

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.

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| Project reference | <i>DARCC020</i> |
| Project title | Improved decision making through citizen science data |
| Country(ies)/territory(ies) | Kenya, Nigeria |
| Lead Organisation | Tropical Biology Association (TBA) |
| Partner(s) | Kenya Bird Map (KBM) Nigerian Bird Atlas Project (NiBAP) |
| Project leader | <i>Anthony Kuria</i> |
| Report date and number (e.g. HYR1) | <i>31 October 2024, HYR2</i> |
| Project website/blog/social media | <i>https://tropical-biology.org/253598-2/</i> |

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.

- a) Delivered course2 from 20th to 22nd August 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. The 3-day course
- Taught skills in “communicating citizen science data for management and advocacy”.
 - Trained 21 (9 female, 12 male) from 16 institutions. Fulfilling project indicator 2.1, the trainees included 8 decision makers (against a target of 8) from 6 government agencies (against a target of 8) and the Nigerian Conservation Foundation (conservation organisation), and 16 leaders of active citizen science projects: 13 on birds; 2 on pollinators and 1 on mammals.

All participants (100%) said their “abilities” to communicate citizen science data to non experts increased as a result of the training, and that they are ‘**extremely likely**’ (95%), or ‘**likely**’ (5%) to **apply the skills and knowledge gained** in their work

- b) Launched the Kenya Bird Trends (www.kenyabirdtrends.co.ke) on 23rd August 2024, at the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Headquarters, Nairobi. 76 delegates (32Female; 44male), including Dr Erustus Kanga (KWS Director General, and Chief Guest) representing c.30 institutions joined the launch [aligned to indicators 0.3; 3.1 and 3.2]
- Dr Kanga hailed the Kenya Bird Trends as “a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts to conserve the rich avifauna of Kenya”, and “a model for conservation across Africa.”
 - A major output of the launch was that KWS, National Museums of Kenya and the Wildlife Research and Training Institution (3 leading government conservation and research agencies), recognised the platform’s role in making bird citizen science data accessed for use in guiding conservation decisions. [strengthening realisation of indicators 4.1 & 4.2]
 - A scientific paper submitted around the platform has been accepted for publication in the ‘Diversity and Distributions’ journal. The paper involves Kenyan co-authors, increasing Kenyan ownership and uptake of the work. [linked to project indicator 1.4]
- c) In line with project indicator 1.4, at least 5 new species trends analyses (not reported in past report), were completed and submitted to international journals. 1 paper has been accepted, and 4 are under review.
- d) At least 4 communication pieces [project indicator 1.3] published including
- A Kenya Bird Trends launch feature on KTN (Kenya Television Network) prime news <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqGpOYpu7ql>.
 - <https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.standardmedia.co.ke/amp/opinion/article/2001501043/citizen-science-plays-major-role-in-monitoring-bird-species-in-kenya>) A popular article on Kenya’s Standard Newspaper.
 - A users’ video on the Kenya Bird Trends <https://youtu.be/h1KA6D6EuM>

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.

Unexpected Development
 Gen Z protests in Kenya slowed planning for course2. Also, a target Kenyan participant was denied travel permission by his US university due to security concerns. Luckily, the protests died ahead of the course date causing minimal impact on timing of planned activities and their set budget.

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: | N/A |

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

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?

Rist register: column "J" (=Risk Response Type) in the project risk register worksheet does not work ie won't take available options. I've pointed this to NIRAS before and still awaiting a response

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.

Response to Year1 annual report review

Review comment: There is no indication of which fund-supported Treaties or Conventions are relevant. This should be apparent now, so outline detail would be useful in the Half Year Report.

TBA Response:

We acknowledge this comment. As outlined in our proposal, the project supports four global conventions (CBD, CMS, UNFCCC, and the SDGs) and two national strategies (NBSAP and NCCRS)

By the reporting date, we lacked enough results to showcase engagement. However, we initiated discussions with lead government agencies under the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, involved in NBSAP implementation:

- National Environment Management Authority (NEMA): Project leader held in person meeting with Dr Charles Lange, Deputy Director, Environmental Planning and Research Coordination, during the project inception.
- Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). Email exchanges followed by (in project year 2) a meeting with the KWS Director General.
- National Museums of Kenya. Indirectly involvement through its Ornithology Section. The section hosts the Kenya Bird Map and by default the Kenya Bird Trends platform – a key project outcome.
- Wildlife Research and Training Institute – email communication in year 2

Regarding NCCRS, an email to the Climate Change Adaptation department went unanswered.

Further, we engaged the above agencies – plus the Directorate of Climate change, Turkana County Government – in an online survey. Their feedback is in our Year1 report (Annex 11).

Review comment: Darwin Initiative identity - it would be appropriate for a fuller response in the Half Year Report.

TBA Response:

We included the **Darwin Initiative logo** and clearly mentioned that “**This project is funded by the UK Government through Darwin Initiative**”, in all our project reports, publicity materials, and articles produced under the project. See, for instance:

<https://tropical-biology.org/data-analysts-wanted/>

<https://tropical-biology.org/using-citizen-science-data-for-decision-making/>

Checklist for submission

| For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1st April 2024) | |
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| 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. | y |
| 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. | y |
| For All Projects | |
| Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email. | y |
| Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com . | y |
| 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 ? | y |
| Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report. | y |