

## 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: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

<b>Project reference</b>	DARNV010
<b>Project title</b>	Scaling evidence-based Inclusive Conservation Finance models in Uganda and Tanzania
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Uganda and Tanzania
<b>Lead partner</b>	Fauna & Flora International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	GreenFi Systems Ltd, MCCC Ltd (renamed from Mwambao Coastal Community Network) from Tanzania and Private Forest Owner Associations (PFOA) from Uganda
<b>Project leader</b>	Kiran Mohanan, Fauna & Flora International
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	31 Oct, 2022 HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	

#### **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).**

Project start date: 1 July, 2022

Reporting period: 3 months (July – Sep 2022)

Activities planned for reporting period: Activities 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1 and 3.5.

**Output 1:** Governance and equity of at least 20 ICF (Inclusive Conservation Finance) groups and at least 4 CBNRM (Community-based Natural Resource Management) institutions in Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Uganda is improved before scale up.

Activity 1.1: In progress.

Uganda: Collected baseline data from existing reports on members' age and gender and youth participation in two Private Forest Owners' Associations (PFOAs) (CBNRM groups in Uganda), VSLAs (Village Savings and Loans Associations) (ICF group in Uganda) (Annex 1).

Tanzania: similar baseline data being collected from two Shehia Fisheries Committees (SFCs) (CBNRM groups in Tanzania) and MKUBA groups (ICF groups in Tanzania).

A guide is being developed for conducting governance assessments and for focus group discussions to collect missing baseline data in Uganda and Tanzania (Annex 2). These focus group discussions and governance assessments of the groups in both Uganda and Tanzania land and seascape will be conducted in the second quarter of the project (Oct-Dec 2022).

Activity 1.2: Planned third quarter of the project (Oct-Dec 2022) after Activity 1.1.

Activity 1.3: Scheduled after completion of governance assessments (activities 1.1 and 1.2)

Activity 1.4: Scheduled for fourth quarter Jan-Feb, 2023.

Activity 1.5: In progress.

Uganda: Monthly monitoring of VSLAs is being carried out by spot-checking attendance registers, loan sanctions, and repayment of loans. A monitoring template has been developed to formalise this evaluate]on process going forward. (Annex 3).

Tanzania: This activity is scheduled to be conducted in the second quarter.

**Output 2:** ICF group members' conservation commitments to deliver biodiversity impact and linkages with local CBNRM institutions are formally agreed through a participatory process

Activity 2.1: In progress.

Tanzania: MCCC currently developing "eco compliance" guide and data collection tools for MKUBA members' participation. In the next quarter, technical advice will be provided to strengthen this compliance mechanism, and lessons learnt will be shared within the Uganda landscape.

Uganda: Activity is planned for next quarter in Uganda.

Activity 2.2: Planned for Oct- Dec, 2022.

Activity 2.3: In progress.

Uganda: In September, meetings were conducted with 101 community members (57M:44F) to agree on the terms and conditions for accessing the loan fund by the VSLAs from PFOAs and a draft agreement between the two institutions was drawn. The relationship between the two institutions was clearly laid out and a quarterly interest rate of 5% was agreed and made uniform across the PFOAs and VSLA groups. 3% of this quarterly interest will be shared with PFOA for conservation activities and 2% will be retained within savings groups to cover operating costs (Annex 4)

Tanzania: This activity is planned to be conducted in the second quarter in Tanzania.

**Output 3:** Innovative digital record keeping tools adopted by at least 20 ICF groups and at least 4 CBNRM institutions in Uganda and Zanzibar (Tanzania) to accurately and transparently manage eco-credit processes and monitor/report on participation in conservation action.

Activity 3.1: In progress

Uganda: The first design thinking workshop was conducted by Greenfi, with FFI staff and technical specialists, to assess the data requirement and expected outcome from the mobile app for Uganda. The working draft of the app design is attached as Annex 5. Design will be finalised in November, and a minimum viable product for testing will be developed in December and field tested in January, 2023.

Tanzania: Greenfi are working with MCCC on a similar timeline for the development of the community reporting app in the coming two quarters.

Activity 3.5: Scheduled in November 2022 for both Uganda and Tanzania

**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.**

**Delay in contracting:** The original project start date was 1st April, 2022, however, due to delays in receiving and agreeing the grant documents, our grant acceptance was completed on 7th June, 2022. A request for change of project start date was submitted in July and approved in August, 2022. This delayed signing sub-grant agreements with partners MCCC and Greenfi allowing only limited time to carry out planned activities in the first quarter of the project. However, we do not expect this delay to impact the project timelines or budgets at this point as necessary planning for adaptive management has been carried out with partners.

**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

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

Change request reference if known:

Email from BCF Finance [[BCF-Finance@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Finance@niras.com)] to Kiran Mohanan [REDACTED] dated 31 August, 2022 with subject 'RE: change request: DARNV010 Scaling evidence-based Inclusive Conservation Finance'.

**4a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

**No**

**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 to be reported.

**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](mailto: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**