

0

## 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>	29-013
<b>Project title</b>	An integrated approach to protecting wildlife from poisoning in Mara-Serengeti
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Kenya and Tanzania
<b>Lead partner</b>	BirdLife International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Fadzai Matsvimbo</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023 (HYR2)
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://twitter.com/BirdLifeAfrica">https://twitter.com/BirdLifeAfrica</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/birdlifeafrica/">https://www.facebook.com/birdlifeafrica/</a> <a href="https://www.birdlife.org/africa/">https://www.birdlife.org/africa/</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/BirdLifeVideo">https://www.youtube.com/user/BirdLifeVideo</a>

**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).**

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your M&E systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website

The indicators for the project are still relevant and reporting can be done 80 percent against standard indicators. Covid restrictions are no longer an issue and workshop gatherings are now generally include all the relevant people, not just a representative sample.

### **Formation of the Project Steering Committee**

Project Steering Committee was established (PSC) comprising of representatives from BirdLife International, Nature Tanzania and Nature Kenya in August 2023.

### **Output 1: Socio-economic drivers and impacts of wildlife poisoning in Mara-Serengeti are understood and inform a range of community-focused interventions.**

- Nature Kenya conducted feedback forums in 19 villages in Masai Mara where 617 participants (270 men and 347 women) were engaged focusing on addressing human-wildlife conflict and poisoning issues identified in the baseline study.
- A process of developing a national Vulture Multi Species Conservation and Recovery Action Plan for Kenya is ongoing and it is including proposed vulture conservation models.
- Makao Wildlife Management Area (WMA) has been confirmed as an IBA following feasibility assessment conducted by Nature Tanzania. In Kenya the results of the 2022 KBA monitoring were reported in the Nature Kenya AGM held in May 2023.

**Output 2: Vulture conservation models, incorporating livelihood improvements are implemented in the focal areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya and Makao WMA, Tanzania. (Directly benefitting ~1,700 people, reaching 15,000)**

- Nature Kenya conducted Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) for 26 CBOs to inform capacity development on conservation friendly business identified during the baseline socio-economic survey completed in Y1. Conservation friendly businesses were identified for support in capacity building included Beekeeping, chicken rearing, and beadwork. A total of 19 CBOs bringing together at least 380 community members are being supported to strengthen conservation friendly business through training collaboratively with county government of Narok. Five groups were awarded loans from 20 loan applications in the implementation of the Community Revolving Fund (CRF) in Makao WMA, benefiting 56 people (23 men & 33 women).
- Additional ten Predator-Proof Bomas (PPBs) were built within the Masai Mara landscape, bringing the total number of Predator Proof Bomas to 20.
- A total of 33 community awareness creation activities on non-lethal predator mitigation were conducted in Masai Mara reaching out to 2430 participants (1164 men and 1266 women). Project activities were also covered through 2 local FM Radio – Mayian FM and Sidai FM. Nature Tanzania produced awareness materials: T-shirts, banners, posters and Stickers.

**Output 3: The impact of poisoning incidents is mitigated by the setup, training and equipping of three Rapid Poison Response Mechanism (RRM) anti-poisoning groups in Kenya and Tanzania**

- In Kenya Two feedback forums to anti-poisoning groups in the Masai Mara landscape were held, aimed at sharing lessons and strengthening poisoning response.
- A total of 521 wildlife rangers (454males, 67 females) in Masai Mara were trained on Rapid Poisoning Response Mechanism. Nature Tanzania is following up with the Rapid Response Mechanism Team in Makao WMA and the neighboring protected areas (Ngorongoro Conservation Area, Mwiba Ranch and Maswa Game Reserve), no poisoning incident has been reported.

**Output 4: Results and lessons are synthesized, shared and promoted to raise NGO capacity for vulture conservation in Africa and to influence practice at national levels in Kenya and Tanzania and pan-African levels**

- BirdLife International and Nature Tanzania conducted the East Africa Wildlife Poisoning Response Network workshop in Arusha. There were 21 participants from Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. The Terms of Reference for the Network was developed.
- BirdLife International and Nature Tanzania participated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Mara Day Scientific Conference on the 14<sup>h</sup> of September 2023, in Mugumu Town, Tanzania. The projects efforts of conserving vultures and improving community livelihoods in Mara-Serengeti was presented in the conference. Nature Kenya also presented lessons generated from the project in the National Wildlife Conference held between 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September 2023.
- An article by Nature Tanzania on how Nature Tanzania is tackling Belief-Based Killings of Vultures in Tanzania was published in the BirdLife Africa Newsletter Issue 9.
- Nature Kenya marked the 2023 International Vulture Awareness Day (IVAD) in the project site, through community awareness creation events reaching to 129 people physically and at least 5000 members of public through local FM (Sidai FM and Mayian FM). Nature Tanzania also commemorated IVAD through awareness creation in classroom sessions at Mwangudo primary school where 104 students and 11 teachers were reached. A football match involving over 250 people was held creating awareness about vultures. BirdLife International also conducted a digital Campaign and a podcast on BBC.
- Nature Tanzania is participating in developing Vulture Action Plan for Tanzania which is coordinated by Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute (TAWIRI) and North Carolina Zoo.

**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.**

A lack of a suitable project vehicle in Meatu, Tanzania reduce efficiency for some activities like awareness creation, but despite these transportation challenges, all planned activities for the year will be completed.

The Community Revolving Fund (CRF) package is small to cover the requested amount by qualified applicants.

**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:	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes
Change request reference if known:	Not known

**4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)**

Actual spend: ██████████

**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)?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**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.**

**NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.**

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

**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.**

**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.**

**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](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**