

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	DARCC013
Project title	Coordinated invasive plant management to protect Tanzanian biodiversity and livelihoods
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead partner	CABI
Partner(s)	Tanzania Forest Research Institute (TAFORI, co-lead), Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority (TAWA), Community Research and Development Services (CORDS), Tanzania Natural Resource Forum (TNRF), Centre for Development and Ecology of the University of Bern (CDE)
Project leader	René Eschen (CABI) and John Richard (TAFORI)
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	www.woodyweeds.org , Twitter: @woodyweeds_org

The project is advancing as planned. The current phase of the project is dedicated to finalising the prosopis management plan, profiling of the plan in land management plans of different administrations, training of trainers on prosopis identification and management, and awareness raising among land users with the aim of engaging people in management of invasive species.

A second, final meeting of the Local Implementation Group (LIG) was held in May 2023 (Output 1.3), during which the prosopis management plan for the Lake Natron Basin was agreed. The management plan is a map, accompanied by a document describing it and its origins. The project team agreed with the LIG about the structure of a document describing the prosopis management plan and how it was made, and this document was written after the meeting. During the second meeting of the Regional Working Group (RWG; Output 1.1), a letter to recommend adoption and implementation of the plan was presented by LIG members to the District Commissioner of Monduli District and the Regional Environmental Management Expert of Arusha Region. The document describing the prosopis management plan was, together with the same letter and the map, presented to the assistant Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS) of Arusha Region. The assistant RAS has invited the project team to present the prosopis management plan during a meeting of District representatives, which will happen during the next reporting period.

Because the inclusion of Prosopis management in development and land management programmes (Output 1.2) may be more likely to happen if supported by the national government, the team organised a meeting in Dodoma in September 2023 to raise awareness about Prosopis and present the prosopis management plan for the Lake Natron basin to the Vice President's Office (VPO). The meeting was attended by members of the project team and four members of the LIG and RWG. During the meeting, representatives of different national

ministries and the VPO learned about prosopis, its impacts and management, as well as the prosopis management plan for the Lake Natron basin. After the meeting the senior environment officer from the VPO Ms Magdalena Ngotolainyo, who represented the Director of the Environment Division, appeared on national television (ITV) where she said during the news that Prosopis should not be planted anymore.

Training of Trainer events for pre-selected participants, including village chiefs, women and LIG members, were organised during the second meeting of the LIG in Mto wa Mbu and separately during the month of September 2023 in Pinyinyi and Wosiwosi wards (ca. 20, 13 and 23 participants, respectively; Outputs 3.1, 3.2). Several members of the LIG and community members participated in the two training and demonstration activities. The purpose of the training was to increase participants' capacity on prosopis management practices as well as on proper identification of the tree and its pathways of spread and the communities' responsibility to manage the invasions in the landscape. While no significant areas have yet been cleared of Prosopis or other invasive plants, some removal has taken place following the project meetings in the first year of the project, and more is planned for the next reporting period.

During all these activities information has been shared with communities and other actors, using newly developed extension leaflets in Swahili and a field guide about prosopis and its management (Output 2.1). Moreover, almost all activities were featured on national television. The field visits to the demonstration sites were also an opportunity for some community members to observe the plant in its natural habitat, which resulted in a learning experience for community members and further discussions with them to enhance their knowledge of the plant (Output 2.2).

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.

[REDACTED]

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

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

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: £0

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?

None.

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**