

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	29-027
Project title	Developing 'Lion Friendly Livestock' to reduce poverty and incentivise conservation
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Kenya
Lead partner	Loisaba Community Trust
Partner(s)	Borana Conservancy; Lion Landscapes
Project leader	Tom Silvester
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	1st April 2023 to 30 th September 2023
Project website/blog/social media	https://loisaba.com/ https://www.facebook.com/LoisabaConservancy https://www.instagram.com/loisaba_conservancy/ https://twitter.com/Loisaba https://www.linkedin.com/company/loisaba-conservancy/about/ https://www.boranaconservancy.com/ https://www.facebook.com/BoranaConservancy https://www.instagram.com/boranaconservancy/ https://twitter.com/BoranaWildlife

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.

1.1 Development and registration of Lion Friendly certification criteria (Lion Landscapes lead)

Completed other than regular reviews: We are in the process of testing the criteria and standards developed in year one of this project, and will review the standards of the Lion Friendly Livestock verification on the basis of data from known Lion Friendly properties at the end of year 2. We will then register Lion Friendly Livestock standards with the Wildlife Friendly Network. For properties that want to join both Ecological Outcomes Verification (EOV) framework and LFL, monitoring systems will guarantee a comprehensive assessment of ecosystem well-being across various tiers, delivering livestock producers substantial data to inform their sustainable management choices. Data will also inform the development of biodiversity credits, which are also under development in the area, leading to layers of value creation linked to sustainable practices.

1.2 Certification of commercially run wildlife conservancies and their community grazing schemes (Lion Landscapes lead)

On Target: Two properties have joined the Lion Friendly program. The Lion Friendly Livestock criteria and standards are designed to stand alone or bolt on to the broader EOV framework (currently being adopted by some properties in the area) as the wildlife monitoring component. The LFL and EOV frameworks are more inclusive than a straightforward certification because they allow land owners and managers to join at any level as long as they work towards the set standards and share data on the criteria with which to measure their progress towards meeting the standards. This approach makes it easy for LFL members to adaptively manage for improved and verifiable conservation outputs, whilst not excluding anyone from joining the programme. We are currently in the process of getting three more conservancies (Mugie, Suyian, and Loldaiga) on board with the LFL program, and anticipate this approach will lead to more people adopting it, including community conservancies that have further to go to reach Lion Friendly standards.

1.3 Ongoing monitoring and verification that Lion Friendly standards are being met for all certified wildlife conservancies and their community grazing schemes (Lion Landscapes)

Slightly delayed due to tech developments: We are currently gathering data for the LFL standards from our first two partner properties, Loisaba and Borana. Both these properties are known to be Lion Friendly after years of documented presence of a thriving lion population. Testing the criteria and standards against these two properties will allow us to fine-tune where the standards should lie, and make changes to the criteria (and standards set for those criteria) if necessary. Setting up data collection and sharing systems between the LFL properties and Lion Landscapes, that provide robust and useful data whilst not overburdening any of the partners, has been a process of ongoing discussion and negotiation. It is critical that the data collected forms part of normal management moving forwards and so must fit with the management information systems in use. During this project, this has been made more challenging by the fact that management information systems have been rapidly evolving. Several properties, including Loisaba and Borana are now in the process of deploying full LoRa networks. These networks, in combination with Earth Ranger platforms adopted by most properties and Lion Landscapes previously, will together create 'smart parks' with large quantities of incoming data streams, While these fast technological developments will only help with providing good quality data for Lion Friendly verification, the changing goal posts have initially slowed progress in agreeing data collection protocols. The properties themselves are taking time to deploy and to learn the new systems and so this is a process of discovery on all

sides. Eventually, these developments will make the seamless sharing of data between LFL properties and Lion Landscapes - the verification body - faster, more cost effective and efficient. However, teething problems and the fact that different properties are at different stages of the process does present a short-term challenge.

1.4 Development and verification of Conservation Agreements with participants in Lion Friendly certified community grazing schemes (all partners)

On Target/Ahead of target: As reported at the end of year 1, we had raised additional philanthropic funds to go ahead and sign conservation agreements with communities in the Lion Friendly project area, outlining the provision of benefits to communities in exchange for wildlife presence on community land and, during the next reporting period, in exchange for the adoption of key rangeland regeneration and predator proof husbandry practices. These agreements and the associated benefits have built huge amounts of goodwill between communities and other partners during the drought.

During this reporting period, LL signed two more conservation agreements with the Il Mamusi and Arijiju communities. This brings the total number of contracts signed in the entire project period to five, including Morijoh, Koiya and Lobarishereki. Agreed benefits linked to these agreements have been distributed every 3 months via open public meetings, and published on community notice boards.

On the Borana side of the project, agreements have been informally crafted in collaboration with participants through the Oramat Lenaboisho Cooperative Society, a pastoralist membership organisation affiliated with the Borana Livestock to Market program. This program is also supported by the Lolldaiga Conservancy, which provides grazing land for community livestock under the scheme.

1.5 Development of partnerships with women's groups in communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (all partners)

On target: In this reporting period, Lion Landscapes identified and continued to build strong partnerships with 17 women's groups by sharing financial information that helps them understand various savings and credit options available to them, as outlined in sections 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 below.

Additionally, connections were established between Borana and five women's self-help groups around Borana Conservancy and the Oramat Cooperative Society. These women's groups have subsequently become part of the cooperative and have received support from the Society to purchase a steer each for fattening. The cooperative will continue to assist them as cooperative members, facilitating access to optimal markets and encouraging their participation in livestock ventures alongside other group activities. Note, in our timeline we had this activity as only occurring during year 1, but the number of women's groups that we have identified during the first year means that this will be ongoing.

2.1 Development of a Lion Friendly Livestock marketing and communication plan and materials (all partners and consultant)

On target: We are currently working on developing a marketing and communication plan with the help of a consultant. Additionally, we are in the process of designing the branding for LFL, which includes a certification stamp. This branding will be tested with audiences such as ranches, livestock owners, and meat production/suppliers. In the second stage of testing, we

will be reaching out to consumers. The feedback we receive from these tests will be used to refine our marketing and communication plan.

2.2 Development of agreements with meat packers and butchers, to directly supply Lion Friendly certified livestock (all partners)

Potential delays due to drought: The engagement of meat packers and butchers to directly supply Lion Friendly certified livestock, is scheduled at the end of this year but this activity is dependent on the recovery of rangelands and livestock production from the terrible and prolonged drought, outlined in our last report, which severely negatively impacted livestock production. The onset of light rains during this reporting period has provided some relief, although not much. However, improved rains are forecasted (and appear to be starting) during the next reporting period and so we hope to be able to focus on this output soon.

2.3 Quarterly analysis of local livestock market trends and assessment against data from Lion Friendly Livestock records (Lion Landscapes lead)

Delayed due to drought: This activity is scheduled for the next reporting period. This is dependent on sustainable rainfall to facilitate supply of cattle to the market.

3.1 Expansion of the Lion Extension Officer programme (Lion Landscapes lead)

On target: During this reporting period, three additional Lion Extension Officers (LEOs) were hired in Lion Friendly Livestock areas, bringing the total number of LEOs to nine. The Lion Extension Officer (LEO) program plays a vital role in sharing information and increasing awareness between project partners and local communities. LEOs promote sustainable pastoral livelihoods by sharing knowledge about protecting livestock from predators and regenerating rangelands. In this reporting period, the new LEOs received training on large carnivore ecology and predator-proof livestock husbandry, while the LEOs employed prior to this project or during year 1 underwent refresher training on the same, and also underwent training on rangeland regeneration (see section 4.3 below). All LEOs then disseminated this information through household visits (as detailed in section 3.2 below), community meetings, and DVD nights (as detailed in activity 4.6 below).

By remaining accessible and maintaining a continuous dialogue with their communities on these crucial topics, LEOs serve as a vital link between the latest scientific developments and traditional practices.

3.2 Household visits by Lion Extension Officers to discuss predator-proof livestock husbandry practices, and collect conflict data in communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Lion Landscapes lead)

On Target: LEOs work to provide a quick and supportive response to human-carnivore conflict events and to proactively prevent conflicts through household visits during times of no conflict. During these visits LEOs share information on protecting pastoralist livelihoods through preventing livestock loss to predation and sustainably managing rangeland, as well as support their communities to implement recommended activities. During this reporting period, the LEOs carried out an impressive 980 visits aimed at providing guidance and therefore played a significant role in promoting good livestock management practices and building positive connections within the local community. By emphasising the advantages of well-functioning ecosystems in reducing the occurrence and impact of droughts and floods, there was an increased willingness to embrace conservation measures that protect the land from degradation.

3.3 Provide demonstrations of how to build a predator proof boma at livestock markets (and other gatherings) serving the communities in the LFL area.

On target: In total, the project partners successfully conducted sixteen demonstrations of how to build cost effective predator-proof livestock bomas at community livestock markets, collectively reaching 1,214 individuals. Setting up these demos in bustling livestock marketplaces enhances accessibility as they are visited by many livestock owners. Having the demonstration bomas erected for the whole market day allows us to reach more pastoralist people, and gives time for open discussions between visiting pastoralists and project team members about predator proof husbandry and other subjects related to project activities.

3.4 Work with local hardware stores that serve the communities in LFL areas to make sure they are connected to suppliers selling the materials needed for predator proof bomas at cost.

On Target: In July, we organised a stakeholders' meeting for the PPB (Predator Proof Boma) activity. The purpose of this meeting was to bring together suppliers of materials needed to build PPBs and retail store owners who could act as outlets for the materials in the communities most in need of a supply. Lion Landscapes played the role of facilitator for this event. During the meeting, we conducted a demonstration to help all stakeholders understand how their combined role could better protect local livelihoods in their communities. This meeting linked 8 store owners with 2 suppliers.

4.1 Development of rangeland regeneration demonstration projects around schools in communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Borana Conservancy lead)

On target: One rangeland demonstration project has been created within the Maiyanat community, located in close proximity to a primary school in the area. More similar projects are in the pipeline for subsequent phases of the project timeline.

Throughout the period stakeholder engagements continued and additional strategies for land regeneration were explored, that is creation of Vallerani trenches, animal bunching techniques for soil improvement, and the establishment of swales.

The project progress to date.

- Deployment of small Vallerani trenches by KEFRI to prevent erosion and promote groundwater infiltration.
- Excavation of swales based on a permaculture design developed by Waitabit Regeneration and Organic Farm. The seeding and cultivation of indigenous tree species within the demonstration plot are scheduled to coincide with the onset of the October-December rainy season.
- Temporary hosting of 250 community cattle within the project site for one month.
- Training of five young individuals in permaculture methods, generously provided by Borana, Lolldaiga, True Range, Laikipia Permaculture, and the Maiyanat community.
- Mobilisation of members within the Maiyanat community to emphasise the significance of land regeneration through community meetings.

4.2 Quarterly assessments of rangeland regeneration demonstration projects (Borana Conservancy lead)

Quarterly assessments to track progress of the Maiyanat community demonstration plot will begin in the next reporting period.

4.3 Design and delivery of Lion Extension Officer training on sustainable rangeland management (True Range lead)

Slight delay but this will not affect output: A team from the Lion Landscapes, including the first 6 Lion Extension Officers (LEOs) employed on this project, attended a training course designed and delivered by True Range. The 3 day training covered a range of topics including basic rangeland ecology, the importance of sustainable rangeland management and the challenges faced in the broader Mukogodo and Laikipia north landscapes, and rangeland rehabilitation practices. The course was very well received by the trainees who felt inspired to share the information learned with their communities. The next step will be to fine-tune the key messages and actions to be taken that can be easily shared during the course of household visits and community meetings, and implemented by community members. The course contained a lot of information for trainees to take on board, and refresher training will be arranged.

4.4 Household visits by Lion Extension Officers to discuss sustainable rangeland management practices in communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Lion Landscapes lead)

On target: The LEOs conducted 980 peacetime visits to offer boma and livestock husbandry advice to community members, during which time where applicable they also discussed the sustainable rangeland management issues and practices they learned in their course (above). These visits were instrumental in promoting sound husbandry practices and fostering positive relationships within the local community.

4.5 Design and delivery of sustainable rangeland management days (held on Lion Friendly certified conservancies or at community Rangeland Regeneration demonstration projects) for communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Loisaba and Borana Conservancies lead)

Potential delay due to drought: These events will be conducted in the next reporting period. Various locations, including Borana, Lolldaiga, and other Laikipia conservancies, as well as in the Maiyanat demonstration project. Proper rains are beginning in the area now and so results of the rangeland regeneration activities will become apparent over the next 2 months as grass begins to grow. Hopefully recovery will be fast enough to allow for good information sharing with community members in the second half of the next reporting period, as long as the rains starting now are sufficient.

During this reporting period, arrangement was made for a field trip for leaders from the Maiyanat community (40 leaders) to Waitabit Regeneration and Organic Farm on Borana, with a focus on learning about cattle fattening for commercial markets, organic farming practices, and land regeneration using well-designed swales and contours. Additionally, the principal secretary Environment and natural resources visited Laikipia and visited the Maiyanat demo plot as one of key projects in Mukogodo forest landscape to see and understand the different interventions being implemented. Many of the different stakeholders (Borana, Lolldaiga ,FAO,

LWF, Ilmamusi, Maiyanat community land), county and national governments representatives welcomed the PS on the Demo plot.

4.6 Design and delivery of sustainable rangeland management DVD/film nights for communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Lion Landscapes lead)

On target: In this reporting period, a total of 21 DVD/film viewings were organised for communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock program. These events featured films addressing important conservation topics such as rangeland restoration and safeguarding livestock from predators. The films were presented to 3,740 community individuals. The Lion Landscapes Community Projects Manager and Lion Extension Officers conducted the film screenings, followed by open discussions facilitated by them.

Due to security concerns in the area related to drought and limited resources, the films could not be shown in local village centres at night. Instead, they were screened in school buildings during the afternoon, creating sufficient darkness to use a projector, and allowing people to travel home safely during daylight hours.

5.1 Development of a financial services awareness building workshop (Lion Landscapes and Department of Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives, Laikipia County lead)

Completed but will undergo regular review: During year one of this project, the Lion landscapes team designed and began to deliver financial services awareness building workshops. While the design of the workshop will continue to be improved the more are given, this activity was effectively completed in year one.

5.2 Financial awareness building workshops held for pastoral women's groups in the communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Department of Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives, Laikipia County lead)

On target but a current pause in activity due to staffing changes. This activity is expected to resume during the next reporting period: We have successfully connected with a total of twelve groups. Each of these groups met the eligibility and 5-step criteria we had set; being registered with the ministry of social services as a women's group; having a table banking component; or a merry-go-round component to their group i.e. already demonstrating the need/desire for a savings and credit scheme; meeting regularly - at least twice a month; and the willingness of members to commit to taking part in all four awareness building sessions. To enhance the training process, we've organised the groups into clusters based on their geographical proximity. This approach will promote better coordination and foster a sense of community among the participants.

Note that our original timeline had this activity only during year 1, however, the growing number of women's groups being identified and engaged means we will continue this activity throughout. During this reporting period 3 women's groups that met the eligibility criteria completed all 4 awareness sessions reaching 435 community members. After completing the sessions we introduced them to the best suited SACCO based on their requirements.

5.3 Development of a SACCO product specifically supporting the needs of pastoral women in communities taking part in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Community Women's groups and local SACCOs – facilitated by Lion Landscapes)

On target but a current pause in activity due to staffing changes. This activity is expected to resume during the next reporting period: The project's original objective was to

establish a new, community-inclusive SACCO. However, through a change request that was approved, the focus shifted towards collaborating with existing SACCOs operating in the project area. To facilitate this transition, we benchmarked five SACCOs recommended by the Director of Cooperatives in Laikipia County. Lion Landscapes conducted assessments to gauge the services provided by these SACCOs and their willingness to collaborate with community women to offer and, if necessary, develop a product tailored to their needs.

5.4 Prior and post surveys on the use of savings accounts Vs. livestock to store family wealth (Lion Landscapes lead)

On target, note change in methodology moving forwards: We conducted pre-surveys using the Sacco Questionnaire randomly within the Loisaba area to gain a general understanding of savings account and livestock utilisation among both men and women. A total of 136 individuals were interviewed. 44% responded to not having personal experience of using Sacco or other banking or saving schemes.

We are planning to revise our approach with the introduction of a new community officer. Instead of conducting pre-surveys on random individuals, our new strategy will involve administering the Sacco Questionnaire to each member of women's groups during their participation in new training sessions. This will be followed by a 6-month follow-up and a subsequent 1-year follow-up.

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.

Financial awareness building workshops - During the financial awareness training we received a concern regarding the meeting frequency, which we promptly responded to. Initially, most groups convened on a monthly basis. However, after presenting our case and highlighting the advantages of more frequent engagement, six groups were willing to increase their meetings to four times a month during the training period.

Additionally, the Community Officer who was leading the Financial awareness training had to have his employment terminated and we are in the process of re-hiring. There will be a pause in activities until the new person is in place. The new Community Officer will then reach out to all the women's groups involved and hold meetings to introduce themselves before taking the programme forward. In the meantime other staff members are ensuring that the women's groups involved remain engaged and still feel supported. While having to terminate a person's employment is never positive, a change in activity lead will result in many more women being reached and supported through awareness building workshops during the life of this project.

Drought - drought continued to impact livestock production during this reporting period. This was discussed in detail during our Year 1 annual report and there are no major changes from that. The rains look to have started and so there is real hope that livestock production will recover and the activities delayed by the drought will begin. The severe drought scenario lasted the first 1.5 years of the project, however, and the next reporting period will reveal how quickly recovery will be expected. We will then be able to assess if any of the outputs and indicators will need further adjusting.

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:

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

Actual spend: £ [REDACTED]

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?