

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	DARCC010
Project title	Building effective and equitable multi-stakeholder mitigation for HWC in Tsavo
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Kenya
Lead partner	Zoological Society of London
Partner(s)	KWS, CAK, URSA
Project leader	<i>Gunveena Ghataure</i>
Report date and number	<i>HYR2</i>
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/kenya-conservation-work Twitter: @ZSLAfrica

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.

Output 1

Activity 1.8 Design training plan and materials and assessment for learning: As a result of the change request submitted in Y1Q4, where some activities were delayed until Y2 due to the HEC incident in Y1 this activity was carried over to Y2. Following the GAP and SAGE assessments, and synthesis workshops undertaken in Y1, the project team alongside key partners, have agreed on a training plan and means of assessment. Through these discussions, the SAGE assessment recommendations have been translated into actions with input from actor groups assessed (communities, county government, National government, KWS and NGOs). A select group led by WRTI and with representatives from the afore-mentioned actor groups was established to draft the action plan. We are currently identifying trainers to deliver the outstanding training for the remainder of the project.

Activity 1.9 Develop and propose Best Practice Standards for piloting based on the capacity assessment and gap analysis: The draft Best Practice Standards are still in development, and this process has required additional time, involving partners, stakeholders, and KWS. The extended timeline is necessary to finalise the outstanding trainings, which will then inform the guidelines. In the past quarter, securing time from KWS has been challenging due to recent organizational changes and broader commitments. The insights from all training efforts will be reviewed and documented in the upcoming HWC stakeholder workshop, led by CAK in November 2023 (YR2Q3).

Output 2

Activity 2.1 Conduct training sessions targeting different capacity building aspects identified in the gap assessment including 20 people to be trained as trainers: Like the previous activities under Output 1, this activity was delayed until Y2 due to the HEC incident in Y1. Key training initiatives identified from the gap assessment were delivered during the reporting period including the final training on Trust Building, and a Code of Conduct. Details of the Trust Building Workshop are outlined in Activity 2.2

below. The Code of Conduct (CoC) training (Annex 1) was delivered to various stakeholders, including HWC Resolution Committee members, Location Chiefs, Ward administrators, Honorary Wardens, KWS Community Wildlife Service rangers, KWS LEA representatives, KWS PAC teams from Voi and Kambu, PAMU members, and Tsavo Trust scouts. A consultant from URSA led this training, with support from project staff and it focused on the ten key values in the global ranger code of conduct. The KWS LEA expressed strong interest in embedding the CoC unit in ranger training, and there is a request to train more KWS LEA instructors in the CoC. Trust building training was conducted and targeted Trainers of Trainers (ToTs). Seven committee members (3 from each committee) were trained to subsequently train 10 committee members each, with the goal of reaching 70 community members. A follow-up is planned for Y2Q3 to ensure they deliver training to the community members in the next quarter. The training also included members of the Problem Animal Control Unit and HWC rangers, totalling 25 to 30 individuals.

Activity 2.2 Design and implementation of trust building workshops between KWS, community reps and other relevant stakeholders to improve relationships: Following the delays outlined in the change request submitted last year, the final trust building workshop was pushed to Y2 and was delivered in July. It was delivered to 70 HWC Resolution Committee members, including 7 Location Chiefs, 2 Ward administrators, 2 Honorary Wardens, 15 KWS Community Wildlife Service rangers, 1 KWS Law Enforcement Academy representative, 2 Problem Animal Management Unit (PAMU) members, and 4 Tsavo Trust scouts. The session included theory and scenario role-playing, fostering a deep understanding of the meaning of trust, principles, benefits, and the consequences of its absence. This marked the first forum uniting community members and KWS personnel of various ranks, all committed to addressing persistent challenges, including Human-Wildlife Conflicts (See Annex 2 for a report). Some of the key outcomes of the workshop were an agreement to deliver this training to KWS LEA current rangers and trainees (conservancy scouts), at KWS' request. ZSL project staff have since delivered this. Further, agreements have been made to work with KWS to review the KWS ranger training curriculum to include trust building and codes of conduct. ZSL is continuing discussions with KWS to formalise this. Finally, community representatives agreed to deliver training to their wider communities to increase the reach of this training. ZSL is following up with community representatives in Q3 to check on this progress.

Activity 2.3 ZSL to deliver training in situation analysis and de-escalation; facilitation; poverty and biodiversity conservation, personal safety and gender equity and social inclusion training: This training did not take place in the reporting period due to the unforeseen redeployment of KWS staff who were required to be present elsewhere for a site visit by the KWS Director General. Training sessions on de-escalation and situation analysis have since taken place in October 2023; the remaining training has been planned for Y2Q3 and will be included in the next report.

Activity 2.4 Equip KWS with participatory learning and action research skills as well as integrate citizen science to develop effective approaches for HWC Prevention and mitigation resulting in better sensitivities to community challenges in regard to HWC: The project team has identified consultants from WRTI to undertake training in participatory learning and action research skills to take place in Y2Q3. A second workshop, to be delivered by Save the Elephants (STE), has been planned for Y2Q3 on the topic of integrating citizen science into HEC management (Annex 3). KWS and community members will be able to learn from staff at STE and citizens from their project areas on best practice for HEC such as the safe removal of problem elephants. KWS and communities are already practising elements of citizen science by working collaboratively to deal with HWC through practices such as using phones to drop a location pin of HWC incidents to help KWS rangers find problem animals. The HWC committees will act as citizen science data gatherers as they will work on documenting and reporting HWC cases to KWS. During the next HWC stakeholder workshop in Y2Q3 we will discuss a template to mainstream citizen science through the HWC committees. Moving forward, this management tool will be formalised into official action plans.

Activity 2.5 KWS to lead and facilitate two quarterly stakeholder meetings that include community members, relevant NGOs and private sector putting into practice the skills learnt in the Project: There have been two stakeholder meetings in the reporting period. One led and convened by KWS with support from CAK (Annex 4), and another led and convened jointly by KWS and CAK (Annex 5). As KWS are time constrained due to new appointments and staff getting used to their roles, CAK are jointly leading with KWS to support the process. Following the appointment of the new Assistant Director of Tsavo West National Park, there is renewed optimism that KWS will be able to lead and convene stakeholder workshops going forward.

Activity 2.6 A Joint KWS-Community mentorship and advisory group formalised consisting of a senior member of KWS Community Wildlife Service staff, Ministry of Wildlife, CAK and a respected community

member with support from ZSL's international best practice network, the group provides ongoing advice to KWS staff. The formation of an advisory group was discussed during the joint stakeholder meeting in August. It was agreed that the group would be finalised in the next stakeholder meeting in Y2Q3 following workshops delivered by ZSL experts in HEC from Thailand, and a colleague who sits on the IUCN HWC committee, to create formal relationships between KWS and international experts. Some of the topics to be covered include HEC early warning systems among others.

Output 3

Activity 3.1 *CAK and Project staff lead quarterly stakeholder meetings to formalise consortium with key stakeholders, agree good governance principles and synergise activities:* In Q2, a joint meeting led by CAK and KWS was held. The workshop's main purpose was to enable stakeholders to share their best practices and strategies for addressing HWC. During this meeting, HWC Resolution Committee members shared feedback on their community engagement experiences following their official commissioning (see Annex 6 for a report). Additionally, the KWS Assistant Director of TWNP presented information on the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act of 2013, explaining the roles of KWS and HWC resolution committees (see Annex 7 for a report). One of the key objectives was to enhance understanding of the compensation process outlined in the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA). The handover to KWS is scheduled to occur in the coming months. To gather input on KWS's convening and facilitation skills, a questionnaire will be administered to all stakeholders at the end of the next stakeholder meeting.

Activity 3.2 *Support KWS to lead quarterly stakeholder meetings (consortium) to build partnerships and plan conservation and HWC mitigation activities:* CAK and ZSL provided essential assistance in fostering multi-stakeholder coordination, particularly in the formation and operation of HWC committees, ensuring project sustainability through consortia models, and facilitating KWS's leadership role in the Q2 and Q3 HWC stakeholder meetings. CAK actively promotes the development of effective, equitable, and enduring frameworks for engagement among government entities, NGOs, and Tsavo communities to address human-wildlife conflicts.

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.

Engaging KWS at multiple levels, including site, regional, HQ, and LEA, increased project support. ZSL has been invited to be guest trainers for the Manyani training school in COC training. However, training KWS rangers to become trainers is challenging due to their potential sudden redeployment. Discussions between ZSL and KWS are ongoing to retain rangers for two years in their positions for knowledge transfer.

HWC committees, and the engagement of conservation champions have improved community attitudes towards KWS and wildlife. However, HWC remains politicized, necessitating both technical and political solutions. Stakeholders have called for policy maker involvement. Through efforts such as this, the project continues to strengthen local and regional leadership.

These developments and realizations have caused delays in certain activities, extending them to the next quarter. These delays are primarily due to KWS's unavailability, resulting from recent government changes and prior commitments. It's important to note that these delays will not impact the overall budget.

A partnership with STE to train community members in HEC mitigation is a more cost effective method of enabling benchmarking with similar communities and supports trial methods in preparation for upcoming rains, as well as sharing of citizen science best practices in the Tsavo Conservation Area.

Participation in the WRTI Wildlife Scientific Conference boosted project visibility, generated new partnerships, and sparked project ideas. The outputs of this project are becoming wider ranging than we anticipated. For instance, a proposal to review the national ranger curriculum was developed and submitted, in collaboration with KWS, WRTI, ZSL, URSA, and WWF. The proposal aims to incorporate key learnings from this pilot program and is based on the positive feedback we have had so far with the project.

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-N/A
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. 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**