

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	DARCC022
Project title	South-south capacity building for human-elephant conflict management
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania, Namibia
Lead partner	IIED
Partner(s)	Honeyguide, IRDNC
Project leader	<i>Dilys Roe</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1, October 2023
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.iied.org/south-south-capacity-building-for-human-elephant-conflict-management

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.

Much of the first quarter was spent with agreeing contracts for sub-grants between IIED and partners Honeyguide and IRDNC and planning for the project activities – including an online project team meeting at the start of May 2023.

It was agreed that two staff from Honeyguide would visit Namibia in June 2023 for a scoping visit to some of the conservancies experiencing human elephant conflict problems and that 15 community rangers from Namibia plus 3 IRDNC staff members would then travel to Tanzania for training in July 2023.

The scoping visit took place between 20th and 26th June and encompassed four conservancies: Omatendeka, Otjui, Ozondundu, and Ombuyokanguindi. Based on their observations the Honeyguide representatives were confident that all conservancies would be able to use their toolkit with a combination of torches, air horns, chilli clouds, Roman candles, chili fences and chill bricks. A report of the scoping visit is available on the project web page.

The training visit to Tanzania took place from 18th to 24th July. 15 community rangers from 4 conservancies participated and were taught about all the components of the HEC toolkit including how to source and/or make them (depending on the specific component) and how to deploy them. The training included a visit to Randilen Wildlife Management Area (the Tanzanian equivalent to a Namibian communal conservancy) and an all night elephant chase! A report of the training is available on the project web page.

The next stage in the process will be the deployment of the HEC toolkits in Namibia.

In addition to this, IIED has provided continuous project management support when required to partners. This has included supporting IRDNC to develop capacity for monitoring project expenditure against the budget and guidance on reallocating funds across different budget lines.

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.

No notable problems however, we have however slightly changed our plans with respect to documenting the training and producing training materials in that the team wanted more time to think through the best approach rather than allocate all of the budget for this right at the start of the project. We plan to hold a meeting before the end of Q3 to discuss and agree the best approach and, if this significantly changes the planned activities in the proposal will submit a change request to NIRAS .

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

Discussed with NIRAS: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance 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?

No further issues to raise at this stage

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**