

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: 31st October 2023

Project reference	29-008
Project title	Community-led conservation and fisheries development in North coast, Kenya
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Kenya
Lead partner	Fauna & Flora International (Fauna & Flora)
Partner(s)	Northern Rangeland Trust (NRT) Pate Island Marine Community Conservancy (PMCC) Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA) Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Kenya Fisheries Service (KeFS) The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Kenya
Project leader	Serah Munguti
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR2 (April 2023 – September 2023)
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.fauna-flora.org/projects/securing-marine-resources-and-sustaining-fisheries-livelihoods-in-northern-kenya/

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).

Overall Project Updates: the Project Officer for North Kenya Seascape was recruited in June 2023, and has played a pivotal role in project support (planning activities, implementation and reporting). On 13th June, 5 project staff members from Fauna & Flora attended the Darwin Initiative workshop in Nairobi, organised for Project Leads by UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and shared/learned from project implementation experiences with other grantees. The 2nd Project Implementation Committee (PIC) meeting was held in August 2023 in Lamu, where 21 participants (9 females, 12 males) discussed project progress, indicator appropriateness, and plans for the current year.

Output 1: Establishment and Management of LMMAs:

1.1 & 1.2 Fish Catch/ In water survey Training & Monitoring (target 18): 7 community monitors (F=1; M=6) out of the 18 trained in Y1, were commissioned in July 2023 to collect fish catch data twice a week at 6 fish landing sites (3 in Pate, 3 in Kiunga), and assisted in monitoring octopus catches during the opening of two fisheries closures in September. Correspondingly, a structured data management framework serving both Beach Management Units (BMUs) and Conservancy-level operations was established. The framework is crucial in mainstreaming seascape-level monitoring, facilitating monthly report generation from the broader Marine Conservancy Management Monitoring System (CoMMS) database, informing ongoing marine resource management and fostering collaboration with partner organizations. Additionally, six Kiunga Community Wildlife Association (KICOWA) community monitors received refresher training in data collection and reporting to support coordination of these monitoring efforts. More resources are being mobilized to sustain monitoring efforts (1.1 to 1.5).

1.2 Planning for biannual ranger-based coral reef surveys and scuba diving training to support monitoring in deeper sites is underway. Results of the Y1 scientific coral reef baseline surveys were shared with communities and stakeholders during a partner-funded (TNC) feedback meeting/three-day training workshop on coral reef restoration held in August with 40 participants (F=10; M=30). The results guided identification and mapping of priority areas for upscaling restoration in 0.5 ha of degraded coral reefs within LMMAs in Kiunga. The project aims to synergize with this initiative for ecological and social outcomes.

1.3 & 1.4 Patrols: Rangers from Pate and Kiunga trained in Y1 are conducting daily conservancy patrols. Two joint multi-stakeholder patrol operations with mandated government agencies and departments are scheduled for Q3 & 4. A link with the Kenya Fisheries Service's (KeFS) Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) command centre in Mombasa has been established, to increase visibility of MCS efforts in the Kiunga-Pate seascape and prompt swifter responses to incident reports by the mandated government agencies.

1.5 Design and Establishment of LMMAs (target 500ha): In September, an LMMAs awareness meeting was held in Kiunga Conservancy during which bylaws for the LMMAs/octopus' closures under Kiunga and Ishakani BMUs were reviewed, and the performance of the 1st opening of the closure in Magulugulu deliberated. The 2nd and 6th opening of the closures in Kiunga and Pate respectively, were held between 16th -21st September with better prices secured in both sites (linked to 2.1). Expansion and /or establishment of new LMMAs is being explored with target communities.

1.6 & 1.7 Management planning: In July 2023, Kiunga Marine National Reserve (KMNR) Management Plan Core Working Group with funding from the project and co-financing from TNC held a 3-day meeting to draft the Plan's foundations and a 2-day workshop for stakeholders to provide input into the process. This process is also being used to update the draft Resource Base Inventory for the reserve (1.6) which will inform development of a paper for dissemination (4.2). Pending steps in development of the Plan are scheduled for Q2 & 3 and partners are mobilising additional resources to support the Plans to completion.

Output 2: Market-Based Incentives and Livelihood Opportunities (target 550 HH):

2.1a & 2.1b Access to Markets (target 300 fishers): In July 2023, 291 fishers (F=79, M=212) were registered and taken through initial training on the Fish to Market (FTM) concept, fish handling and processing techniques aligned with buyer recruitments, post-harvest loss reduction. The first participatory market system workshop was held in July with Kumbatia Seafood and local market actors composed of fish dealers, flake ice suppliers within the project sites. 21(M=17 F=4) participants took part in the meeting whose objective was to diagnose the constraints within the fisheries market system and explore different structuring options for the value chains to improve sustainability in the fisheries market system.

2.2 Women & Youth Microfinance (target 250): Repayments of the KShs 8.5 million (£49,714.8) micro credits disbursed to 238 women in Y1 are being monitored alongside mentorship for the beneficiaries. Additional disbursement is scheduled for Q3 & 4 during which experiences of the first cycle will inform adjustments to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of the initiative.

2.6 Gender Analysis: The Project Officer supporting the Darwin project participated in a gender analysis validation workshop convened by TNC. The need for partners working in the Kiunga-Pate seascape to better align the gender initiatives and approaches in the project area was emphasised since some of the participants were drawn from the 6 BMUs supported under the Darwin Project.

2.3 Gear Exchange Programme (GEP, target 170 fishers): Follow up consultative meetings were held with three target BMUs to establish a way forward regarding voluntary beach seine GEP in Pate. The meetings were preceded by 2 trainings on Human rights, FPIC process, and grievance mechanism (3.4). The BMU members recommended suspension of the proposed gear exchange based on perceived negative livelihood implications (i.e., on income, employment, culture) of beach seine nets swap extensively documented in the socioeconomic baseline survey and Y1 Annual Report and proposed alternative support to increase catches and income from fishing. Elsewhere, in June 2023, 176 fishers engaged in a pilot GEP in Kiunga initiated in 2020, and led by partners NRT&TNC, received sustainable fishing gear to replace 11 destructive beach seine nets (85%). The fishers have been integrated into the Fish to Market (FTM) program (2.1) and the project will closely monitor the ecological and socioeconomic impacts of the GEP in Kiunga and seek opportunities to share lessons with BMUs in Pate for future program design.

Output 3: Strengthening Local Governance Structures:

3.1 to 3.3 Community Management and Governance guidelines/SOPs: The project is reviewing resources developed under a government-led initiative targeting strengthening of fisheries management along Kenya's coast. This includes four BMU training manuals (covering structure and functioning, financial management, Fish handling and hygiene, Fisheries co-management) and Standard Operating procedures (SOPs) covering 10 areas (i.e development of bylaws, elections, financial management, procurement & asset management, employment, data management, fisheries patrols, fish handling, quality and hygiene, networking and partnerships, and conflict resolution). In addition, the project is in consultation with the Fisheries Departments (National & County) on how to facilitate training and use of the SOPs in target areas through a long-term mentorship program for BMUs.

3.4 Training on safeguarding and social safeguards: The project co-financed an NRT-led Human Rights, FPIC (Free, Prior, and Informed Consent) and grievance mechanism training held on 3rd-5th August 2023. 60 participants (F=16, M=44) including Conservancy managers and board members, BMUs' chairpersons

and members supported under the Darwin Project (11), Lamu based Fauna & Flora staff (2) and NRT coast staff (18). A follow up public awareness meeting was held in Pate conservancy headquarters to sensitize the broader community on human rights and FPIC. Building on this, a two-day training was held in August/September for 44 participants (F=13, M=31) to initiate participatory development of social safeguards implementation and monitoring tools. Emerging project activities risks were documented and currently informing project implementation and engagement with beneficiaries to address identified project activities concerns raised by targeted communities. Grievance mechanism and FPIC tools that have been drafted for the project, aligning with the project partners' (NRT; Fauna & Flora) FPIC policies will be finalized in Q3:

3.5 & 3.6 Governance and Management Baselines: In September 2023, six feedback meetings were held with the target BMUs, during which project baseline results (governance assessments, socioeconomic assessment, coral reef and seagrass surveys, market analysis, fish catch monitoring) as well as conservancy operations and development activities were discussed. The BMU participants appreciated this rare feedback opportunity and requested regular updates i.e., monthly from the conservancies and quarterly for the project. This will be used to update the project's communication plan.

3.7 Leadership and Management Programme (LAMP): The project supported Leadership and Management training over 3 months (July to September, 3 days per month) expanding the program to **42** new Youth Conservation Champions drawn from NRT-Coast Marine conservancies and bringing the total number of NRT-Coast LAMP trainees to **293** since the inception of the program in 2016. The training provided 6 Training of Trainers (ToTS) from previous cohorts with an opportunity to enhance their capacity in facilitation by working alongside the consultant. A WhatsApp group was established to sustain interactions among the trainees/graduates and for ongoing mentorship by the project team. During the graduation ceremony, the cohort was advised to form and register 2 groups and identify conservation and livelihoods interventions to be funded by the County Government.

Output 4: Awareness of Healthy Marine Ecosystems:

4.1 Awareness materials: A 3-minute [video](#) was collaboratively produced to promote awareness on efforts being made to reduce destructive fishing based on the partner-led (NRT/TNC/KMFRI & Fauna & Flora) Beach seine GEP conducted in Kiunga. Other media links on the Gear Exchange work and launch include: [Link 1](#) (The Standard) / [Link 2](#) (KTN News) / [Link 3](#) (Citizen TV Kenya).

4.4 Conferences and Webinars: Project team and PIC members participated in various platforms and presented work delivered through Darwin project including: National Coral Reef Assessment Workshop, Kenya (11th Apr) and Validation Workshop on the National Coral Reef Assessment for Marine Protected Areas in Kenya (27th Jun); The 1st annual meeting of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Protected Areas Management Network-Kenya chapter (27th Jun.); World Rangers Day 2023 (31st Jul.); NRT-Coast Council of Elders meeting (12 Aug); SWIO Community of Practice meeting - Coastal Community Livelihoods Incubator/cold storage webinar (24th Aug); Africa Climate Week and Summit (4-6th Sept.); The 11th meeting of the UNESCO World Network of Island and Coastal Biosphere Reserves, at the Great Sandy Biosphere Reserve (Australia) (WNICBR) (3-8th Sept. [link here](#)); NRT Council of Elders meeting (18-22 Sept).

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

While the community members understand the importance of marine ecosystem and the threats posed by their current fishing practices, fostering behavior change requires the capacity to access, implement, and reinforce proposed sustainable practices, at a scale that matches the threats and perceived requirements for a just transition. To this end, suspension of Section 42 of the Fisheries Management and Development Act, 2016, that banned destructive gears, including beach seines, is still in effect (reported at EOY1), and undermining arrests and prosecution, which are pivotal in catalysing adoption of sustainable fishing practices. The perceived negative livelihood implications (i.e., on income, employment, culture) of the gear swap cannot be adequately addressed within the scope and timelines of the project. A request for a change to this activity is being prepared and is scheduled for submission in November 2023. Disbursement of loans should be synced with the good fishing season to minimise the negative impact of the South East Monsoon (SEM) on loan repayment by the women. Access to SIM card registration services (3 sites) were pointed out as prohibitive to potential microfinance beneficiaries from the 3 villages (Ishakani/Kiunga/Kiwayu) who have to travel to the two main urban centres (Faza & Lamu) at an additional cost and the project is exploring options of addressing the issue by partnering with service providers. Three indicators for assessing biodiversity outcomes (0.1-ecosystem health, 0.2-increase in fish biomass and 0.3-increase in weight of fish) are being reviewed following recommendations at grant award, the scientific baselines and the 2nd PIC meeting.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?	
Discussed with NIRAS:	No
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	No
Change request reference if known:	N/A

<p>4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)</p> <p>Actual spend: ██████████</p> <p>4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2024)?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: ██████████</p> <p>4c. 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.</p> <p>NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.</p> <p>5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p> <p>N/A</p>
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If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response, 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.

- No comments from review of the Y1 Annual Report required response. However, inquiry was made regarding recommendations at award some of which were incorporated in the final logframe and others (biodiversity indicators) are currently being considered.

All new projects (excluding Darwin Plus Fellowships and IWT Challenge Fund Evidence projects) should submit their Risk Register with this report if they have not already done so.

- This is an ongoing project. The updated risk register will be submitted with Year 2 Annual Report.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with NIRAS 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. 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**