

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	DARNV018
Project title	Wildlife Credits: Launching a Conservation Performance Payments Scheme in Tanzania
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead Organisation	WWF UK
Partner(s)	WWF Tanzania
Project leader	Tanya Smith (WWF-UK)
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 October 2024 HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	www.wwf.org.uk (no project specific website or 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).

Output 1. Community-led conservation vision for the Wildlife Credits model as applied to the Kitenden Corridor, including pricing and disbursements mechanism, is co-designed with and adopted by communities and stakeholders

The Rangeland management plan was endorsed and approved.

Recognizing issues of shortages of fodder, proliferation of invasive weeds in grazing lands, and degradation of pasture quality, the Enduimet WMA, in collaboration with its eleven member villages, acknowledged the need for a Rangeland Management Plan as part of the conservation performance. During the reporting period, the rangeland management plan for the corridor and WMA was finalised and approved by the board and local government. This plan aims to enhance and sustain pastures in village and community areas within the Enduimet wildlife reserve, ensuring improved livestock welfare and the long-term sustainability of wildlife in our community.

Corridor Protection through Village Land Use Planning Activities

To safeguard the corridor and mitigate encroachment, we prepared land use plans for two villages that border Kitenden Corridor. The activity was divided into two parts introducing land use plan activities and approval at village level. Additionally, we collected coordinates for the Kitenden corridor beacons to prepare a shapefile for the future gazettelement process of the corridor.

The invasive species strategy & unpalatable forage was developed.

When engaging with the four villages directly bordering the Kitenden corridor to develop the conservation performance indicators, invasive plant species came up as a major issue for wildlife and people (impacting grazing). We therefore commissioned a rapid assessment on the extent of invasive and unpalatable forage in Kitenden to Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute to develop and implement an invasive species management strategy. This includes habitat restoration, gene conservation, and promoting ecotourism. Additionally, it will enhance livestock health, reduce human-wildlife conflicts and promote entrepreneurship.

Opening of wildlife tracks within the corridor.

This milestone reflects a robust integration of conservation and community interests, ensuring effective wildlife protection and sustainable corridor management including openings of wildlife tracks/routes within the corridor. The Committee's proactive approach in identifying and mitigating threats underscores their commitment to meeting project targets, promising enhanced habitat sustainability, improved foraging conditions, and overall benefits for biodiversity and local communities.

Output 2. Community led conservation performance measurement is in place within the Kitenden Corridor, supported by increased monitoring capacity and a functioning dashboard.

Regular and systematic collection of data on key performance indicators (KPIs) related to wildlife presence, and habitat status, utilising SMART and camera traps.

The collection of data is underway and is scheduled to occur every two weeks. The collected data are stored at EWMA and analysed in partnership with WWF's Camera Trap Species experts, under the approval of the District Game Officer of Longido District Council. TAWA/DGO will handle data storage, utilising their server for SMART/ODK purposes. Additionally, discussions are underway with the National Bureau of Statistics to obtain permission for external data sharing.

Progress is on track. The 28 data collectors (citizen scientists from within the villages and Village Game Scouts) have been trained and their skills enhanced in the use of SMART (using Smartphones), GPS, and Camera Trap installation and data collection from cameras. In addition, the monitoring and data collection plan has been developed and shared with those responsible

for the data collection to ensure data is ready for uploading to the performance monitoring dashboard.

An additional 29 cameras have been installed across the entire 11 villages of EWMA to monitor movement of wildlife outside the corridor and additional 30 Citizen Scientists have been trained.

During the reporting period, we have finalised the contract with Deloitte Germany to complete the calibration and set up of the performance dashboard, which will be used to calculate the wildlife credits payments based on verifiable conservation performance against indicators. The dashboard will also include remote sensing data and the developers have started with the training of available data to teach the AI model how to identify relevant changes in the Kitenden corridor area's land usage.

Output 3. Sustainable financing options for wildlife credit payments have been identified and scaling pathways have been established.

Receive and release funds from the agreement to the WMA

Wildlife Credit Disbursement Process & Independent Oversight

Creating a local platform for the transparent distribution of wildlife credit payments is essential for supporting conservation efforts and empowering local communities. This platform will guarantee a fair and accountable allocation of funds to those who safeguard our natural habitats. An independent grievance committee will ensure impartial review and decision-making to uphold accountability and transparency.

We have engaged with the College of African Wildlife Management (Mweka) to serve as an independent third-party verifier for the Wildlife AI Dashboard prior to payment disbursement. They will implement SMART technology and utilise data from camera traps in Tanzania to establish this transparent payment platform. Additionally, discussions with the Community Wildlife Management Area Consortium (CWMAC) will focus on streamlining processes to establish clear and efficient procedures for credit applications, disbursement, and grievance resolution.

Discussion with the Private Sector on Purchasing Wildlife Credits

Engagements have begun with the Tanzania Tour Operators Association regarding the potential purchase of wildlife credits. These discussions aim to explore how local tour operators can invest in wildlife conservation efforts through the acquisition of these credits.

Further discussions will delve into the specifics of how these credits can be integrated into existing tourism practices and the potential for collaboration among stakeholders to maximize the effectiveness of wildlife conservation initiatives.

Additionally, the first exchanges with some key private investors have been initiated with the aim of finding out their interest for buying the credits:

- (1) A survey with 10 companies has been conducted. This investigation aimed to enhance our understanding of the factors that influence corporate investment decisions in biodiversity initiatives, thereby facilitating the development of strategies to increase private corporate investments into these projects.
- (2) Participation at the Bankable nature Solutions Investors' workshop, planned for October 2024, in Amsterdam where we will present the pilot project and feedback from private

sector investors, financial institutions and corporations will be gathered and incorporated as part of adaptive management.

WWF has developed a Position on Wildlife/Biodiversity Credits which was approved and has been publicly published. As one of the key pilots for WWF within this new mechanism, a factsheet on the project has been developed and will be used to start engaging with potential investors. It will also be presented during some side events at the CBC COP 16.

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.

Calibration of AI Performance Monitoring Dashboard for Tanzania

We are currently calibrating the AI performance monitoring dashboard to fit the local context in Tanzania, leveraging the data we've gathered with the technical support of Deloitte. While this activity is progressing, it has not been completed on schedule. We have held several meetings with Deloitte Germany to discuss the necessary steps for recalibrating the performance monitoring dashboard, which was initially developed for Namibia, to suit our pilot project.

The main activities that Deloitte will undertake include: (1) migrating the system to a new environment, incorporating the camera trap model; (2) re-training the remote sensing model; and (3) integrating new key performance indicators (KPIs) along with the required calculations.

Theft and Destruction of camera traps:

Several cameras were stolen or destroyed, causing significant setbacks. This unfortunate situation underscores the urgent need for a sustainable security system. Implementing advanced camera locks, frequent monitoring of camera statuses, GPS trackers for the cameras, and enhancing community sensitization are crucial steps to protect our equipment and ensure the continuity of our research.

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
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes

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*

Due to the delays with signing of the contract with Deloitte Germany we submitted a change request to extend the end of the project to 30 January 2025 – this was approved via email on 14 August 2024.

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.

- 1. For future reporting, the reviewers recommend cross referencing evidence in the narrative – this is noted and will be improved in the final project report.*
- 2. Ensure report against targets in the logframe – This is noted and we will ensure to do this for the final report*
- 3. The reviewer is unclear how the percentage credits distribution is calculated - This was done in consultation with the community village leadership, the elected committee and the Enduimet WMA board. A clear payment pathway and benefit sharing diagram will be provided with the final report once we have piloted the first payments.*
- 4. It would be beneficial to understand how data are collected – Data against the agreed performance indicators are collected by Enduimet WMA's Village Game Scouts and additional trained citizen scientists using Smart phones and SMART software. Further details are above in the report.*

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

HYP (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.	X
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	X
Submit to BCF-Reports@niras.com .	X
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	X
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	X
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	X