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	30-016
Project title	Avoiding degradation through sustainable honey production in the miombo
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Mozambique
Lead Organisation	Micaia Foundation
Partner(s)	University of Eduardo Mondlane; University of Edinburgh
Project leader	Milagre Nuvunga
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	

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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).

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your M&E systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

All planned activities are now on track. This follows the delay (reported in our Y1 annual report) in undertaking the biodiversity monitoring and the tree species inventory – led by the University of Eduardo Mondlane. The first phase of this work was completed by the end of Q2. The survey team, which included Micaia staff members, established 89 sample areas in two communities (the bigger honey production areas) consisting of paired trees of the same species, one used for producing a beehive, the other not. Biodiversity monitoring based on these pairs includes the use of camera traps and audiomoths. Data is now being collected and analysed. The large tree survey focused on key species used for beehive production.

As the project logic was to use data from the field surveys to inform planning with communities for sustainable levels of beekeeping as part of general natural resource management plans, there is inevitably a little slippage in getting started with this work. However, having introduced

well founded knowledge of sustainable management in all training events done so far, we will seamlessly introduce more concrete and site-specific measures in future training.

  In the meantime, Micaia has appointed the second field officer for the project (Cristina Francisca Almeida) to lead on natural resource management planning. Other work with communities, particularly beekeepers and Lead Beekeepers, is on track. However, in the original implementation plan, we had envisaged being able to facilitate contracts between the Mozambique Honey Company (MHC) and a first group of beekeepers in Q4 of Y1. That didn't happen as the beekeepers were not ready as they did not have marketable quantities of honey. In Q3, the discussions will start between MHC and Lead Beekeepers.

Regarding the M&E system, in line with feedback from the review of our Y1 Annual Report, we have modified some indicators. In general, however, we remain satisfied that our systems are appropriate. The assumptions made also still hold true.

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.

None encountered in the last six months – other than the continuing challenge of engaging women in the beekeeping activities in communities in which this is an alien notion.

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?

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.
The feedback on our first year annual report contained several recommendations that we are taking account of and that (as suggested) will be flagged in our Y2 annual report. The main feedback focused on the project logic model, especially output-outcome. We have produced a revised logic model for the project as a result of the feedback – submitted with this half-year review. In general, we accepted the proposed reorganization of the logical framework, particularly the outputs and outcome indicators. We did, however, retain some of the original output indicators and means of verification in relation to survey data. We will be happy to discuss the revised logical framework with NIRAS.

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.	x
If not already submitted, have you attached your **risk register**?	
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.	
For All Projects	
Include your **project reference** in the subject line of submission email.	
Submit to **BCFs-Report@niras.com**.	
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.	