

## 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>	29-022
<b>Project title</b>	Community-led fisheries management in the Mara Wetlands, Tanzania
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Tanzania
<b>Lead partner</b>	WWF-UK
<b>Partner(s)</b>	WWF-Tanzania, IHE Delft, Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI), Victoria Farming and Fishing Organization (VIFAFIO), Lake Victoria Basin Water Board (LVBWB), Mara Regional Administration and Local Government Authorities.
<b>Project leader</b>	Katherine Elliott (previously Jenny Cousins)
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR1 31 October 2022
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	N/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).**

**Inception phase**

During the inception phase of the project (June - September 2022) we focused on collaboration, planning and contracting arrangements between partners. This included signing grant agreements, training project staff on financial and technical reporting, and environmental and social safeguards. We also established collaborative ways of working, including weekly virtual partnership calls to discuss project progress, adaptive management, key work areas, review and management of risks, and other priorities.

WWF-Tanzania is responsible for sub-granting to two local implementing partners: Tanzania Fisheries Research Institute (TAFIRI) and Victoria Farming and Fishing Organization (VIFAFIO). As part of the contracting process WWF-Tanzania undertook due diligence on TAFIRI and VIFAFIO in September 2022, and developed a training programme for all staff involved in the project on WWF's policies and processes.

Recruitment for the local Project Executant by WWF-Tanzania is well underway. This included development of a job description and terms of reference for the role, with the vacancy advertised widely in August 2022. Interviews have now taken place with the selected candidate expected to start in mid-November 2022. The Project Executant will coordinate all fisheries co-management related activities, working in close collaboration with target communities of the Mara Wetlands, especially liaising with project partners and coordinating with local community leaders, Water Users Associations (WUAs) and Beach Management Units (BMUs) in the target area. They will also be responsible for coordinating WWF-Tanzania's monitoring, evaluation, learning and reporting on the project.

**Activity 0.1 Stakeholder and community consultations:** Preparations are underway for stakeholder and community consultations in the Mara wetlands project target area, with consultations scheduled for early October 2022. Stakeholders include community members in the project area, village executive officers, village chairpersons, Community Based Organisations (WUAs, BMUs), District Executive Directors' staff, District Commissions' staff, and all implementing partners (TAFIRI, VIFAFIO, LVBWB and Mara Regional Office staff). The consultations aim to engage stakeholders with the project using the principles of WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF) and FPIC (Free Prior and Informed Consent).

**Activity 0.2 Inception meetings:** The project was formally launched on 19 September in Musoma, during a launch event with key stakeholders including project partners, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), government and local community representatives. The event focused on introducing the project to stakeholders, receiving feedback from participants for adaptive management and securing local buy-in. Participants included members of Community groups (WUAs, BMUs) the Ward Executive Officer (WEO), Village Executive Officers (VEOs) and Village chairpersons, as well as representatives from women's groups involved in wetland activities. In total, 48 (36 male, 12 female) participants attended the launch event.

An implementation workshop for project partners with 20 participants (14 male, 6 female) took place on 20-21 September after the launch event in Musoma. This provided a valuable opportunity for partners to collaborate in person. The workshop included discussions on partnership principles, roles and responsibilities, learnings from other projects, ways of working and WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework (ESSF). Sessions also included a review of the logframe, activities, budget and timeline, as well as development of a monitoring and evaluation framework, communications strategy and updated risk register.

**Activity 0.3 Grievance mechanism development:** WWF-Tanzania is leading the development of project grievance mechanisms and these will be fully developed and rolled out following engagement with communities during the stakeholder consultations scheduled for October 2022.

#### **Output 1 - Fisheries co-management**

**Activity 1.1:** Work is underway to undertake a fisheries situation assessment (adapting methods used in the Kafue Flats, Zambia) including fishery data, socio-economic surveys for poverty reduction, market and ecological surveys and fishing hotspots.

**Activity 1.1.1:** IHE Delft and TAFIRI have been collaborating on information requirements for a desk-based survey to collate fisheries statistics from the BMUs that cover or are closest to, the Lower Mara wetland. Full information is expected to be compiled by the end of October.

**Activity 1.1.2 / 1.1.3:** Socio-economic survey planning has progressed through a series of meetings between IHE, WWF and TAFIRI to agree on a methodology and sampling approach. The baseline surveys are expected to take place in November 2022. This work will be complemented by participation of a third Masters student of IHE.

**Activity 1.1.4 / 1.1.5:** Planning for field work has progressed, especially during the inception workshop and a follow-up meeting with WWF-Tanzania, IHE and TAFIRI staff at the TAFIRI office in Mwanza. Key elements include the development of a scoping survey, in preparation for joint work by TAFIRI / WWF / IHE for the ecological, fish and habitat surveys, due to take place in December. Existing GIS shapefiles have been compiled and shared among partners. Planning for the surveys is ongoing including production of methodology, equipment and logistical needs, and how best to align fish and habitat surveys with an assessment of local fisherfolk catch. Added value for the ecological surveys is anticipated from participation of two Masters students of IHE to enable a greater collection and processing of data that can enhance the scope of the work, but at no extra cost to the project.

#### **Output 2 - Build capacity for sustainable fishing practices and co-management plans.**

This output is dependent on the findings from output 1, and is scheduled to take place during the second half of year 1.

**Output 3 - Fisheries value chain to improve local livelihoods:** Activities under this output are scheduled to start during the second half of year 1.

**Output 4 - Enabling conditions for scaling up:** To support activity 4.3, different projects within WWF and partner networks have been identified (including Kafue flats fisheries project) and plans for the exchange insights are in progress.

**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.**

We have experienced no notable problems. However, due to lengthier discussions between WWF-UK and Darwin on contractual legalese, the signing of the donor agreement between WWF-UK and Darwin was delayed until mid-July, resulting in knock-on impacts for WWF-UK's grant agreements with WWF-Tanzania (finalised August 2022) and IHE Delft (finalised September 2022). This delay meant the recruitment of WWF-Tanzania's Project Executant didn't start until August 2022. WWF-Tanzania's Freshwater Lead has led on coordination from WWF-Tanzania whilst the Project Executant recruitment has been underway.

**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:	Yes
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes
Change request reference if known:	LTS1125

**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?**

[REDACTED]

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**