

## 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: 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com) including your project ref in the subject line.**

<b>Project reference</b>	<b>DARCC051</b>
<b>Project title</b>	<b>Strengthening the capacity of community institutions within CAMPFIRE in Zimbabwe</b>
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Zimbabwe
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Wildlife Conservation Action (WCA)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Community Campfire Association of Zimbabwe (CCAZ)
<b>Project leader</b>	Moreangels Mbizah
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	31 October 2024 HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="http://www.wildlifeconservationaction.org">www.wildlifeconservationaction.org</a>

**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.

The governance trainings of CAMPFIRE committees conducted across the five target districts of Binga, Chipinge, Chiredzi, Mbire and Nyaminyami were successful. A total of 214 committee members who comprised of 56 females and 158 males were trained from the 5 districts. Mbire district had a total of 55 people (12 females and 43 males) trained in June 2024. The Binga training took place in July with a total of 43 participants (8 females and 35 males), and Nyaminyami training was conducted in September 2024 with a total of 36 participants (6 females and 33 males). The Chipinge and Chiredzi trainings were conducted in October 2024 and had a total of 38 participants (9 females and 29 males) and 39 participants (21 females and 18 males) respectively. The training content included governance of CAMPFIRE committees, natural resources management, financial management, and effective communication. The roles and responsibilities of committee members (including Chairperson, Secretary and treasurer) for each CAMPFIRE Committee were clearly defined during the training. Having

defined the roles and responsibilities of committee members, clear communication channels among the committees and between committees and communities were clearly articulated. Each committee with the help of the local authorities was then tasked to develop its own communication strategy as informed by the training.

The CCAZ board members received training in governance, financial management, legal modalities, communication and information dissemination. The training conducted in May 2024 and attended by a total of 10 CCAZ board members (4 females and 6 males) strengthened the capacity of the members in the governance of their institutions. There was an improved understanding of roles and responsibilities among the trained CCAZ board members. The training also helped the members identify potential opportunities for strengthening CCAZ work in the target areas.

Materials and information for the development of the website have been packaged with the assistance of the WCA communication team. Meanwhile, the information is being refined for publication on the website. WCA also assisted CCAZ in disseminating information using social media by posting the Nyaminyami ESC training.

CCAZ has been invited to different platforms and engagements and is increasing visibility and relevance. To date, CCAZ has attended the IUCN Zimbabwe Meeting on Human Wildlife Coexistence Program Development, ZimParks Meeting, EU: Biodiversity through the lens: A celebration of people and nature and the Ministry of Environment meeting amongst others. CCAZ was requested to mobilise Community Wildlife Conservancy members to a national Convention on CWCs held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 and they managed to link Hurungwe and Mbire Districts to attend and be part of the plenary discussions.

The project is on track as planned.

The above-stated achievements have largely contributed to the attainment of Outputs 1 and 2 of the project of improving knowledge among which focuses on members of the community CAMPFIRE committees in five CAMPFIRE districts gaining knowledge and skills to perform their governance roles more effectively and transparently. The M&E system in place is solid, the performance indicators are still relevant. The activities conducted are measurable and are well aligned to the project objectives, and the assumption that “the capabilities and capacities of local and national community institutions involved in CAMPFIRE will be strengthened, leading to improved governance in CAMPFIRE areas still holds 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.**

One notable development was that there was a very high turnout for the financial and governance trainings offered to the CAMPFIRE community leaders and Committees in all the 5 districts. This is a welcome and positive impact to the project as it shows the relevance of the project to the CAMPFIRE committee members. Capacitating both community leaders and committee members will go a long way in solving governance challenges that existed before the training. The project is relevant, sustainable and well-directed to where there is need. This has not affected the budget or timetable in any way but, has presented an opportunity for upscaling the project in the future.

The other key lesson learnt was the important role of Rural District Councils (RDCs) in strengthening these committees. The RDCs like Chiredzi and Mbire in particular had established good relations with their communities. In future programming, bringing together all involved RDCs for a capacity building programme creates room for sharing lessons learnt on the various strategies and/or governance models across districts.

**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/ <b>No</b>
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/ <b>No</b>
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes/ <b>No</b>
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?**

The trainings were effective in building and improving knowledge among the communities. There was a recommendation from the stakeholders to consider going beyond once off training in future programming. Future training may also consider the inclusion of look-and-learn activities for both RDCs and communities across wards and districts. This will create room for additional knowledge and experience sharing as well as potential for innovative learning through seeing management achievements from the ground. This suggestion was raised by the communities during the training.

**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.

N/A

## Checklist for submission

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