

## 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>	29-008
<b>Project title</b>	Community-led conservation and fisheries development in North coast, Kenya
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Kenya
<b>Lead partner</b>	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Kenya Fisheries (KEFS) and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Pate Marine Community Conservancy (PMCC), Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA)
<b>Project leader</b>	Serah Munguti (was Gurveena Ghataure until early Sept. 2022)
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/securing-marine-resources-and-sustaining-fisheries-livelihoods-in-northern-kenya/">https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/securing-marine-resources-and-sustaining-fisheries-livelihoods-in-northern-kenya/</a>

### **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).**

The project started on 1 June 2022. Once we signed the grant, we formalised a Sub Grant Agreement to our implementing partners, The Northern Rangelands Trust. We spent the first couple of months contracting and launching the project during the Darwin Inception meeting, which took place in Lamu on 12 July 2022. All partners and additional stakeholders joined this meeting, including key government staff and community members (See Darwin Inception Meeting notes and attendance list). The meeting focused on the projects objectives and outcomes and we discussed any questions that arose. We formed a Darwin Project Implementing Committee (PIC) who have agreed to meet bi-annually; the ToR agreed by the participants for the PIC are in its inception meeting's notes.

After the Inception meeting, we have not been able to start any field activities until late August 2022, i.e. after national elections in Kenya, as travel was not advisable for the month in relation to a range of security concerns. The first PIC meeting took place in Lamu on 12 September 2022 in Lamu and focused on finalising a detailed workplan for the next six months.

The meeting also delved into specifics about the activities most concerned, for example detailed steps and approaches within each activity have been agreed.

The prioritised activities include the following:

- **Output 1** "1. >1,000 ha of coral reef and seagrass habitats are effectively managed by six existing (661 ha) and three newly designated (ca.500 ha) LMMAs."

(1.1) Training of BMU members on fish monitoring is in progress and will be completed in December.

(1.2) The first annual community-led in-water surveys will be paired with scientific dive surveys to establish a baseline of reference for our LMMA sites and is scheduled to take place across end Nov.-early Dec.)

(1.3) In order to Facilitate the development of an enforcement Code of Conduct, we are currently reviewing with NRT existing processes and their gaps. Proposed improvements will be drafted by end of December and then be subject to a range of consultations (BMUs, Community conservancies and local govt partners and authorities)

(1.5) The list of potential sites for 3 new LMMAs has been reviewed and consultations with each concerned BMU/community are currently starting. They should be completed in December and by-laws will then be collaboratively designed and approved at BMU level to then be proposed for validation by Lamu county government.

(1.6) The first PIC meeting (Sept.) has highlighted the need for KWS to provide the details on the method to be used for the Ecosystem assessment that will feed into the upcoming new management plan for Kiunga Marine National Reserve. These are being discussed and will be available in the coming weeks

- **Output 2** “Market-based incentives create livelihoods opportunities and encourage sustainable marine resource management in 550 households (330 women and 220 men).”

(2.1) Selection criteria and for new fishers/households to participate to the Fish-to-Market programme are currently discussed with the seafood company involved, the communities and the NGO partners. Once agreed and target communities are refined, socio-economic baselines will be collected in Q1 2023 (Y1Q4) along with the wider project household surveys to be conducted.

(2.5) The household survey’s questionnaire are being developed (Nov.-Dec.) between FFI and NRT.

(2.6) The gender analysis to increase understanding of dynamics affecting participation, identify and implement actions to increase female participation, will be conducted together with the socio-economic baselines’ collection mentioned above. They will involve some Focus Group Discussion and possibly Participatory Impact Assessments. NRT has shared recent survey’s results which contributes to refining our tools for analysis (focussing on some key questions for instance)

(2.7) Activities on the micro-lending scheme will start in Y1Q4 (Q1 2023).

- **Output 3** “Local governance structures of 9 LMMAs are strengthened and working equitably and collaboratively, in line with national frameworks.”

First activities under that output will start from Y1Q4 but (3.6) the Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions (KAP) baseline survey questions are currently being develop to be integrated to the household survey’s questionnaire (2.5 above) and will therefore be collected altogether.

- **Output 4** “Awareness of the values of healthy marine ecosystems is increased among fisher communities and stakeholders at multiple levels along the Kenyan Coast, including decision-makers.”

The activities under that output have been agreed to start from end of Y1 and be implemented mainly in Y2 and Y3

**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.**

During this period, we also had some staff changes. The Project Lead/main applicant (Gurveena Ghataure) has left FFI (Sept. 2022) and a recruitment process is ongoing to fill the role.

To fill the gap between the person leaving and the new position in place, the FFI team in Kenya and the FFI marine team support in the UK (FFI's HQ) are working to ensure continuity of the activities as agreed during the 1st PIC meeting in September. This is slightly slowing down follow-ups in Y1Q3 (with remote meetings sometime more complicated) but we are ensuring the project is kept on tracks as well as the budget expenditures.

We are hopeful the new person will start in Q1 2023 and will inform Darwin / LTS International as soon as this is the case.

**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

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

Change request reference if known: (unknown at the time of completing this report)

**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?**

None

**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.**

**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**