

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: 31st 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 including your project ref in the subject line.

Project reference	30-004
Project title	Collaborative approaches to manage human-wildlife conflict in transboundary Ruvuma landscape
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania and Mozambique
Lead Organisation	WWF-UK
Partner(s)	WWF-Tanzania, WWF-Mozambique, SWISSAID, UniLúrio
Project leader	Bella Bramley - WWF-UK
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31st October 2024 - HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.wwf.org.uk/

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).

Output 1: Adoption and roll-out of Safe Systems Approach to manage Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)

Activity 1.1: Capacity-building on Conflict to Coexistence (C2C) methodology to assess HWC (including representatives from NGOs, government, communities and private sector) to undertake participatory Conflict to Coexistence Assessments.

Participatory C2C assessments were undertaken in key project villages in both Tanzania and Mozambique. The aim of these assessments was to determine the baseline on the current human-wildlife conflict (HWC) situation within these communities, to enable co-designed strategies to inform areas of HWC concentration and collaboration during project implementation. In Mozambique a C2C assessment was conducted in 5 villages in May - Segundo Congresso, Matchedje, Nova Madeira, Maumbica and Lilumba. 300 questionnaires were completed by community members, 50 by service providers and one by the project manager, in line with C2C methodology. In Tanzania, following the C2C assessments conducted in February in Tunduru and Namtumbo districts, lessons learnt from the C2C approach were captured and documented from context screening, stakeholder analysis and further C2C assessment and co-design in July.

Activity 1.2 Co-development of local-level HWC strategies with key stakeholders and community representatives for 10 priority HWC hotspots identified during Rapid Safe Systems Assessments.

The C2C co-design phase is currently being prepared in Mozambique, following the assessment results, and is expected to take place during the third week of November 2024. This will involve all partners - community members, Yambone, Helvetas, government representatives and Unilurio - meeting to work together on co-designing HWC strategies. After this co-design is completed, the co-development of local level HWC strategies will take place during the first week of December 2024. In Tanzania, the C2C assessment and analysis was completed in April, followed by co-design of strategy and development for HWC action plans for all 6 hotspot villages in June. The strategy and action plans have all been verified by community members and service providers and copies provided in Swahili.

Activity 1.3 Learnings and reports from the application of Conflict to Coexistence approach in the Ruvuma transboundary landscape and development of HWC strategies disseminated with stakeholders.

Expertise on C2C has been shared within the WWF Network and with other stakeholders in the region and the project is being used as an example project for the WWF network on C2C. The project lead from WWF Tanzania met with WWF Uganda colleagues in September to share knowledge on C2C for their new Darwin Initiative funded project. The WWF Tanzania project lead was also invited to attend the Pathways Conference in Spain to present on C2C experience and learnings from the project in October 2024. In Mozambique a coordination meeting on HWC was held in August at Yambone headquarters, in Sanga district (one of three target districts across the transboundary landscape) with other organisations implementing HWC projects - Yambone, COGECO and Helvetas. Ideas on how to design HWC strategy using the C2C approach were discussed, and stakeholders now better understand the approach and are more open to adapt their approach and funding around C2C.

1.4: Support efforts to advocate for additional resources and leverage funding for HWC management in the project region.

WWF has continued to support efforts to advocate for additional resources and leverage funding for HWC management opportunities aligned with this project. Although WWF Mozambique was unsuccessful in the bid for the World Bank funded Chipanje Chetu Community Governance Programme (USD 3 million) this has been awarded to Helvetas, one of the organisations involved in the Chipanje Chetu joint planning meeting in Sanga. They are now rolling this out in the region and the C2C approach is seen as a good framework for more locations in the region among the group of stakeholders involved in the joint planning meeting, as well as having good district and provincial government support following the C2C training done in February 2024. In Tanzania approval is pending for the IUCN SADC TFCA Financing Facility project (EUR 800,000) to be jointly implemented by WWF Tanzania and Mozambique offices for key locations within the Niassa-Selous Transfrontier Conservation Area (in which the Darwin project locations fall) and the C2C approach is included as co-finance in this proposal.

Activity 2.1 Training of 40 Village Game Scouts (VGS), Community Rangers and District Officials on prevention, mitigation and rapid response to manage conflict across 10 HWC hotspots.

VGS were trained in March in Mozambique on how to collect data, and incident sheets are now being completed by the VGS with a monthly collection in 4 villages. Further WWF training provided by Niassa Special Reserve rangers is planned for November 2024. In April and May, refresher training on HWC incidence monitoring and response was provided to local Rapid Response Teams (RRT) of 36 VGS (33 males and 3 females) in the 6 hotspot villages in Tanzania (Mpanji, Misyaje, Marumba, Nambecha, Ligunga and Likuyu-Mandela). Training focused on changes in uniform, use of equipment for tracking elephants and other problem animals, and use of modern thunder flashes (distributed equally between the 2 districts).

Activity 2.2 - Community engagement through environmental education initiatives at schools and village meetings to raise awareness of HWC, conservation, behaviour and safety strategies.

In Mozambique a session is planned for December to show awareness videos and documentaries on HWC to Segundo Congresso village. This will take place in the evening to ensure most of the community is present and so provide maximum coverage and transmission of the message. In July and August WWF Tanzania carried out initiatives in schools to instruct teachers on subjects including climate change, HWC mitigation, tree nursery establishment and anti-poaching to be taught to students throughout the year. Environmental Education activities have already reached more than 10,000 students in 30 schools in Tunduru and Namtumbo districts. Monthly Village Assembly meetings through the RRT are also raising awareness on Human Elephant Conflict and mitigation, and community members are now very cooperative in their support to the RRT, even providing them with food. Awareness raising on HWC mitigation measures and reporting has now been conducted for 754 people (538 male, 216 females) across all 6 hotspot villages.

Activity 2.3 - Prevention of HWC through use of deterrents such as beehives and chilli fences and noise/sound deterrents.

7 large farms in Matchedje, Mozambique have been identified as a location for HWC deterrents following a field visit in June with community leaders and committees. These farms are located in a block so chilli and beehive fences will be installed along the front - one of the main elephant entry points. A chilli and beehive fence is also planned for the agroecology plot which is being led by Unilurio. 40 beehives and other materials have been ordered, however there have been some delays with final payments for installation due to additional support required for Unilurio on subgranting processes. Installation of the fences is planned for November, along with training community inspectors in the use of deterrent materials which will be distributed to the 5 communities of Chipanje Chetu. In Tanzania HWC deterrents and other gear for the prevention, mitigation and safety of those involved in HWC mitigation and response were provided to the hotspot villages in April and were available for the training provided to the local RRT. 1 beehive and chilli fence (with 24 beehives) has been installed at the agroecology plot in Mandela village.

Output 3: Sustainable and conflict resistant livelihood strategies

Activity 3.1 Establishment and maintenance of four Agroecology Demonstration plots (two existing plots in Tunduru and two new plots in Namtumbo and Sanga)

5 days of training on agroecology were provided to the Mozambique team by SWISSAID in April and a demonstration plot was established early August in Segundo Congresso with the assistance of SWISSAID. 18 selected facilitators from 4 villages were present (5 women) from Lilumba, Maumbica, Nova Madeira and Segundo-Congresso. The layout for the plot was designed and approximately 0.3ha was cleared and prepared - nurseries were created and tomatoes, cabbage, onions, lettuce and watermelon seeds were planted. A structure was created for the facilitators group with the election of a chairperson, secretary and treasurer. 3 Demonstration agroecology plots in Tunduru and Namtumbo districts in Tanzania are now well-equipped with resources and are showcasing effective farming techniques and agroecology practices. Farmers are starting to adopt agroecology practices to enhance productivity and sustainability.

Activity 3.2 - Training of Trainers for 60 facilitators in 4 agroecology demonstration plots, including conservation-friendly agricultural techniques, crop diversification, HWC resilient livelihoods (e.g. beekeeping) and land use awareness.

During the establishment of the demonstration plot in Mozambique the SWISSAID team provided training to 18 facilitators on the concept of ecological agriculture; nursery establishment and sowing seeds; production of tea manure (organic fertiliser) and production of organic pesticides (based on chilli, garlic, etc.). Further training, with assistance of SWISSAID Tanzania, was provided in September to 20 facilitators (including the original 18) on top dressing of tea manure, production, application of organic pesticides and composting. Challenges to crop development including irrigation, pests and disease were also discussed. In Tanzania, facilitation on constitution and group pre-registration was carried out in September for the 20 facilitators who were trained at Lindi-Ngogo agroecology demonstration farm. This was done under the guidance of the Research, Community and Organisational Development

Association of Tanzania (RECODA). Technical backstopping to groups on agroecology techniques was also undertaken. 18 groups from Marumba, Misyaje and Mpanji Tunduru villages participated with a total number of 318 farmers.

Activity 3.3 - Agroecology training replication model, to support the 60 facilitators to train a further 540 farmers in conservation-friendly agriculture and HWC resilient livelihoods.

During the establishment of the agroecology demo plot in Mozambique the replication model approach was discussed with the 18 facilitators. Facilitators at the training in September said they would like to have proof that the techniques work before they are willing to promote this with members of their communities. Currently, there are positive signs from the facilitators who are actively engaged in the daily management of the demonstration plot, that they believe the agroecology techniques work. After harvesting the crops produced, they will disseminate the technologies learned to other producers in their respective communities. Facilitators in Tanzania have initiated Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in their areas - 27 FFS out of 40 have so far been established. In July, follow-up on the progress of these groups was conducted in Tunduru and Namtumbo districts - through village meetings and visits to demonstration plots. Meetings included village officials, Lead Farmers and group members and group success, challenges and solutions were discussed in a participatory manner. In August group facilitators were provided with training equipment, gumboots, seeds and hoes and they will also be issued with bicycles soon to help them reach other farmers. There are now 18 Facilitators in Tunduru, and each has managed to reach an average of 18 farmers (target was 9 farmers) therefore a total of 318 out of 360 targeted number of farmers have already been reached.

Activity 3.4 - Development of market linkages for sustainable agroecology products and support for value addition (e.g. sunflower processing) in Tanzania.

The SWISSAID marketing department conducted a session on selection of Marketing committee members in groups at Tunduru and Namtumbo in Tanzania and 24 marketing committees from 24 groups were formed with a total of 72 marketing committee members selected (49 Men and 23 women). The focus for the remainder of Year 2 will be on connecting these committees with potential buyers and forming committees for the remaining groups. Currently the agroecology produce satisfies the local market in the villages - however as production increases there will be more need for external buyers and support for value addition.

Output 4: Improved HWC monitoring and reporting systems.

Activity 4.1: Establishment and coordination of three district-level HWC monitoring frameworks with quarterly HWC reports produced.

It was necessary to hold the coordination meeting in August before this activity could take place in order to gather information on HWC in the communities and plan the training of MOMS agents and other common activities for the various projects. Establishment of HWC monitoring frameworks is now planned for November in coordination with the Yambone project. The HWC monitoring framework and incident report book established for Tunduru and Namtumbo districts in Tanzania are now used by the local RRT to conduct monthly awareness meetings to sensitise community members and address challenges related to HWC. The incidences that occur in the villages are now well documented in the books, and actions taken when reported. These ensure reliability to HWC incidence reports which can be called on a monthly basis to inform further management procedures.

Activity 4.2 - Training and support for Village Game Scouts (VGS) / Community Rangers with monitoring and reporting of HWC using Miombo Tembo App (Tanzania) and MOMS (Mozambique).

Coordination on HWC issues was discussed at the meeting at Yambone in August, including Management Oriented Monitoring System (MOMS) and other tools being used to collect HWC data. 13 people from communities, Servico Distrital de Actividades Economicas (SDAE) and the provincial government were trained in March, and it has been agreed to use the MOMS tool across all project sites. In April, 36 VGS were trained on HWC incident reporting and data collection using the Miombo app and adding this to incident report books in Tanzania. There

are monthly district forum meetings for Tunduru and Namtumbo (2 separate meetings) to validate the HWC reporting framework and incident report book which are attended by the project lead.

Activity 4.3 - Establishment and dissemination of community reporting systems (e.g. SMS systems) to gather community-level data on HWC and support response mechanisms.

Community members in Tanzania are now supported through the local RRT to gather HWC information and respond to HWC incidents using the reporting framework and incident reporting books. Implementation of this activity in Mozambique will be planned once the district level HWC frameworks have been established.

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 in Tanzania has made good progress however one challenge that has become apparent is that the local RRT in the 6 project villages lack reliable means of transport to facilitate their movement to monitor and respond to the HWC incidents in a timely manner, due to the large distances they need to cover. This challenge was not clear during project development, and we are currently looking into options on how to address this - such as giving an allowance to rent transport or purchasing additional motorcycles for local RRT teams to enable them to be more effective in responding to incidents. There may also be some additional training required for 4 out of 6 VGS forming the local RRT at Mandela village, so they are fully equipped with the skills necessary for a VGS as these members were recruited from the village community and have not had the proper VGS training. We are looking into possibly reallocating some budget to cover the costs of this training.

Some challenges were encountered in Mozambique related to the agroecology demonstration plot. There was poor development of planted crops in general due to lack of irrigation. Although shifts for watering were agreed with the facilitators group, watering was not always consistent due to the intense heat and heavy irrigation effort required - the work is voluntary. This is being resolved with the installation of a temporary 3000L tank and pipes with 6 taps, helping to reduce irrigation effort. In the longer term the construction of a tower to install the tank in a permanent location will allow for increased water pressure in the pipes and installation of sprinkler irrigation. Another challenge was the acquisition of products for the preparation of organic pesticides, tea manure and composting. In Chipanje Chetu, because there is no demand, there is no production of chilli and garlic, which are the main ingredients for the production of organic pesticides. This has been discussed with other organisations operating in the area to join efforts to find a market in the area to incentivise production. Currently these products have to be purchased outside the district, which is a challenge for many families. Cattle manure is available in Segundo Congresso but is scarce in other villages, so we were able to supply the demo plot. These challenges have meant that the project team has had to focus effort on the agroecology plot and some of the co-development of HWC strategies and community engagement work have been delayed until November and December. This is not anticipated to have an impact on the overall delivery of these activities, however.

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/ No
Formal Change Request submitted:		Yes Please note: Logframe Change submitted in April 2024

Received confirmation of change acceptance:		Yes/ No
Change Request reference if known: <i>If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome</i>		

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

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?

We will be reviewing the Year 2 budget in detail with our partners to make appropriate changes as necessary. A Change Request Form will be submitted shortly to request changes between budget lines within the Year 2 as well as inform Niras of some staff changes.

The project team have updated the Risk Register which will be submitted with this report.

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report. If your project was subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment please use this space to comment on any changes to international human rights risks, and to address any additional mitigations outlined in your offer letters. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.

1. An analysis of the project's contribution to Conventions, Treaties or Agreements supported by Darwin Initiative will be part of the Year 2 Annual Report.
2. The updated Logo and Branding Guidelines (July 2024) have been shared with the project team to ensure all project communications materials are compliant in the use of the logo and acknowledging funding from the Darwin Initiative. A refresher training is being planned with all partners. Examples of branding will be included in the Year 2 Annual Report.

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1st April 2024)	
Have you responded to any additional feedback (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.	n/a
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	Yes
For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1st April 2024)	
Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	Yes
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	Yes
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	Yes
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	n/a
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	yes
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	yes