

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	31-007
Project title	Human-wildlife coexistence toolkit for biodiversity conservation and sustainability of rural communities.
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Namibia
Lead Organisation	Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF)
Partner(s)	Namibia Nature Foundation (NNF) Namibia Association of CBNRM Support Organisations (NACSO) Elephant-Human Relations Aid (EHRA) Ministry of Environment, Forestry & Tourism (MEFT) University of Namibia (UNAM) Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST)
Project leader	Dr. Laurie Marker, Founder and Executive Director, CCF
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	October 31, 2024 - HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	www.cheetah.org

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.

Output 1: Perceived and real livestock losses to carnivores and elephants quantified

Activity 1.1: CCF and PHD student conduct 200 semi-structured questionnaire surveys and 16 focus group discussions to assess perceived HWC conflict levels, attitudes, and tolerance of wildlife in the communities

We have made 1 field trip each to our study sites (western and eastern cluster) and have established communication with conservancy members. Based on our initial observations and interactions, we are in the process of developing a semi-structured (closed and open-ended) questionnaire datasheet. The questionnaire will be followed up with 16 focus group discussions (2 in each conservancy targeting men and women). The community members have shown willingness to participate in the surveys and discussions. The PhD student has been selected and the community officer from CCF will assist the student in conducting these surveys and organising the discussion sessions.

Activity 1.2.1: CCF, EHRA and consultant train 20 community members in data collection on HWC

We are planning to organise our training workshops from Dec 2024 in collaboration with our partners NNF, EHRA & MEFT.

Activity 1.2.2 NNF employs 20 community members as game guards for 2.5 years in the conservancies under their jurisdiction and manages data collection with input from CCF.

The community members who will participate in the training are currently being identified in consultation with the conservancy leadership. Once they are selected, they will be provided with training on data collection [D1-A01]. After they are trained, they will be employed by NNF as game guards for a period of 2.5 years.

Activity 1.2.3 Consultant sets up a streamlined data flow from field devices to database (SMART).

This will be done once the game guards receive training in recording data through smart phones.

Activity 1.3.1 CCF trains 8 female community members in coordinating the collection of hair clippings from bite marks on livestock.

The female community members are currently being identified in consultation with the conservancy leadership. CCF genetics team is finalising the protocol for collection of samples from carnivore bite marks. Once the protocol is finalised, 8 female community members (1 from each conservancy) will be provided training [D1-A01] to collect bite wound samples. The female community members will work in close cooperation with the game guards and the M.Sc. student.

Activity 1.3.2 NNF employs the 8 female community members part-time for 2.5 years in the conservancies under their jurisdiction and manages them with input from CCF.

The female community members are currently being identified in consultation with the conservancy leadership. Once they are trained by CCF genetics team [D1-A01] in collection of bite wound samples they will be provided part time employment by NNF. The data collection (scat and hair clippings) [D1-B05] will be supervised and coordinated by the M.Sc. student.

Activity 1.4 CCF scat detection dog team and community game guards managed by NNF and CCF collect carnivore scats.

Our scat detection dog and genetics team has already collected (N = 200) carnivore scats from our first field trip to the western and eastern cluster. The dog and the team members were

successful at locating carnivore scats. The game guards participated in the first survey. Once the training sessions are conducted by NNF, the game guards will continue to collect opportunistic scat samples.

Activity 1.9 CCF, NUST and UNAM competitively recruit 1 Namibian Ph.D. and 2 Namibian M.Sc. students to undertake research.

Suitable students have been identified through a competitive recruitment process. The M.Sc. students are currently in the process of registration with the Namibian universities. The Ph.D. student has also been selected and will be joining the team in Jan 2025.

Output 2: Spatially-explicit knowledge on carnivore and elephant occurrence and status, as well as mammalian biodiversity developed.

Activity 2.1 CCF trains the same community members from output 1 in the use of camera traps for monitoring biodiversity.

We identified 10 game guards (eastern cluster) and 10 in the (western cluster) and provided them with basic training on camera deployment [D1-A01] during our first field trip. We provided them with compensation during their assistance with the camera trap surveys.

Activity 2.2 CCF, Ph.D. student and game guards conduct camera trapping surveys across sampled sites in the 2 conservancy clusters.

Camera traps have been deployed at 100 stations (50 stations per cluster) by the CCF ecology team in collaboration with the game guards. We followed a grid-based design (8*8 km²) and deployed (2 cameras in every grid and 50 within each cluster) based on a random sampling framework. The cameras will be functional for a period of 90 days and the PhD student will monitor the progress of the camera trapping session. Community members have been informed about camera deployment thus minimising chances of theft and destruction.

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 started only in Sept 2024. A change request to adjust the project start and end (original start in April 2024) was submitted and approved. The timeline for all outputs and activities has been adjusted accordingly. There have been no notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt over the past 1 month.

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 - email only
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes - yes via email

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](#)

A project timeline request was submitted and approved. The project start date was adjusted from April 1, 2024 to September 1, 2024. The project end date was also adjusted accordingly. The budget adjustments were submitted and approved via email.

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?

No issues to raise at this time.

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.

Other than the request to change the project start date from April 1, 2024 to September 1, 2024 and to adjust the end date and budget accordingly, no other responses are outstanding.

All requests for additional information were supplied at time of project award (February 2024) and were accepted.

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.

We do not have any additional feedback to provide at this stage.
We provided

	all additional information during the time of project award.
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	Risk register is attached along with HYR
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.	Yes
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?	
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.	