



## Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

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| <b>Project Ref No</b>                                | Darwin Project 23-030 (Application No. 3172)                                   |
| <b>Project Title</b>                                 | Harmonizing land use in Save Valley Conservancy, south-eastern Zimbabwe        |
| <b>Country(ies)/Territory(ies)</b>                   | Zimbabwe   |
| <b>Lead Organisation</b>                             | Save the Rhino International   |
| <b>Partner(s)</b>                                    | Lowveld Rhino Trust, Senuko Ranching Pvt Ltd, Gudo Community Development Trust |
| <b>Project Leader</b>                                | Cathy Dean   |
| <b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)</b>           | 28 October 2016, Financial Year 1 Quarter 3                                    |
| <b>Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc</b> | N/a  |
| <b>Funder (DFID/Defra)</b>                           | DFID   |

**1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).**

On 5 May 2016 we successfully submitted a change request, asking that the project start date be deferred from 1 April 2016 to 1 October 2016. Consent was received by email on 1 June 2016.

No activities have therefore taken place during the 6-month period 1 April to 30 September 2016, apart from internal project planning and ongoing negotiations around the new concession arrangement (lease) for Senuko Ranch.

**2a. 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.**

As explained in our May 2016 change request, there was a problem with one of the two parties involved (the Gudo Community Development Trust) in the proposed Joint Venture, in that there was a contested chieftainship within the Gudo Community. This was impairing the necessary community leadership for a joint venture; and causing an ongoing delay in the Gudo community's ability to finalize a necessary concession arrangement with the Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA), which were required before negotiations over the proposed Joint Venture can be taken much further.

The chieftainship issue has moved towards resolution, and the Lowveld Rhino Trust is assisting parties with obtaining the concession arrangement for Senuko Ranch from the ZPWMA. The process has been delayed by the suspension from his post of Mr Edson Chidziya, the Director General of ZPWMA, due to an investigation into losses from the national rhino horn stockpile. In the absence of a permanent Director General, key and routine decisions requiring the input of ZPWMA have suffered delays. However, the project partners are hopeful that the new concession will be granted before the end of 2016, and that this Darwin Initiative project can

move forward in the meantime.

We have also re-considered the appointment of a new Project Field Coordinator, which we had initially envisaged as starting in 1 April 2016 and then revised (following the change request), to 1 October 2016. Given the need to manage expectations on the ground, and the level of experience / knowledge required to get the Darwin Initiative project underway, we now feel it would be better to redeploy existing LRT staff member Simba Chiseva, Project Community Liaison Officer, to focus on the Darwin project during this six-month period (October 2016 to March 2017). This will also, we believe, allow us to develop more detailed and accurate Terms of Reference for the new appointment when we recruit in time for 1 April 2017. A change request regarding the reallocation of the budget for the Project Field Coordinator's salary is being submitted at the same time as this half-yearly report.

We have also noticed that, when moving the start date of this project from 1 April to 1 October 2016, we mismatched the timetable and the budget for Activity 2.2.5("Engage social scientist to conduct monitoring and evaluation of community awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity." The revised timetable shows this activity as taking place in FY1, however the revised budget shows it taking place in FY2. Having considered the preparatory work needed before we benchmark community awareness of the potential worth of biodiversity, we think it better to conduct this M&E in the period Apr-Jun 2017. There is no change to the budget allocation per financial year, but our change request (as above) addresses the timetable change.

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS: Yes/~~No~~

Formal change request submitted: Yes/~~No~~

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/~~No~~

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to 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 rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

N/a

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

N/a

**If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.**

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at [Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk](mailto:Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk) . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**