

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	DARNV016
Project title	Promoting equitable gender norms to strengthen conservation governance and impact
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Kenya
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Partner(s)	Care Kenya, Sera Wildlife Conservancy, Pate Marine Community Conservancy, Northern Rangelands Trust, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, University College London via Dr Emily Woodhouse
Project leader	Helen Anthem
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 st October 2024 HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	

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).

Progress against activities

Activity 1.1: The Sera gender analysis has been updated with information from the training and consultants support visits. The Pate gender analysis is currently being updated with information from the training, and additional data will be available following the forthcoming consultant visit.

Activity 1.2: Criteria for the selection of participants in Sera have been shared previously (in Annual Report 1). These were discussed with the consultants, Fauna & Flora local staff, and Northern Rangelands Trust(NRT) staff, and it was agreed that all Pate Marine Community Conservancy(PMCC) board members be invited to the training along with 4 representatives (2 female, 2 male) from each of 3 Beach Management Units (BMUs) - Pate, Shanga Rubu and Shanga Ishakani - that are included in our project *Community-led conservation and fisheries development in North coast, Kenya* (reference 29-008) as well as two (1 female, 1 male) local facilitators/ToTs from NRT's Leadership and Management Programme (LAMP). Other

participants included the PMCC manager, an NRT intern, and a representative from Kiunga conservancy who acts as NRT's coastal gender focal point. A total number of 33 participants (13 female, 20 male) attended the 5-day training, including 2 Fauna & Flora staff (2 female) and the CARE Kenya facilitators (1 female, 1 male).

Activity 1.3: The training facilitation guide used in Sera was shared with the consultants for reference ahead of the Pate training, and they adapted the training in collaboration with Fauna & Flora staff on the ground.

Activity 1.4: The SAA training in Pate took place 25 – 29 June. This was later than planned due to the availability of the CARE consultants. A total of 33 (13 female, 20 male) attended the training, including the 2 facilitators and 2 Fauna & Flora staff. The training report is available upon request. The training was well received, as evidence in the training report (including the testimonials in Annex 2). For example, *"I now acknowledge the role of women in conservation. Back in Shanga Ishakani where we have a joint Core Management area for Octopus closures, the women had previously received donation in form of a boat and as men in the management unit felt that women were being favoured. However, after the training, I now realize that the boat donation was for the benefit of the whole community. Looking back, I realize that even the coxswain who supported the women was a man. So, moving forward I plan to support women in the conservation of octopus closures as the training has been an eye-opener"*.

Activity 1.5: In Sera, there are still 22 (9 female, 13 male) active community members, 10 (7 female, 3 male) board members and a number of senior staff who are considered to be 'champions' and who have consistently conducted dialogues or promoted actions to address gender inequities. In Pate, we have identified 15 (7 female, 8 male) participants who we believe to be 'early adopters' (although more may emerge following the current support visit) and we can see that the training has influenced the behaviour of some of the participants, for example *"As a leader and an administrator from Shanga Ishakani BMU the training was very beneficial to me [for example] at the household level where I now support my wife with the household chores such as taking care of our babies while she is cooking and this gives her time to rest"*.

Activity 1.6: Champions in Sera continue to use the previously identified entry points to conduct dialogues and/or take actions to promote gender equity. Available data indicates that at least 62 dialogues have taken place to end September, reaching at least 1398 people (638 men, 760 women). A high-level action plan including entry points is in draft for Pate and will be finalised during the consultants visit in October.

Activity 1.7: The Samburu consultants made a final support visit to Sera in May, and the lead consultant is in regular phone contact with the conservancy manager and a number of the champions to provide advice and moral support. In Pate, due to CARE staff time constraints the first support visit has been delayed until the week of 28 – 31 October but Fauna & Flora's Project Officer in Lamu is in regular contact with participants.

Activity 1.8: It remains challenging to convene all Project Steering Group (PSG) members, as reported in AR1, but we are adhering to a schedule of every two months with very regular one to one or smaller group meetings in-between.

Activity 1.9: Planned for Year 3, Q1

Activity 2.1: All Sera data has been coded and organised by themes and analysis is ongoing. To date, data from Pate is that which is available in the training report and we have begun the process of extracting and coding the data.

Activity 2.2: This is planned for Year 3 Q1 but the dialogue guide and ongoing learning from the project will contribute to the practical guidance.

Activity 2.3: Planned for Year 3 Q1

Activity 2.4: A second blog is being planned to coincide with International Women’s Day on 8th March 2025.

Activity 3.1: As noted above (Activity 2.1), all Sera data has been coded and organised by themes and analysis is ongoing. A draft Theory of Change based on data from Sera data has been developed (and is available upon request). This will be developed further by project end, incorporating additional data from Pate.

Activity 3.2: A series of meetings / mini-workshops have been held with gender experts to discuss the Theory of Change. A second workshop, or series of meetings, is planned for Year 2 Q4

Activity 3.3: Planned for Year 3 Q1

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.

A government operation to address insecurity in Samburu East continued for almost 3 months, at one point preventing SereOlipi champions from conducting dialogues due to an order prohibiting meetings of any kind. Ongoing insecurity continues to affect both SereOlipi and Losesia, and especially rural areas, but the SAA champions have continued to conduct some dialogues.

A good working relationship has been established with the CARE Kenya staff members who are facilitating the SAA process in Pate but whilst the quality of their work is good there have been delays in implementation due to their workloads and time constraints. The SAA training took place at the end of June 2024 and the first support visit is taking place the week beginning 28th October.

As reported previously the project is struggling to collect robust data to report against indicator 1.4 because of reliance on the community champions, many of whom have no formal education, to collect and relay information on wider community changes. A change request was submitted in relation to this in June and the project lead is in correspondence with NIRAS on the same.

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: <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?

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 review of Annual Report 1 requested that outstanding feedback points from the application form be addressed in this half year report. Responses to all feedback points were included with HYR1 and are submitted again with this report (as Annex 1).

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.	
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?	

Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project?	
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	