



## 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>	DARCC004
<b>Project title</b>	Upskilling Uganda Wildlife Authority staff to tackle human-wildlife conflict
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Uganda
<b>Lead Partner</b>	Space for Giants
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)
<b>Project leader</b>	<a href="#">Maurice Schutgens</a>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	31 October 2022/ HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/posts/spaceforgiants_this-week-our-human-elephant-coexistence-activity-6983792570975809536-MH06?utm_source=share&amp;utm_medium=member_desktop">https://www.linkedin.com/posts/spaceforgiants_this-week-our-human-elephant-coexistence-activity-6983792570975809536-MH06?utm_source=share&amp;utm_medium=member_desktop</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 from start up to end September).**

**Output 1: Improved technical capacity of UWA staff to address HWC (through training and mentorship)**

*Activity 1.1: Develop short courses for electric fence construction, GIS training and SMART Training*

Short courses for basic and advanced fence construction were developed during this reporting period. The course content was designed to equip Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) staff with knowledge and skills in fence planning, materials selection and use, and actual fence construction and maintenance. The courses (both basic and advanced) were structured to be delivered through classroom presentations, videos, and practical hands-on demonstrations. Each course was to be covered in two sessions.

The Geographical Information System(GIS) training curriculum was also developed in collaboration with ESRI. The course content was designed to teach UWA GIS problem-solving skills and best practices to accomplish GIS tasks and workflows. The training was designed to be hands-on and incorporate diverse learning styles and delivery methods, including but not limited to PowerPoint presentations, software demos, exercises, group discussions, lesson reviews and field data collection.

EarthRanger training content was not developed following SFG's Conservation Monitoring Coordinator's resignation, thus affecting the delivery of this activity. However, SFG recruited a replacement in August who will be working to develop this outline.

*Activity 1.2: Construct electric fence demos at Uganda Wildlife Training Institute(UWRTI).*

The fence designs were developed around eight thematic areas, i.e. electric fences, road crossing, water crossing, lightning diverter, gates, earthing, energiser setup and strainer assembly. Materials for the construction of the demos were identified, procured and delivered to Uganda. The consultants for training the electric fence course were identified as well, and the SFG team will work together with them to deliver the course.

Over this reporting period, fifteen fence demos were developed at Queen Elizabeth National Park. The different fence types were constructed to demonstrate the different parameters/considerations in developing fences: target species, technical specifications, construction duration, strengths, weaknesses, costs, and among other additional considerations.

*Activity 1.3: Identify and select target individuals from all of UWA's 7 CAs*

14 UWA staff to be trained in EarthRanger and GIS were identified with assistance from UWA as shown in [annex 1](#). Two participants from each of the seven conservation areas, namely; Kidepo, Murchison, Kibale, Queen Elizabeth, Bwindi-Mgahinga, Lake Mburo and Mount Elgon, were selected. Additionally, 14 participants were selected by UWA to be trainers of community scouts and 15 were identified to be trained in fence construction [annex 2](#).

*Activity 1.4: Develop a training plan to deliver all training within the project period without interfering with core CA activity*

Training schedules for the delivery of the training sessions were developed in consultation with UWA and the Uganda Wildlife Training Institute (UWRTI). The schedules targeted periods when there would be fewer activities at UWRTI.

*Activity 1.5: Delivery of training courses*

ESRI East Africa will be contracted to deliver the GIS course with support from the SFG team in October. Pre-training evaluation will be conducted on the 14 selected participants before the training. The actual training will be delivered for 14 days from 3rd-21st October 2022. The course to be delivered will be basic and intermediate-level GIS, as outlined in the course outline. Post-training evaluation will also be done to gauge the levels of the participants' understanding after the training.

The EarthRanger course initially planned to happen in September did not happen following the resignation of the key technical staff on the project coordinating the EarthRanger course. His replacement was, however, recruited in September, and fast-tracking of this activity is being done. The fence construction course, a practical class, was also delayed following UWA's indecisiveness on where the demo fence was

to be constructed. This took time hence delaying the delivery of the activity. The initial place which had been agreed on in the planning stage was rejected by UWA at the last minute but has now been resolved and completed.

*Activity 1.6: Delivery of mentorship to all project participants*

Mentorship plan has been developed and will be available for use after the delivery of training courses. Mentorship will be done online, one on one over calls, in person, and through WhatsApp groups created after the delivery of courses. This is now active for the ArcGIS training.

**Output 2.0: Improved HWC data collection and reporting around CAs (through the provision of equipment, standardised data collection and templates)**

*Activity 2.2: Equip all CAs with necessary tools & software*

20 laptops, and 30 smartphones were purchased for use in GIS and Earthranger training. 14 ArcGIS licences were also procured from ESRI and installed on participants' laptops. The licences will be used by the UWA staff trained in GIS for the project's duration. Participants will develop mapping templates to be used by each CA during the GIS training in October.

EarthRanger standardised data collection models and reporting templates were delayed as per the reason given above and are now being fast-tracked in consultation with UWA. Once complete, all the 7 CA's will have a harmonised way of collecting and reporting HWC incidents.

The remainder of the equipment will be purchased during the next phase of the project.

**Output 3: Better informed HWC responses by UWA and community engagement (through improved data availability, trend mapping, training by CWS etc.)**

*Activity 3.1: Monitoring of activities conducted by UWA (including quality control of HWC databases etc.)*

The human-wildlife conflict data available within UWA was accessed at the beginning of the project, and monthly HWC statistics were compiled from 2014 to 2022. This data, however, showed gaps in their way of collection. Through SFG's interventions under this project, the UWA participants, after receiving the GIS training, will now be able to map hotspots, trends and distribution of HWC incidents within their conservation areas. Once EarthRanger data collection and database management is done in November, data collection using mobile devices will be streamlined and real-time, thus enabling quick intervention of HWC incidents within the respective CA's. Participants will also be equipped with knowledge of high-level quality control of HWC databases

**Administrative & Communication Activities**

The project implementation committee comprising officials from UWA, SFG and UWRTI were established. The committee met twice to discuss and sign off implementation of the project.

Monthly and quarterly reports were compiled and shared among stakeholders.

**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.**

One of the challenges was the resignation of the Conservation Monitoring Coordinator. This affected the development and timely delivery of the GIS/ smart/EarthRanger training course. With the new Coordinator in place we can now proceed with catching up on project delivery.

The second challenge was the change in the site for establishing the electric fence demonstrations that UWRTI had agreed to. The Top management of UWA changed the site to be at UWA premises within the Queen Elizabeth Conservation Area. This affected the timely construction of fence demonstrations and training of UWA staff. This element was successfully completed and does not affect future project delivery.

**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: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

Change request reference if known: N/A

**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: £ Nil

**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 rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget 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 Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

Space for Giants is working with Earthranger to align with the Uganda Conservation Foundation on the earthranger implementation in Uganda to avoid confusion and overlap on this project deliverable.

**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**

