

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	DAREX004
Project title	Partnering for a biodiverse, prosperous, and resilient Tarangire Ecosystem landscape
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead partner	The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
Partner(s)	Ujamaa Community Resource Team (UCRT), Istituto Oikos (IO), Tanzania People and Wildlife (TPW)
Project leader	<i>Alphonse Blass Mallya</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	TBD

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).

Output 1

1.1 Identify at least 49 local communities, 1 Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and respective government authorities at Village, District and Regional levels that will be targeted for the project

- Partners agreed on the 49 implementation villages plus Randilen Community Wildlife Management Area (CWMA) (see figure 1 in annex). List of targeted 49 villages and 1 CWMA was developed and shared to implementing partners indicating where each implementing partner will commence activities as per the project log frame and implementation timetable.
- Implementing partner organized inception meetings with regional and district government officials, where they brainstormed about the project, and the implementing partners described their planned activities and areas of focus (year 1 target villages) in each district and agreed on the government contact persons for all matters regarding this project. The inception meetings at village level were conducted in collaboration with contact persons from respective project districts particularly from land committees, livestock, and community development departments.

1.2 Develop project plan for implementation of community engagement and outreach design, including FPIC process and gender consideration.

- A working version of community engagement plan drafted by TNC, and UCRT, pending inputs from OIKOS and TPW which outline FPIC processes to be followed.

1.4 Design and undertake stakeholders' engagement and outreach processes including sensitizations, establishment of independent community institutions, workshops, trainings (including youth, women, and new individuals not already engaged in rangeland management activities with partners)

- Local government engagement on project establishment and planned implementation was conducted by all implementing partners at regional, district, and village level (Arusha, Manyara regions, Longido, Monduli, Simanjiro Districts). TNC, in collaboration with UCRT and districts rangelands officers, conducted community consultations in 18 villages (5 of which are WMAs member villages) to collect opinions about establishment of independent community institutions that unite all pastoralists to take

charge over governance and management of grazing resources as well as conservation of communal grazing areas. The team managed to reach out and collect opinions from over 1500 pastoralists in 18 villages through organized village general assemblies. This was conducted as part of the community sensitization and need assessment laying the foundations for participatory endorsement for establishment of independent community institutions.

- Capacity building for the local government system to strengthen districts and enable them to better perform their functions including development planning and implementation. The capacity building on land laws and policies, good governance, conflict resolution, rangeland management and benefit accrued from natural resources are vital for our interventions since many conflicts over land and other related natural resources are caused by lack of understanding of the policies, laws regulations and related guidelines by the community and village councils. Also, land use planning implementation helps local communities on setting plans for mitigations and adaption for climate change impacts. Therefore, the following topics were covered during the training: land conflict mechanisms procedures and institutions; Women rights' pertinent to land ownership in accordance with land laws; Land use planning; Environmental conservation; Good governance in relation to local government institutions; rangelands management and benefit from communal natural resources. Participation dialogue, plenary discussion, group discussions and question asking answers among other were used to ensure the training was participatory. During the discussion sessions, participants were able to critically discuss their statutory roles, importance of effective management of the landscapes and identify some of challenges facing them. Some of the issues that came out were human wildlife conflicts, land conflicts arising on the village boundaries of which they realized land use planning could help solve.

1.5 Establish at least 49 independent community institutions in each participating village and support them with skilled management team to supervise and manage biodiversity conservation activities and IRM plan implementation, and livelihood activities and benefit sharing, building from existing institutions wherever possible.

- Needs assessment in 18 villages (see 1.4 above).
- Identification of gaps within available committees at village level to determine which institution will be responsible for management and supervision of the biodiversity conservation activities in target communal grazing areas and implement Improved Rangelands Management (IRM) plan that will be developed under this project, and sustain livelihood activities, soil carbon benefit sharing. TNC inspected various established committees founded for specific functions within each village including but not limited to, grazing areas management, land use plans management, conflict resolution councils and natural resource/environmental management to identify gaps and develop mechanisms to merge and develop strong independent institutions with equal representations from the committees. In all village General Assembly meetings it was decided that the capacity of the Grazing/CCROs Committees that already have the duty to protect and manage grazing areas/rangeland with priority target in conservation of the biodiversity, will be strengthened and assigned to also take the lead on this new function as per project activities.

1.6 Conduct at least 49 community and 1 WMA consultations using FPIC principles to discuss relevance and acceptance of a potential soil carbon activity including honest discussions of potential risks, cost, and benefits to local peoples.

- An initial phase of communities' consultation, outreach, and engagement on sustainable conservation practices in communal grazing areas were conducted in 24 villages and 1 WMA focusing on mainly on IRM ensuring FPIC to pave the way for epic community engagement on the soil carbon project planned next half of year 1.

1.7 Establish a "Herders Under The Tree School (HUTTS)" and conduct trainings of herders in IRM techniques and related grazing practices

- In preparation of the Q4 FY22/23 implementation, TNC and UCRT did a performance assessment of HUTTS in the pilot villages (Selela, Terrat and Kitwai B) implementing IRM under match funding and conducted trainings on practical herding with herders to enforce bunching and control of livestock to help herders gain practical exposure. The performance report shows that HUTTS raises herders' awareness on the IRM components and enables them to implement and enforce best grazing management practices such as bunched herding, compliance to rotational grazing from one grazing block to another observing the days allocated per each grazing block, thereby avoiding overgrazing among other practices leading to degradation.

Output 2

2.1 Scale up the livestock marketing and sales opportunity that adds value for local producers but ties access to market and service opportunities to local conservation and management measures, including rangeland health and wildlife protection.

- TNC engaged 3 livestock fattening villages implementing IRM and is working to establish and register 6 added livestock fattening groups to enhance livestock value chain aimed at reducing grazing pressure through destocking, sustain best grazing practices (IRM) and supply of more balanced pasture access between wildlife and livestock. Under match funding, five days training was conducted to the livestock keepers from 6 fattening groups on drought mitigation through demonstration of two alternative ways of fattening livestock (traditional versus feedlot) in 5 villages. This is a behavioural change mechanism employed to change strong Maasai pastoralist culture from keeping large herds for prestige into a more pro-conservation and livelihood enhancing pastoralism. Through feedlot fattening, match funding is supporting fattening of 300 cattle for 3 three months, as well as the training hub for the livestock keepers.

2.3 Develop and support small enterprises for women and youth that have basic business skills. The target groups will specifically engage in production of sun-dried meat, curing leather, and bee keeping (beeswax and honey production).

- Hands-on practical entrepreneurship and beekeeping trainings to 10 women and youth from within beekeeping micro-enterprises in Loiborsiret village strengthened small enterprises for women and youth beekeeping projects (see figures 2 & 3 in annex). TPW through this project supported ten Training of Trainers (ToTs) women leaders from the women's groups in Loiborsiret village to attend a training on micro-enterprises and beeswax product development from September 4-10. The training was facilitated by the government agency 'Small Industries Development Organization' (SIDO) in Arusha, Tanzania. The technical skills delivered to these women leaders were general entrepreneurship skills, beekeeping product value chain literacy, and the women learned practical skills to expand their beeswax product portfolio. During the training, the women produced prototypes of Mama Asali lip balm, body lotion, soap, and candles. They then returned to their groups to train other members on the development of these products.

2.4 Evaluate, design and establish a soil carbon activity for communities practicing IRM

- TNC carbon experts have worked to evaluate the relevant soil carbon project design and methodology given changes in the global trends with partners before engaging the local government authorities and the local communities. Map for soil sampling sites drafted and consultant recruitment in the final stages to implement soil sampling and analysis that will provide baselines for soil organic carbon, inform development of methodology and respective revenue flow to communities afterwards.

Output 3

3.1 Undertake landscape analysis and review of existing grazing practices, tools, plans, policies, and frameworks, and identify critical conservation areas; use these to inform landscape framework plan

- Under match funding, the seasonal grazing plans were reviewed in Randilen WMA, Sukuro and Mbaash villages and in the older villages review processes were supported through the well-trained and experienced Grazing Coordinators. This process informs our next half year move for new villages enrolled under this project.

3.2 Implement improved grazing actions

- TNC have expanded the HPG programme (one of the basic IRM components) to 7 more villages (Kitwai A, Loonderkes, Kitiangare, Nadonjukin, Loosimingori, Mungere, and Lemooti), covering around 167,000 Ha under IRM interventions, adding them to the pool of 13 villages already implementing IRM under match funding. We expect to add 11 more villages with our partner UCRT during the next half year increasing our coverage to 350,000 Ha by March 2023.
- The above villages enrolled under this project have been supported to select grazing coordinators and draft dry seasonal grazing plans (see pictures 4 & 5 in annex). Each village through organized village general assembly's select 3 grazing coordinators who will join the grazing committees as the key implementers in enforcing IRM interventions such as seasonal grazing plans, HUTTS, periodic rangelands monitoring, bunched herding, invasives plant species control, among others. The grazing coordinators will attend a series of technical capacity building trainings and workshops to equip them with skills to implement the IRM at village level.

3.3 Plan and implement landscape restoration actions, with a focus on recruitment of women participants

- IO worked with the communities to establish a common understanding of the project aims and goals (see figure 6 in annex) to ensure prior informed participation. A written declaration of consensual agreement to participate in project activities has been concluded with all villages. Given the nature of the rangeland's restoration activity, extensive discussions were held to ensure the fear or concern of potential land grabbing, a very sensitive issue which is currently affecting some of the target villages such as Arkaria, was mitigated in the meeting. The village general assemblies were independently facilitated by the local government authorities and no form of payment was given by the project.

- Oikos activities are centered around women empowerment and protection of women's rights. Any benefits from the rangeland restoration are intended to benefit the women groups established by the project. During the month of September, the project team mobilized and planned the tracking and methodology establishment of the rangeland restoration sites.
- TNC led the community engagement activity in which 100 casual labors from Terrat, Lemooti and Selela villages were recruited to implement mechanical uprooting of invasive plant species (*Ipomea hildebrandtii* & *Dichrostachys cinerea* (sickle bush)) that is aggressively spreading and dominating communal grazing land in Terat and neighboring villages of Sukuro and Kitiangare, Selela and Lemooti and becoming hotspot of invasive species spread on the entire Tarangire landscape. The number of recruited casual labors are: Terrat (40), Lemooti (25) and Selela (25) villages. Out of 40 casual labors at Terrat village 21 were females and to date, 17 acres of *Ipomea hildebrandtii* are already uprooted preventing spread and dominance of this dangerous invasive plant species in over 50,000 Ha of land in Terrat, Sukuro and Kitiangare communal grazing areas. Also, 44 acres of *d. cinerea* are already uprooted in Selela and Lemooti, preventing spread of this invasive species in over 35,000 Ha of communal grazing land (see figure 8 in annex).

3.4 Develop integrated landscape monitoring system and implement landscape monitoring plan

- Periodic rangeland monitoring by Grazing Coordinators is ongoing in all programme villages under match funding. Currently the data is submitted into a collective server from all data collection points twice a season before each grazing block is open and few days after each grazing block is closed for grazing. This way, it become possible to manage compliance to seasonal rotational grazing plans and collect important rangelands biophysical metrics guiding rangeland improvement initiatives on the landscape.
- TPW supported twelve villages in the project area – Loiborsiret, Oldonyo, Lengolwa, Lemooti, Mswakini Chini, Naitolia, Minjingu, Ngoley, Vilima Vitatu, Mswakini Juu, Olasiti, and Mwada – to collect monthly data on pasture quality including indicators such as grass height, percent bare ground verses basal vegetation, pastoralists perception of grazing quality, frequency of common invasive species, and grass color. This data is collected by two community rangeland monitors each month via the Esri mobile data collection application, Survey123. The data is then submitted through the cloud to TPW's Arc GIS Online database where aggregate results from each village are visualized and displayed in an Arc GIS Online Dashboard. TPW then hosted rangeland feedback meetings in the twelve villages, which provided a forum for TPW staff and the village grazing committees to review the Arc GIS Online Dashboards, discuss rangeland challenges and potential solutions, and make evidence-based decisions on land allocation and use or adjust the existing grazing plan based on the data.
- We are drafting an Integrated Rangelands Health Monitoring and Assessment Protocol, an improvement of the already in use periodic rangelands monitoring protocol for integrated rangelands management.

3.5 Conduct field survey campaign

- TNC organized the team of carbon scientists to support the establishment of the process including but not limited to facilitating soil sampling and analysis design to establish baseline data for soil carbon monitoring and verification process thereafter (see figure 9 in annex). Meanwhile, engagement of a consultant to conduct soil sampling and laboratory analysis of soil organic carbon from the target project villages is progressing well and as of September 2022, TNC is in the process of finalizing the contract with Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI). It should be noted that data and data collection under this activity must conform to the international standards and methodologies required by the voluntary carbon standard, VERRA. In recognition of these VERRA standards, it has been agreed under the ToR that TARI is mandated to involve the world-renowned soil research organization 'World Agroforestry' (ICRAF) in Nairobi for technical backstopping. Since early October 2022, ICRAF and TARI (under guidance from TNC) have been working together on aligning the work plans and budget for this activity and are now close to being finalized.
- TNC has drafted the baseline socioeconomic study research design which include the calculation to assess power for a before-after comparison and a difference-in-differences estimation of socio-economic outcomes in a repeated cross-section. It also guides decision-making on the feasible number of sample villages and respondents to be interviewed. The study is aimed to establish the baseline indicators for socio-economic indicators such as household incomes through quantitative household surveys and baseline indicator data for conservation micro-enterprise contribution to improved livelihoods. These will inform on project impacts at closure. Scope of work to engage a consultant to conduct the socioeconomic baseline survey is being finalized and the data collection and analysis planned to be completed next second half.

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 project did not encounter any unexpected problems in the first half year of implementation. The project consortium will continue to monitor project progress closely.

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.

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**