facilitate two exchange visits by SSG members visiting other wetland areas in Zimbabwe to learn good management practices.</li> <li>4.5. Development, packaging and dissemination of CEPA materials</li> </ol>			

- 4.6. Produce guidelines on IGAs linked to wetland management that provide recommendations on mechanism for livelihood transformation for saving threatened biodiversity.
- 4.7. Conduct a lessons learnt sharing workshop at national level.

## Annex 3: Standard Measures

**Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures**

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
6A	Number of people received other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above) *  Total number of people received IBA monitoring, fire and sustainable wetland management and IGAs training.	Females 109 Males 82	Zimbabwean	198				
6B	Number of training weeks provided		Zimbabwean	4.5				
7	IBA training tool, Bee keeping training manual and fire management training materials		Zimbabwean	3				
14A	Project Launch event, three district meetings	Females-24 Males-56	Zimbabwean, One Kenyan (participated in project launch)	80				

**Table 2 Publications**

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

## Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Annex 1-participant list project launch

Annex 2- MoU BLZ-Gutu RDC

Annex 3-Final Wetland Mapping

Annex 4 -Fire Management Training

Annex 10- Baseline Survey Report

Annex 15- monitoring form

### Checklist for submission

	Check
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	yes
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please discuss with <a href="mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk">Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You need not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	yes
<b>Do you have hard copies of material you want to submit with the report?</b> If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	