



Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2020)

Project reference	25-002
Project title	A model for conservation, stabilisation and development in South Sudan
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	South Sudan
Lead organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Partner(s)	Caritas Austria, Community Organisation for Development (COD), Bucknell University, South Sudan Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism
Project leader	Nicolas Tubbs, Nicolas.tubbs@fauna-flora.org
Report date and number (e.g. HYR3)	1 st May 2020-31 st October 2020
Project website/blog/social media	www.fauna-flora.org , https://www.fauna-flora.org/countries/south-sudan @nicolastubbs

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

The project started on the 1st of July 2018.

Output 1: 430 km² of Game Reserve (GR) and Community Managed Area (CMA) habitat under stronger conservation management, with local women and men better informed about biodiversity and engaged decision-making

Community consultations and stakeholder meetings due to take place during this reporting period had to be suspended due to the Covid19 pandemic. None the less, restrictions are slowly lifting and, with the two international programme staff now back in country, we've managed to resume this work.

During this period, we have progressed what we see to be the next steps towards community managed areas within a legal framework, compiling this in an internal process document we titled "Community Conserved Area Framework". This will become an active, working document as we progress related activities in the field, and we will provide it as an annex to the final report next year. The document explains the contradictions in terminologies and the lack of clarity within the current legislation, and provides a suggested pathway forward. As previously reported, to avoid misunderstandings or miscommunications with national stakeholders, we shall be referring to Community Conserved Areas.

Output 2: Collaborative routine and intelligence-led patrols in Game Reserves and community ranger teams in Community Managed Areas are deterring and responding to wildlife crime

Despite the Covid19 pandemic and the rainy season, regular patrols in both Game Reserves were rolled out throughout this period, involving Community Wildlife Ambassadors and Rangers. Though reporting and feedback systems have been slowed down as a result of COVID, all patrol data has been collected, entered and analysed systematically. As an illustration of this, below is a summary of patrol efforts in Bangangai and Bire Kpatuo Game reserve from May to September:

BGG	May	June	July	Aug	Sept <small>Patrol reports outstanding</small>
No. of patrols	6	2	3	4	0
Est. distance covered during patrols (km)	46	34	24	54	0
No. persons encountered illegally in the reserve	0	0	0	0	0
No. of times hunting or poaching activities were observed	4	0	1	0	0
BK	May	June	July	Aug	Sept <small>1 patrol report delivered</small>
No. of patrols	4	4	6	6	1
Est. distance covered during patrols (km)	24	22	40	43	0.6
No. persons encountered illegally in the reserve	0	0	0	0	0
No. of times hunting or poaching activities were observed	0	1	0	0	0

Output 3: Livelihoods activities appropriate to existing local norms and constraints to wellbeing are strengthening the assets of 900 people (150 households) against external shocks

As reported in the last annual report, the household surveys will be repeated in November, which will allow us to ascertain our impact against the baseline survey. Other livelihood

activities have been reduced during this period due to the rainy season plus Covid19 restrictions pre-empting any gatherings. Over 4 weeks, twenty two community's members were employed to clear the track from Ndoromo to the reserve and its entire demarcated boundary.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

Alongside this report, we are submitting a change request following from Nicolas Tubbs (Project Leader) leaving FFI in October 2020. We have therefore requested Alison Mollon, Director of Operations, Africa to take on this role for the remaining period of this project. Nicolas confirmed he will remain available in his new role for any queries to smooth the transition.

With the appointment of a new Minister, FFI and the Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (MWCT) have been required to review their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), a lengthy but beneficial process which should be finalised by mid-November.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

As a result of the Covid19 pandemic, the two international staff based in-country and working on the delivery of this project had to leave South Sudan and work remotely since May. Coordinating activities like this was a learning experience for all. The difficulty of international travel meant it took considerable time for the project's two international staff to return to South Sudan. Though we were able to maintain existing activities, this resulted in no new developments. COVID has also hampered the international transport of essential equipment and we have had to source this locally. An example is that we employed tailors to make uniforms for the rangers and community members.

With this said however, there has been noteworthy achievements, and we are set to make significant steps forward in the coming months. Being able to ensure that the rangers not only maintained a constant presence at the remote ranger posts but also continuously patrol the reserves, has garnered us good support from the communities. We have sustained support in combatting COVID by providing tippy taps, medical supplies, gloves and facemasks to WLS rangers and local communities.

2c. 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 (with this report)
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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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 DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to 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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**