

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	DARCC047:
Project title	Improving habitat and livelihoods through equitable governance and effective management.
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead Organisation	The Honeyguide Foundation
Partner(s)	Makao Wildlife Management Area
Project leader	<i>Angelo Kihaga</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>HYR1 01 Apr 2024 - 30 Sept 2024</i>
Project website/blog/social media	<i>www.honeyguide.org</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.

Activity 1.1: Provide the Makao WMA management with training and coaching services on leadership, conflict management, stakeholder relations, work plans, and budget implementation and reporting.

In August, Makao WMA organised a two-day training to improve leadership, conflict resolution, stakeholder engagement, and law enforcement practices. Participants included WMA managers, District Game Officers (DGOs), village representatives, law enforcement personnel, ward officers, and members of the Community Wildlife Management Areas Consortium (CWMAC). The training focused on Tanzania's wildlife conservation laws, enforcement protocols, and strategies for effective collaboration in protecting wildlife resources. Guided by experienced magistrates, prosecutors, and police officers, the sessions provided participants with practical insights into managing and prosecuting wildlife crimes.

The training aimed to deepen understanding of conservation laws, clarify roles for WMA representatives, and foster accountability in combating wildlife crimes. Participants developed a firmer grasp of the legal framework governing wildlife management, including the responsibilities of village leaders, police, and the judiciary. The training also shifted attitudes toward wildlife crime, with participants acknowledging the importance of their roles. Additionally, it strengthened networking among WMA leaders, law enforcement, and village representatives, paving the way for more coordinated conservation efforts in the future. Despite progress, challenges identified include. Poor collaboration among WMA leaders, police, village representatives, and Village Game Scouts (VGS) lack comprehensive legal knowledge, affecting their enforcement capacity. The training recommended regular coordination meetings to address these issues to align conservation efforts across stakeholders. It also highlighted the need for targeted and specially tailored legal training to close knowledge gaps among VGS and local representatives, enabling them to enforce laws effectively.

Activity 1.2: Conduct exchange visits and peer-to-peer learning sessions between Makao leadership teams from other WMAs in Northern Tanzania.

Makao WMA joined a Peer-to-Peer Learning Session at Randilen WMA alongside Burunge, Randilen, and Uyumbu WMAs. With 74 participants (Burunge: 40, Randilen: 15, Makao: 15, Uyumbu: 4), facilitated by WMA leaders under Honeyguide's guidance, the session emphasized governance, sustainability, and resource protection.

The Peer-to-Peer Learning Session focused on crucial topics, including more apparent distinctions between governance and management roles to enhance operational efficiency, strategies to diversify revenue sources beyond seasonal tourism, and strengthening anti-poaching, rangeland management, and community engagement for sustainable conservation.

Challenges identified included funding constraints for future peer-learning sessions, the need for increased community representation (especially of women and youth) in decision-making, and delays in operations due to incomplete team structures and resource limitations. The session resulted in actionable recommendations to improve transparency, financial accountability, and role clarity within WMAs. Participants were encouraged to set aside budget lines for continued peer exchanges, with future meetings planned to track progress and verify actions through documented feedback and action plans.

Activity 1.3: Strengthen financial management systems and develop policies, including youth and women's empowerment, stakeholders' engagement and procurement policies customized for Makao WMA

Makao WMA developed key policies to enhance its management systems, covering financial management, human resources, women's empowerment, stakeholder engagement, and procurement. These policies, once approved, will foster transparent financial practices, ensure equitable hiring and development, promote youth and women's inclusivity, and set clear procurement standards. Collectively, they will establish a robust control framework, providing an essential structure for effective and accountable management at Makao WMA.

Activity 4.3: Hold annual meetings with the VCPT leaders, village leaders, and WMA management to develop a human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategy.

Makao WMA initially met with VCPT leaders, village leaders, and WMA management to develop an HWC mitigation strategy for the upcoming season. Following Honeyguide's HWC implementation and a needs assessment, Makao estimated GBP 27,324 for the next season, with GBP 9,958 for one-time investments (flashlights and air horns) and GBP 17,365 for recurring costs like chilli crackers and air horn consumables. The meeting reviewed the 2024 crop protection program, highlighting increased yields, effective toolkit use, and more vital teamwork. Identified challenges included equipment shortages, toolkit distribution delays, and training gaps. Makao WMA will seek additional funding, expand toolkit access, and offer advanced training, including study tours to Randilen WMA. This strategy focuses on collaborative solutions to manage HWC sustainably and reduce associated costs.

On top of that, the next step to ensure the effectiveness of the mitigation strategy will be to conduct targeted training for the VCPT and further strengthen the 30 established crop protection groups, which consist of 150 members. This training will focus on enhancing skills in toolkit usage, data collection, and response strategies, ensuring that each group is equipped to handle HWC challenges effectively and collaboratively.

0.2 [DI-D01]: 50,900 Hectares of habitat under sustainable management practices by 2025 (from a baseline of 35,300 Hectares in 2022)

From April to September, Makao WMA intensified its patrol efforts to enhance wildlife protection and mitigate human-wildlife conflicts. During this period, VGS conducted vehicle and foot patrols across key areas, including Mwalemi, Midongo, Mongo Mawe, and Mapogo. On average, patrol teams completed 15 vehicles and 12 foot patrols monthly. These efforts were crucial for monitoring wildlife activities, preventing illegal poaching, and responding to incidents of human-wildlife conflict. The addition of SMART technology has allowed for more accurate data collection, further improving the efficiency and responsiveness of these patrols. As a result, only one poaching incident was recorded in May and July, demonstrating the impact of consistent monitoring. Additionally, Roman candles and torches, distributed to local communities, helped decrease crop damage due to wildlife incursions, showcasing Makao WMA's commitment to balanced conservation and community support.

1.1 [DI-B04]: 1 new sustainable livelihoods/ poverty reduction management plans developed and endorsed by 2024.

Makao WMA is actively developing a business plan to create a sustainable and community-centric conservation model. The plan, outlined in the Business Enterprise Sustainability Tool (BEST), focuses on financial resilience, social value, and ecological conservation. Its core objective is to diversify revenue streams beyond hunting tourism. It also aims to increase social value by creating community-driven ventures like beekeeping and supporting social and livelihood projects i.e Health and education

Makao's financial performance 2022 -2025 shows steady growth:

- **2022/2023:** Income totaled TZS 552,332,365 (~GBP 182,000), with expenses at TZS 467,074,728 (~GBP 154,000), including community distributions.
- **2023/2024:** Income rose to TZS 818,793,788 (~GBP 270,000), with expenditures of TZS 740,421,370 (~GBP 244,000), including community distributions.
- **2024/2025:** Makao has received TZS 694,664,707 (~GBP 229,000) and anticipates additional income to reach TZS 1.2 billion (~GBP 395,000), including community distributions.

By balancing conservation, social responsibility, and revenue generation, the business plan aims to make Makao a model for sustainable, community-led conservation in Tanzania.

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.

Over the past six months, the project has faced a challenge due to a delayed project start. While this setback temporarily impacted the timeline, it is not expected to affect the overall deliverables or project completion. Subsequent activities have progressed steadily and efficiently, keeping the team on track to meet the planned objectives

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/ No

Received confirmation of change acceptance:

Yes/ 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

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.

Not applicable at this stage

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. 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.

In response to the Darwin Expert Committee and Defra feedback, the project team made several revisions to the log frame to enhance its clarity and effectiveness. The changes focused on ensuring that the log frame indicators are SMARTer. Specifically, indicators were correctly numbered to align with their corresponding outputs and were supported by clear means of verification.

- Revised indicators to ensure they are SMART.
- Correctly numbered indicators according to their corresponding outputs.
- Ensured means of verification were clear and did not duplicate the indicators.
- We have provided clarification on the baseline for Indicator DI D01.
- Revised training-related indicators to better measure improved capacity resulting from training.
- Added specific timelines to the indicators for timely assessment and monitoring.

These updates were submitted as part of the application, and no further feedback has been received.

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 a response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	Yes
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	NA
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.	NA
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	OK
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	OK
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