

## Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus

### Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

**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 2024**

**Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.**

**Submit to: [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com) including your project ref in the subject line.**

<b>Project reference</b>	29-013
<b>Project title</b>	An integrated approach to protecting wildlife from poisoning in Mara-Serengeti
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Kenya and Tanzania
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	BirdLife International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Fadzai Matsvimbo</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024 (HYR3)
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://twitter.com/BirdLifeAfrica">https://twitter.com/BirdLifeAfrica</a> <a href="https://www.facebook.com/birdlifeafrica/">https://www.facebook.com/birdlifeafrica/</a> <a href="https://www.birdlife.org/africa/">https://www.birdlife.org/africa/</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/BirdLifeVideo">https://www.youtube.com/user/BirdLifeVideo</a>

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end of September).**

The indicators for the project are still relevant. From the last reporting, the project assumptions still hold true.

**Project Steering Group meeting**

- We conducted the project steering group meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2024 where we discussed the comments from reviewers on the annual report year 2, project exit plan and year 3 activities. **Output 1: Socio-economic drivers and impacts of wildlife poisoning in Mara-Serengeti are understood and inform a range of community-focused interventions.** On target. Highlights include:
  - Notably, key aspects of our vulture conservation models have been included in the Kenya Vulture Multispecies Action Plan 2024-2034 which was officially launched on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024.
  - Nature Tanzania have been participating in Vulture Safe Zone discussions with BirdLife partners and other organisations working on this in Southern Africa, as part of the learning process.

**Output 2: Vulture conservation models, incorporating livelihood improvements are implemented in the focal areas in Maasai Mara, Kenya and Makao WMA, Tanzania. (Directly benefitting ~1,700 people, reaching 15,000)**

On target. Highlights include: Nature Tanzania participated in the Sukuma (annual gathering of traditional healers) event where 1000 traditional healers and more than 32000 community members were reached. The Sukuma events conducted during harvesting season and during the events, traditional healers from the Sukuma Community will have contests of who is powerful than the other

- In commemoration of International Vultures Awareness Day (IVAD) 2024, BirdLife conducted a digital campaign to raise awareness about the threats to vultures and the conservation efforts in Africa. Nature Tanzania also raised awareness in Mbushi Primary School in Meatu District reaching 54 pupils and 15 teachers
- In Masai Mara, Nature Kenya conducted 15 village level barazas reaching a total of 1200 community members with key messages on importance of vultures and negative impacts of wildlife poisoning. Nature Kenya also supported a total of 230 households in the installation and use of 'lion lights' as a non-lethal predator mitigation approach.
- A total of 16 Community Revolving Fund (CRF) applications were received from 5 villages (1 from Makao, 2 from Mbushi, 2 from Mwabagimu, 5 from Mwangudo and 6 Irambandogo). These applications were reviewed by the CRF committee.
- Nature Tanzania continued to engage traditional healers in promoting the use of the identified plant alternative to vulture heads. 20 more traditional healers were engaged in a workshop raising increasing the number of engaged traditional healers to 56 in Makao WMA.

**Output 3: The impact of poisoning incidents is mitigated by the setup, training and equipping of three Rapid Poison Response Mechanism (RRM) anti-poisoning groups in Kenya and Tanzania**

On target: Anti-poisoning groups in Masai Mara and Makao WMA are in place and continue to be functional

**Output 4: Results and lessons are synthesized, shared and promoted to raise NGO capacity for vulture conservation in Africa and to influence practice at national levels in Kenya and Tanzania and pan-African levels**

On target. Highlights include:

BirdLife, Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania participated in the 13<sup>th</sup> Mara Day celebrations and Conference where Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania raised awareness about vultures and work under this project within the Mara-Serengeti landscape.

- Nature Kenya and Nature Tanzania participated in the BirdLife Council of Africa Partners (CAP), where lessons from the project were shared. Nature Kenya also shared lessons learned in advocacy meetings convened by East Africa Community (EAC) and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) on CMS and establishment of trans frontier conservation areas.

**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.**

There is a transport challenge in Meatu, Tanzania. A 4x4 vehicle is needed in this landscape. This does not affect the timetable of project activities as Makao WMA supports regularly supports the project with a 4x4 vehicle, but the project compensates the driver and pays for fuel.

**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: *If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome*

**4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)**

**Actual spend:**

**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 2025)?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend:

**4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should 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 to your project 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

**6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report.**

In the review for year 2 annual report, it was indicated in output 1, indicator 1.1 that this activity is pending for Tanzania. *Nature Tanzania had conducted this activity and was reported in annual report year 1.*

## Checklist for submission

<b>For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	
Have you <b>responded to any additional feedback</b> (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	
If not already submitted, have you attached your <b>risk register</b> ?	
<b>For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	
Have you responded to <b>feedback from your latest Annual Report Review</b> ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	Yes
<b>For All Projects</b>	
Include your <b>project reference</b> in the subject line of submission email.	
Submit to <a href="mailto:BCFs-Report@niras.com">BCFs-Report@niras.com</a> .	
Have you <b>clearly highlighted any confidential information</b> within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	
Have you reported against the most <b>up to date information for your project</b> ?	Yes
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	