

## Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

*Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.*

**Submission Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

<b>Project reference</b>	DIR27S2\1040
<b>Project title</b>	African Wild Dogs and African people - Conservation through Coexistence
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Kenya
<b>Lead partner</b>	Mpala Research Centre
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Laikipia County Government, Northern Rangeland Trust, Samburu County Government, Isiolo County Government, Kenya Wildlife Service, Community Conservancies, Ewaso lions, Action For Cheetahs, Community Outreach Arts.
<b>Project leader</b>	Dedan Ngatia
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> Oct 2022, HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	Website: <a href="http://www.mpala.org/">www.mpala.org/</a> Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MpalaResearchCentre">https://www.facebook.com/MpalaResearchCentre</a> Twitter: <a href="https://twitter.com/MpalaWildDogs">@MpalaWildDogs</a> Instagram: <i>Mpala_WildDogs</i>

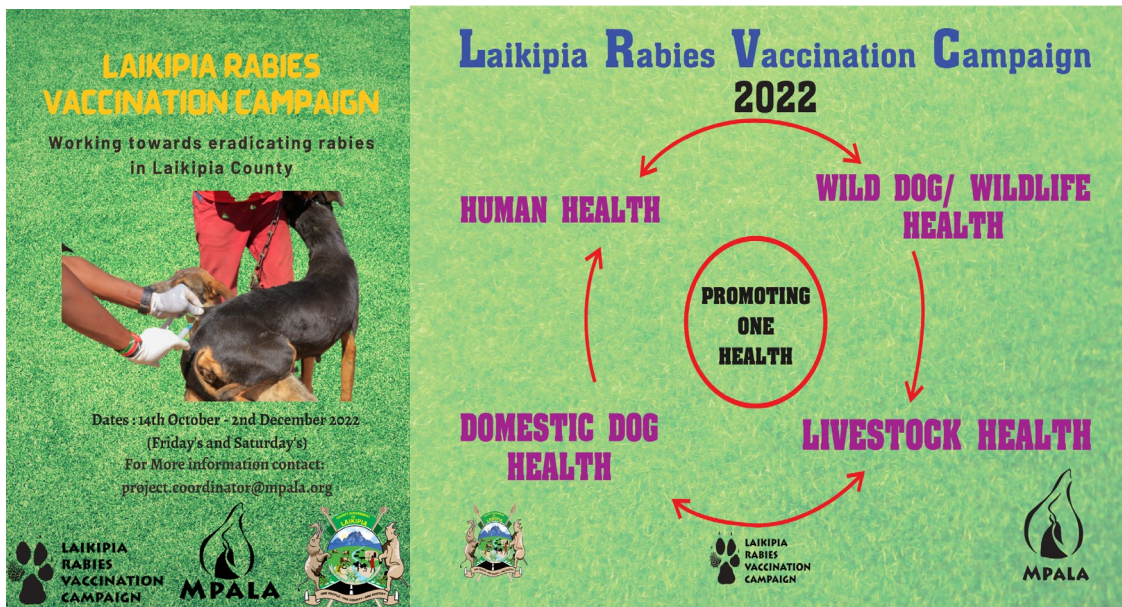
**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).**

This report captures 6 months of a busy section of this project and as optimal implementation of most aspects has happened as follows;

### Output 1: Zero human deaths from rabies in the project area by 2024

Activities:

1. Mass domestic dog vaccinations started 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2022 and currently in progress. The activity will run until 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. So far, 3 consecutive weekends have seen >4,000 dogs vaccinated.
2. All the data regarding rabies vaccination numbers, area coverage, percentage of dogs coverage, and community perception to the activity are being captured in Smartphone App
3. Mark-resight surveys are being conducted to estimate vaccination coverage.
4. The educative plays on rabies control, dog bite management and the one on co-existence developed at the start of the project has been successfully used in different communities in project area. So far, 5 plays on rabies and dog bite management have been done reaching out to >2500 residents including; community ranches, targeting men, women and school-going children.
5. Questionnaires were administered before and after the plays were performed. At least 10 persons were interviewed before the plays, and 10 others after the plays, for a total of 100 questionnaires. The data has not been analyzed but results should be available during the coming reporting period.
6. Short social videos have not been created yet, but there is an agreement with the Community Outreach Arts to facilitate this in coming days. All the same, progress with project activities have been shared consistently on our social media pages with a growing audience.
7. We have developed rabies control related print materials (attached below) showing the benefit to human, livestock and wildlife. Once we add the Darwin logo in this, we will proceed to share this to various communities and stakeholders.



8. One on one training between the junior project members and the senior project staff continues in regular intervals, once every two weeks. This has been instrumental in sharing critical skills and knowledge for project implementation. We intend to bring on board more staff from partnering organizations in coming reporting periods
9. Monthly progress assessment meetings continue to be held between project staff helping improve efficiency and effectiveness of implementation

10. We continue to monitor vaccination progress in terms of area and percentage of coverage, this will inform our decisions going forward into the exercise. We intend to be flexible implementing this as will be advised by the monitoring to ensure sufficient coverage of the project area.
11. In collaboration with one of the projects technical advisors from the Smithsonian institute, Dr. Katie, we have initiated a disease surveillance program targeting dog health and data from nearby dispensaries and hospitals. Currently, our community officers are reporting all incidences of sick dogs, bites, etc.

**Output 2: Two-thirds reduction of wild dog deaths caused directly or indirectly by people.**

Activities:

1. We convened a workshop bringing together local and international experts on disease. Together, we hosted a total of 20 experts for 2 days and engaged them on matters relating to management of diseases affecting African wild dogs. Report preparation for the workshop is in progress and will be shared in next reporting phase.
2. We have developed a local disease management plan for African wild dogs, once the plan is approved by the Kenya Wildlife Service, we will proceed to share it with all relevant parties.
3. We plan to initiate a trial vaccination plan for the existing packs in our study area. Kenya Wildlife Service recommended that we apply a permit for this. We will proceed with the trials once the approvals are ready.
4. We are using SMART App to collect data which has helped develop in disease surveillance. Here, we have localized the app to allow us to collect data on dog bites, diseases etc. which is all relevant to our project. Data collected via this app will be analyzed and presented in the next reporting period.
5. Project officers/community officers have been trained on the use of the SMART app. Other project partners will be trained in the next reporting period.
6. Training of veterinarians from Mpala, KWS and other partners has not been initiated yet.
7. A workshop on mitigating livestock depredation by African wild dogs will be convened within the next one year of the project.
8. Within this reporting period, we managed to collar 2 individual African wild dogs from two packs. This means that we are able to monitor the health, survival and reproduction of all members of these two packs.
9. We have not recorded any wild dog deaths within this reporting period.

**Output 3: declining incidences of livestock depredation by all large carnivores, despite rising population of African wild dogs.**

Activities:

1. A livestock depredation workshop has not been held and will be held in next project year
2. The Community Officers continue to collect data related to predation of livestock by large carnivores which is being collated by our Monitoring and Surveillance Officer. We intend to analyze this in coming project periods to understand trends to inform our project focus.
3. Plays on co-existence developed at the start of the project has been successfully used in different communities in project area. So far, 5 plays on rabies and dog bite management have been done reaching out to >2500 residents including; community ranches, targeting men, women and school-going children
4. Questionnaires were administered before and after the plays were performed. At least 10 persons were interviewed before the plays, and 10 others after the plays. The data has not been analyzed but results should be available during the coming reporting period.
5. Short social videos have not been created yet, but there is an agreement with the Community Outreach Arts to facilitate this in coming days. All the same, progress on project activities has been shared consistently on our social media pages with a growing audience.

6. We have not developed posters and leaflets to support awareness creation and education on co-existence. We shall produce and distribute the same in the next project period.
7. The project team, inclusive of the Project Coordinator, Outreach Officer and Community Officers continue to reach out to community members and engage them on matters depredation and co-existence. So far, a total of 7,000 community members have been reached.
8. We have identified areas, households and mapped routes into the process of developing a standard protocol to help standardize the measure of predator impact with constant observer. This process will continue and be finalized and operationalized in the next reporting period.
9. Data collection on depredation economic loss and trends will commence after the protocol is operationalized.

**Output 4: Improve public attitudes to coexisting with African wild dogs.**

Activities:

1. Using theatre plays and community engagement by the project team members, discussions on peaceful co-existence has been continuously promoted.
2. We have not had journalists or film-makers work on our project during this reporting period but we are in contact with a film director with prospects of having the project documented for the BBC viewership. We will share further details in due course.
3. While reaching to over 8,000 people in the reporting period, we have continuously posted positive messages on wild dogs in our social media pages (twitter, facebook and Instagram) to promote wild dog conservation and human health.
4. With a simple but standard questionnaire, we have been measuring community perception towards wild dogs conservation. This will enable quantify the general perception difference at the start and end of the project. All the same, we will continue to update this during forthcoming reports.
5. We continue to monitor feedback from our communications on social media and print. This helps us make informed decisions on the next phases of project implementations
6. The project team continues to use any available opportunities with partners and stakeholder to share tourism opportunities brought about by wild dogs.

**Output 5: Improved national capacity for protecting wildlife populations and human health.**

Activities;

1. After the initial project members training, monthly training on reporting, SMART App use, communication etc. sessions continued and are expected to continue into the next reporting period. We intend to bring on board staff from partner projects during trainings that are relevant in the next reporting period.
2. Vaccinations has started with the County Government of Laikipia and other partners participating from planning stage through to the implementation. As a big step towards sustainability of the vaccinations, the county has offered to continuously offer all required veterinarians for the vaccinations
3. Despite the fact that we are successfully partnering with the health facilities to collect the available data on dog bites, we have engaged hospital staff to modify the data collection tool to allow them collect rabies specific data that is currently not being recorded.

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

Most of the project activities has been implemented as planned with minimal modification to fit situations like weather and dates. Despite that, vaccinations in previous years has had the support from the Department of Veterinary Department, DVS (National Government of Kenya). This year, the DVS had no stock and could not offer any support to the mass vaccinations attributed to the electioneering year in Kenya. This means we had to purchase all vaccines needed which limits the budget for logistics. All the same, we are engaging multiple stakeholders for vaccines facilitation. So far, we have raised 16,000 rabies doses, and we anticipate to raise a further 14,000 doses.

Lastly, we managed to bring a monitoring and evaluation officer into the project. In the next reporting period, you will note that we will be communicating more in numbers rather than in words. The officer in consolidating all data together after which analysis will kickstart. We will provide an update on this in the final year report.

**3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS-LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS:	NO	Yes/No
Formal Change Request submitted:	NO	Yes/No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	NO	Yes/No
Change request reference if known:	N/A	

**4a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**4b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

**If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

**5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

No other issues

**If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.**

We did not receive any reviews that needed our feedback. All the same, we were requested to initiate development of an exit strategy which we are currently working on, to be shared in our next report.

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but should also be raised with NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. Please DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com). The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**