

## 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 2023**

<b>Project reference</b>	DIR27S2\1040
<b>Project title</b>	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 2023, HYR3
<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: @MpalaWildDogs Instagram: mpala_wilddogs

**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 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. Door-to-door vaccinations continued in Isiolo and Laikipia Counties, prioritizing communities occurring within wild dog ranges. Within six months, door-to-door vaccinations led to a total of 2,763 domestic dogs vaccinated.
2. We conducted a world rabies day event on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in one of the project communities. This activity was supported by various partners including the County government and the activity also got global recognition by the Rabies Alliance.
3. All the data regarding rabies vaccination numbers, spatial coverage, percentage of dogs vaccinated, and community perception of the activity were captured via a data collection App. We plan to share graphs showing trends in the end of year report.
4. Mark-resight surveys have been conducted to estimate vaccination coverage, immediately after vaccination is completed in an area.
5. 450 school going children and approximately 7500 adults benefitted (from 4 schools and 6 community groups respectively) from ongoing training sessions in communities and schools. The training sessions focused on important topics such as: coexistence with wild dogs, disease control, dog bite management and prevention. The sessions were led by our field team (project coordinator, outreach officer, and the vet).
6. Pre-surveys on dog numbers, knowledge of rabies, and rabies vaccination perception were conducted in all communities where vaccines were administered, >7 community groups. This data will be used in estimating vaccination coverage -- information to be shared in the end of year report.
7. Videos and activity photos were created and shared on social media consistently documenting progress and helping to initiate further conversations regarding rabies, domestic dog welfare and wild dog conservation etc. Approximately 120 social media posts were shared on various platforms, gathering a total of >30,000 impressions. (Twitter - <https://twitter.com/MpalaWildDogs> , Instagram - [https://www.instagram.com/mpala\\_wilddogs/](https://www.instagram.com/mpala_wilddogs/) & Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/WildDogCheetah/> )
8. We have developed rabies-control-related print materials (including swahili translations) (attached below) showing how to handle dog bites and identify rabid dogs. This has been shared extensively with various communities and stakeholders in the project area. Over 100 posters, 400 leaflets, and car stickers have been shared. Posters were placed at strategic points for the public to access the information, fliers are shared after interactive sessions with members of public, educators and community leaders to assist take the message further



# Samburu - Laikipia Wild Dog Project

## DALILI ZA UGONJWA WA KICHAA KWA MBWA

Mbwa ndio chanzo kikuu cha vifo vya kichaa cha mbwa, na huchangia hadi 99%ya maambukizi yote ya kichaa cha mbwa kwa wanadamu. Kichaa cha mbwa kinaweza kuzuiwa kwa **CHANJO** ya mbwa na kuzuia kuumwa na mbwa.



### Mate mingi mdomoni

Mbwa anayetokwa na mate mingi mdomoni yanayovurutika.



### Ukali unaozidi

Mbwa ataonyesha tabia za wazimu/kichaa. Mbwa ataonekana kama anajaribu kuuma na pia ataonyesha meno yake yote kwa ukali.



### Mabadiliko ya tabia



Mbwa wanaopenda kucheza hugeuka waoga na watoto wa mbwa huuma wakibebwa.



### Kutafuna vitu ambavyo si vya kawaida



Mbwa atakua na tabia isiyo ya kawaida kama kutafuna mawe, miti na takataka.



### Kupooza

Mbwa atakosa uwezo wa kusongesha miguu, misuli za uso na sehemu zingine za mwili. Hii kawaida huanzia kwa miguu ya nyuma na kuendelea mwili nzima.

### Ili kulinda mbwa wako na kuzuia kuenea:

**CHANJA** mbwa kila mwaka dhidi ya kichaa cha mbwa !!!



Kwa maelezo zaidi, zungumza na: 0726684347 - James Ngatia



Figure 1: A poster on rabies symptoms in swahili





Figure 2: Project posters displayed at a public primary school and a public hospital.

Figure 3: ongoing events during the world rabies day 2023 celebrations at Lekiji community, Laikipia County.



Name of Dog / Cat.....  
 Owner's Name: First..... Last.....  
 Vaccination Center .....  
 Sub County .....  
 Species ..... Breed..... Sex.....  
 Color .....

This is an important legal document. Keep it safe as proof of your dog/cat's vaccination and produce it as required.  
 Boost your pets rabies vaccination annually and remember to bring this card during vaccination.

**Certification of dog / cat 's vaccination against:**

Rabies  
 Canine Distemper  
 Parvovirus  
 Kennel Cough  
 Leptospirosis  
 Feline Panleukopenia

Vaccine	Batch No:	KVB No:	Date

Date Due	Vaccine Brand	Batch No:	Name of Vet	KVB No:	Fees	Signature	Date of Vaccination

**Tunza vizuri cheti hiki wakati wote.**  
**Chanja mbwa na paka wako dhidi ya kichaa cha mbwa kila mwaka.**  
**Unaposafiri au kuhama chukua cheti hiki cha chanjo**

**Epuka ugonjwa wa Kichaa cha Mbwa**

- Usikaribie au kucheza na mbwa wa Jirani au wa mitaani
- Onya watoto wasipige au kucheza na paka au mbwa oyo oyo.
- Unapoumwa na mbwa osha kidonda kwa sabuni na maji upesi kisha nenda hospitalini kwa chanjo maalum.
- Ripoti kwa chifu au daktari wa wanyama mbwa aliye na kichaa akionekana.
- Lisha mbwa vyema asiwe wa kuzurura.

**LAIKIPIA RABIES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN**

**VACCINATION CERTIFICATE**

Figure 4: A sample of the rabies vaccination certificate used in 2023

9. We held 6 monthly progress assessment meetings between project staff. This helps improve the efficiency and effectiveness of implementation, during these meetings emerging issues regarding rabies and canine distemper were addressed. Minutes produced from the meetings are available in the wild dog office.
10. There were seven suspected rabies cases throughout our study area. Of these, three turned out positive and the cases were handled by the County Government.

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

Activities:

1. As an output of the disease management workshop, a disease management model was developed. We continued to use the disease management model to inform conservation interventions and the model will continue to be used over the course of the project period and beyond.
2. We continued our collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service on wild dog health and we have been sharing data and potential risks to wild dogs on a continuous basis.
3. We utilized the SMART App during the reporting period for data collection, contributing significantly to disease surveillance. In this context, we have customized the app to facilitate the gathering of information on dog bites, diseases, and other aspects relevant to our project.
4. All project officers and other project members successfully received refresher training on the use of the SMART data collection app. Plans are underway to extend the training to all other stakeholders including partners' scouts/rangers and other staff that the project will benefit from acquiring the skills.
5. Our project veterinarian attended a 2-day virtue workshop on various aspects of wildlife handling including wild carnivore medicine. The workshop was facilitated by Kenya Veterinarian Associations (Wildlife Branch).
6. In close partnership with Kenya Wildlife Services and community/private conservancies, we successfully collared a new pack (Soit Pack). 4 additional collars were also added to already existing packs. An additional 6 packs were sighted in our study area within this reporting period.
7. The alpha female of the phoenix pack died naturally from old age. This was the main individual behind the resurgence of wild dogs in our study area.

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

Activities:

1. During this reporting period, we reached out to approximately 56,005 people through community meetings and social media. We passed information on co-existence and good livestock husbandry practices.
2. In this period, the project team administered 70 questionnaires to residents on perception and attitude towards large carnivores, the results indicated an increased positive behavior and attitude change towards large carnivores with approximately 82% residents wanting to co-exist with large carnivores.
3. The Community Officers collected data related to predation of livestock by large carnivores while training herders on good livestock husbandry practices to help measure the impact of livestock depredation by large carnivores.

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

Activities:

1. We successfully organized and implemented 2 formal community meetings in Narupa and Ewaso communities within the project area, where discussions on peaceful coexistence with wild dogs were held. The formal meetings brought together 58 community leaders including the chiefs, group ranch managers, women groups leaders and youth leaders. The message was then disseminated to the rest of the community through the leaders who frequently hold meetings. Additionally, the project team has continuously engaged with community members in informal meetings discussing both the benefits and costs of co-existing with wildlife.
2. Our work was aired by one of the leading tv stations in Kenya – Citizen tv. The clip, produced as part of a big film titled ‘Chasing after the rains’, documented the life of alpha female of the phoenix pack. The film was shared on live broadcast and on various social media platforms – see example in link below: (<https://twitter.com/citizentvkenya/status/1669277653600272386>).
3. Our community officers visited 100 households monthly, for 6 months, and administered questionnaires aimed at understanding perceptions and local attitudes towards wild dogs. Data will be provided in subsequent reports.
4. We partnered with various organizations and conservancies (including Laikipia Wilderness Camp, Ol Jogi Conservancy, Karisia Ranch, Nkoteiya community conservancy, Loisaba conservancy, Suyian conservancy, Sosian conservancy, and Footprint safaris) to boost wild dog tourism in our study area.

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

Activities;

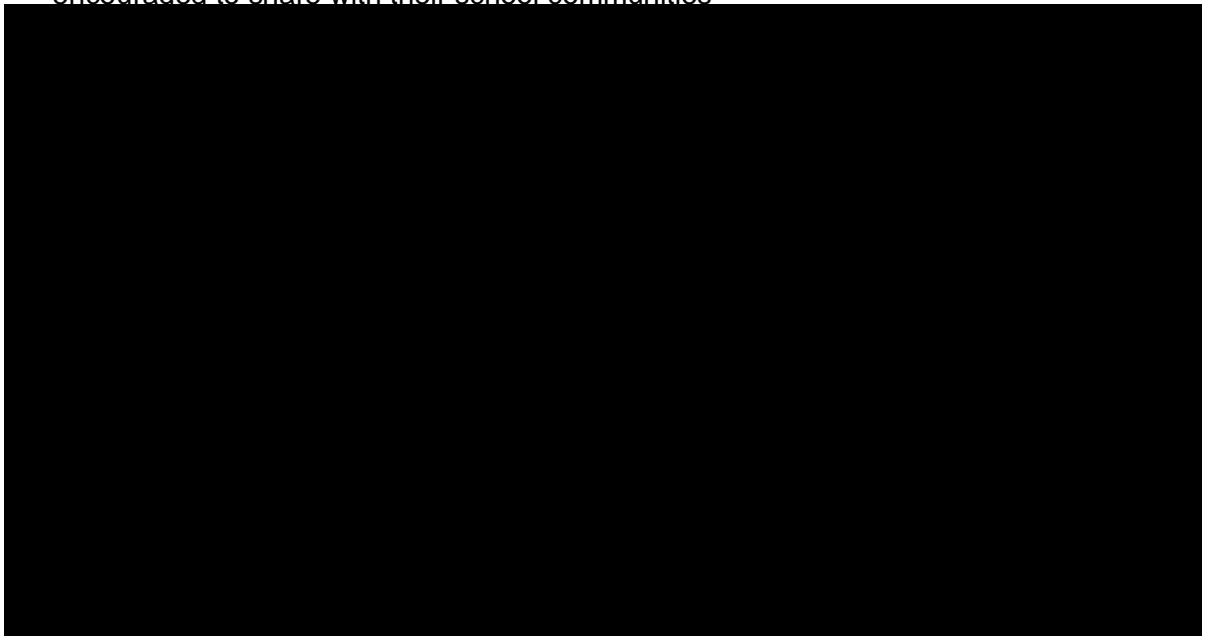
1. Thirty-seven (37) rangers from 5 group ranches of Milgis Trust were trained by our project team on wild dog co-existence. They are encouraged to train community members in their respective working areas.





*Figure 5: Ongoing training at Milgis Trust by our project team in June 2023.*

2. Capacity development for the project team members continued. Monthly meetings with training sessions on effective communication, research ethics and reporting incorporated were held.
3. We initiated a school outreach program. We reached out to 19 primary and secondary school teachers and trained them with knowledge on co-existence and rabies control and are encouraged to share with their school communities



*Figure 6: Our Outreach officer, Celine Karoki, training school kids on co-existence at Il polei Primary School, Laikipia County.*

4. Two (2) senior Public Health Department staff participated in the planning of the annual domestic dog vaccinations. Our project continues to engage hospital staff to modify the data collection tool to allow them collect rabies specific data that is currently not being recorded.



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

<p><b>4a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?</b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £</p>
<p><b>4b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully.</b> Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p>
<p><b>5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</b></p> <p>No other issues</p>

**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**