

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	DARNV018
Project title	Wildlife Credits: Launching a Conservation Performance Payments Scheme in Tanzania
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead partner	WWF-UK
Partner(s)	WWF-Tanzania Country Office
Project leader	Tanya Smith; Senior Programme Advisor (WWF-UK)
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	01 May 2023 to 30 September 2023 HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	No project specific website www.wwf.org.uk

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).

This report covers a period of five months, with project start date of 1 May 2023 and will focus on progress against activities planned for Q1 and Q2 as per the project timetable.

Output 1: Community-led conservation vision for Kitenden Corridor and the Wildlife Credits model, including pricing and disbursements mechanism, is co-designed with and adopted by communities and stakeholders.

Activity 1.1

Stakeholder assessment has been completed and a management committee has been established.

The findings from the assessment served as a foundation for developing a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy, aimed at fostering inclusive and participatory decision-making processes within the Enduimet Wildlife Management Area (EWMA). Through this process the project team has addressed stakeholder concerns, promoted collaboration, and created a sense of ownership and accountability among all parties involved in the Wildlife Credit Pilot.

The stakeholders are not limited to Regional & District Authorities in Arusha, EWMA, NGO's, Local government, Villages, Government agencies like KINAPA, TAWA & TFS, Tourism companies, Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Local and traditional leaders and Community Wildlife Management Areas Consortium.

Activity 1.2

We successfully held three workshops during the reporting period, including the project inception workshop, to develop the conservation vision for Kitenden Corridor and associated KPI's for measuring conservation performance.

Project inception: The inception workshop included the active participation of 83 representatives from key stakeholders, including District Commissioner, Kilimanjaro National Park (KINAPA), Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), Tanzania Forest Services (TFS), Enduimet Wildlife Management Area, local leaders from three Division Offices, two Ward Officers, village leaders from the 4 villages participating in the pilot, and media representatives.

During this workshop the Council Management Team and Longido District Council favourably received the project and it was approved by the local government.

Local leadership engagement: The purpose of the workshop with local village and EWMA leadership was to seek the support of local leaders and facilitate meaningful discussions to co-develop a conservation vision for the Kitenden Corridor. The participants engaged in identifying priority threats present in and around the wildlife corridor and discussed conservation actions required to address these threats. See below for more details with regards to the identified, and agreed, key performance indicators (KPI's) needed to measure conservation performance.

Community Consultation Workshop: The villages of Kamwanga, Kitendeni, Lerang'wa, and Irkaswa, which are part of EWMA, demonstrated active and successful engagement in community consultations to obtain free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and go through environmental and Social Safeguards. The proposed KPIs were presented and discussed with the community members present. The communities responded positively and enthusiastically to the project, expressing their commitment to ensuring its effective implementation.

Through the above consultations, KPI's have been identified under five thematic areas: Wildlife, Habitat, Corridor, Governance and Well-being. KPI's under the first three themes will contribute to the generation of wildlife credits, we will use these indicators to assess if the communities are achieving the agreed objectives to get fairly rewarded for their efforts. Monitoring of the indicators under governance and well-being are essential in determining the effectiveness of increased incentives through wildlife credits, in improving local governance and community well-being. These metrics are key in identifying and securing potential funders of wildlife credits. Throughout this process we have engaged closely with our colleagues in Kenya and builds on a workshop held in Kenya before the start of this project, which identified a suite of performance indicators relevant for the Southern Kenya-Northern Tanzania transboundary landscape (SOKNOT). This provided the starting point for co-creating the conservation vision for Kitenden Corridor in Tanzania and will ensure scalability of the pilot in other regions of East Africa and beyond.

Activity 1.3

We have held multiple meetings with the Namibia team to further understand the pilot in Namibia and develop the pricing mechanism for wildlife credits in Tanzania and Kenya. In addition, WWF's global coordinator for biodiversity and wildlife credits and the network's Wildlife Practice lead have engaged extensively with the project team to guide the development of pricing mechanisms and input into the proposed flow of financing. The project also participated in a global sharing workshop (29 September) on biodiversity and wildlife credits, with examples of pilot projects being shared from around the world. This activity will progress through Q3.

Output 2: Community led conservation performance measurement is in place within the Kitenden Corridor, supported by increased monitoring capacity and a functioning dashboard.

Activity 2.1 and 2.2

Getting agreement of the indicators to be measured took slightly longer than anticipated, as we worked hard to ensure the conservation vision and associated performance indicators were co-created with communities who are expected to undertake the conservation action. Therefore, we have been slightly delayed in completing activity 2.1 and 2.2, originally planned to commence in Q2. Some progress has been made in establishing the baselines for the KPIs and the project team with external experts, have identified and developed the monitoring plan and associated data collection methodology for each KPI. Baselines for remaining KPI's will be established early in Q3. Capacity development for community members and EWMA village game scouts to enable data collection, will commence in Q3. Once completed, data collection will follow as per the monitoring plan developed for the remainder of the project term.

Output 3: Sustainable financing options for wildlife credit payments have been identified and scaling pathways have been established.

No activities under this output were planned for this reporting period.

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 key challenge identified by the project team is establishing an independent disbursement payment fund like the equivalent of Namibia's CCFN (Community Conservation Fund for Namibia), which will help to ensure wildlife credits are scalable beyond Enduimet Wildlife Management Area and specifically the four villages within the EWMA participating in the pilot. This is a challenge not only for this project and is thus being supported by WWF's Global Coordinator for Biodiversity and Wildlife Credits to explore options that are replicable in other countries and is the focus for achieving Output 3 of the project.

Linked to the above, and a clear difference between Namibia where WWF has been piloting Wildlife Credits, and Tanzania, is there is lack of clear national and local policies as well as instruments to provide guidance on conservation impact financing and coordination in Tanzania. Through this pilot, we aim to influence these discussions in Tanzania with local government and relevant ministries.

Change requests submitted and approved

We have submitted two change requests for this project, both of which have been approved. First change request was for the change in start date from 1 April 2023 to 1 May 2023, to get onward grant agreements and staff in place for the start of the project. The second change request was related to changes in the project team, namely change of project lead from Noah Sitati (WWF-TCO) to Tanya Smith (WWF-UK) and change in the grant specialist supporting this project in WWF-UK to Arabella Bramley.

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] (1 May 2023 to 30 September 2023)

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.

N/A

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

We are largely on track with this project as per the project timetable and we expect project expenditure to pick up significantly due to completion of planned activities in Q3 and Q4 of Year 1.

We have included the project risk register as a separate attachment to this report.