

## 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>	30-016
<b>Project title</b>	Avoiding degradation through sustainable beekeeping in the miombo
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Mozambique
<b>Lead partner</b>	Micaia Foundation
<b>Partner(s)</b>	University of Eduardo Mondlane; University of Edinburgh; Eco-Micaia Ltd
<b>Project leader</b>	Milagre Nuvunga
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	31 October 2023 (HYR1)
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	

**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 project started a little later than planned, with the offer letter being received in mid-April, and the first tranche of funds in mid-May. Nevertheless, senior members of the Micaia team, including Executive Director Milagre Nuvunga, Finance Director Nicson Jonissene, and Senior Advisor Andrew Kingman from Eco-Micaia, visited District Government offices in each of the three focal districts (Macossa, Sussundenga and Manica) to inform Administrators of the imminent launch of the project and explain its schedule of activities. We received enthusiastic support in all districts.

In parallel, we proceeded with staff team recruitment, and the University of Eduardo Mondlane appointed their Research Assistant. Planning meetings were held with all partners, and this led to agreement that there will be weekly calls initially (through the critical research phases) and then biweekly thereafter. These calls continue and they have proven to be an extremely valuable and time-efficient mechanism for enabling the senior advisors to guide the development of tools and activities for the field activities. We also dealt with necessary procurement.

With the Project Manager (Dionisio Lichone) and Beekeeping Officer (Fernando Mussanhane) in place, we were able to commence the Community mobilization, and identification of existing and interested beekeepers in participating communities (output 2.1). We now have 35 villages across the four miombo areas in which the project is active. In the initial community meetings, we gathered basic data (village survey) on how many households have beekeepers, how many beehives each beekeeper has (and of which type of beehive), what tree species are normally

used to make the hives and whether it is more difficult for them to find those trees now than in the past, and some other general data such as rainfall patterns. In group discussions, the team gathered more detailed information about traditional practices in beekeeping (ref: output 1.1).

In parallel to this community engagement, we developed a detailed household survey tool and associated methodology (ref: output 1.3). The survey will collect data on the household composition and identification, education, health, housing and access to facilities, livelihood activities, assets, subjective well-being, access to services, coping and dealing with shock and perceptions on woodland changes. Our sampling design for the survey includes beekeepers (with different kinds of hives) and non-beekeepers from a total of 656 households. Those data will be collected in 3 different waves (2023, 2024 and 2025) from the same households so we can access the impact of the project implementation in the target communities. The household survey will be completed in Q3 and will provide the data for implementing the social monitoring framework.

We also began work on the biodiversity monitoring framework (ref: output 1.2), and started some practical activities with the installation of camera traps in some areas of the miombo woodland as a pilot. To allow a better understanding on the biodiversity status (including seed dispersal), audiomoths will be installed close to the camera traps to identify bird species since they play an important role in the seed dispersal and are one of the most affected species from forest degradation by selective tree removal. The cameras have already been recording images for the last 4 months, of fauna passing through the areas at various times of the day, but especially at night. Further work on developing the biodiversity monitoring framework will be carried out in Q3.

With data gathered from beekeepers about traditional practices, and with reference to resources gathered through a desk review, we held an internal design workshop to develop a framework for technical support and capacity building interventions designed to improve productivity and reduce negative impact on woodland resources (ref: output 2.2).

Regarding the project M&E, we have decided to organize an internal workshop to collectively apply the new Darwin Initiative Standard Indicators to the project logframe. This will take place in December 2023 and we will be able to share the updated logframe and supporting Indicator Mapping Template.

**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.**

The project was delayed by personal tragedy affecting the UEM Research Officer. We will catch up in Q3 and Q4.

**3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with NIRAS: Yes/No

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/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?

**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**