

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 2022

Project reference	DARCC011
Project title	Realising the Durban Vision: Strengthening Madagascar's Protected area management capacity
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Madagascar
Lead partner	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Partner(s)	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Project leader	<i>Andrianantenaina Hanitra Nomentsoa</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>HYR1 31st October 2022</i>
Project website/blog/social media	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).

The project officer and the project assistant were recruited and started working on 07 and 15 June 2022 respectively.

The project was officially launched on Tuesday 19th July 2022 and was named *FAMPITAFANA* or *FAnamafisana ny fahaizamanaon'ny MPITAntana Faritra Arovana* which means strengthening the of Protected Area (PA) managers.

A Project Advisory Committee has been set up and is composed of key actors in the Protected Areas management in Madagascar. Members of the committee are representatives of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), the Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar (FAPBM) and Madagascar National Parks (MNP) which is the main PA manager in Madagascar. This committee met for the first time on 21st July 2022 to discuss the main orientations of the project and the next steps, as well as to validate all the training themes.

The progress made on each output is detailed below:

Output 1. Formal training improves the skills, knowledge and attitudes of PA managers/ directors

1.1. The module and teaching materials on “Leadership, team management, conflict resolution, communication and gender” have been designed. The call of expression of interest has been launched on 16th September 2022.

1.2. A three-day training on “Leadership, team management, conflicts resolution, communication and gender” is planned for 30 PA Directors/Managers on 11-13 October 2022.

1.3. A pre and post training assessment questionnaire has been prepared to evaluate the level of knowledge and competences of the PA Director/Site Manager before and after the training.

Output 2. Practical exchange visits and training improve the skills, knowledge and attitudes of PA technicians.

2.1. The first exchange visit is planned to be done on mid-October with the PA managers from the South of Madagascar. The PA Director of the Andohahela National Park, where the exchange visit will take place has suggested to share their experience and good practice on Collaborative management and to do a restoration of dry forest in the PA.

2.2. Pre and post exchange visits questionnaires are being developed.

Output 3. PA practitioners continue to strengthen and broaden priority competences through ongoing professional development and learning opportunities.

3.1. Four training courses were organised, covering two themes (2 sessions per theme):

- "Concept and evaluation of ecosystem services applied to Protected Areas management" with 42 PA practitioners including 9 women from the East, West and North-West geographical regions;

- "Ecological monitoring" with 32 PA practitioners including 4 women from the Central, Central-Eastern and South-Western regions.

In total, 74 PA practitioners (25% of the targeted number of PA practitioners) were trained on these two themes from 38 PA (63% of the targeted number of PA) and 27 organisations (90% of the targeted number of organisations).

The 4 PA practitioners we will support to participate in the 3-month DESMAN (Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate) are expected to attend the September 2023 and February 2024 sessions.

3.3. We are currently compiling all the training materials already used in order to design the training handbook.

Output 4. PA managers and technicians access PA management learning resources and technical information through online resources and regular peer-peer meetings.

4.2. We plan to organise a regional meeting of Protected Area practitioners from the eastern geographical region of Madagascar in November. The theme identified for this meeting is the creation and strengthening of a regional network of Protected Area Managers.

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 main problem encountered since the beginning of the project is related to fires in the Protected Areas. Indeed, several fires have broken out in many Protected Areas across Madagascar recently. This has prevented some managers from attending training sessions, as they have had to stay at their sites. Some of them even left in the middle of the training because a fire broke out in their PA.

This reduces the number of participants who can attend the training sessions.

This could affect the timetable of project activities, as some trainings could be postponed to periods when managers would be more available.

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/No

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

Change request reference if known:

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?

No issues

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. 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**