

Darwin Initiative Main Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the “Writing a Darwin/IWT Report” Information Note:
(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources-for-projects/reporting-forms-change-request-forms-and-terms-and-conditions/>).

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum** of 20 pages in length, excluding annexes)

Submission Deadline: 30th April 2021

Darwin Project Information

Project reference	26-001
Project title	Community livelihood and capacity support for securing Zimbabwe’s wetland biodiversity.
Country/ies	Zimbabwe
Lead organisation	BirdLife Zimbabwe
Partner institution(s)	Chikukwa Ecological Land Use Community Trust (CELUCT), Zimbabwe AIDS Prevention Project- Regai Dzive Shiri (ZAPP-RDS) Trust, BirdLife International (BLI), Environmental Management Agency (EMA)
Darwin grant value	GBP295,610.00
Start/end dates of project	1 June 2019 to 31 March 2022
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2020 – Mar 2021) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, Annual Report 2.
Project Leader name	Togarasei Fakarayi
Project website/blog/social media	www.birdlifezimbabwe.org , @birdlifezim
Report author(s) and date	Togarasei Fakarayi, Fadzai Matsvimbo

1. Project summary

The Driefontein Grasslands is a Ramsar site and an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) that supports globally threatened bird species. It is the only remaining landscape in the country, where the three globally threatened (grassland specialists) Grey Crowned Crane (EN), Wattled Crane (VU) and Secretary Bird (VU) exist in the same area. The Driefontein Grasslands is characterised by a network of wetlands that provide habitat for biodiversity, cranes in particular and also important for rural communities living in this area. Local communities have become increasingly dependent on the wetlands in this IBA. Despite rich biodiversity, Driefontein Grasslands has been under increasing pressure from anthropogenic activities that include wetland degradation through unsustainable agricultural practices, uncontrolled fires and overgrazing. Areas where subsistence farming is taking place experienced increasing pressure on wetlands resulting in habitat loss for cranes. Poverty has been the main driver of habitat degradation in Driefontein Grasslands. The local communities in this biodiversity-rich area have

limited resources to engage in alternative livelihood activities. Subsistence agriculture is the main activity practiced by rural communities in this IBA despite the fact that most of the land is not suitable for cultivation and most crops frequently fail. Local villagers also have limited capacity for effective biodiversity monitoring. Balancing biodiversity conservation and human livelihoods is a priority for securing the future of globally threatened species in this IBA. In 2010, BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ) developed a Crane Conservation Action Plan where most of these problems were identified. These problems were also identified through engagement with communities by BLZ between 2010 and 2018. An Environmental Management Plan for Driefontein Grasslands developed by Environmental Management Agency (EMA) in 2017 identified similar conservation challenges. This project provides options for alternative livelihoods to help reduce human pressure on wetlands while strengthening capacity of communities to manage land sustainably. The project seeks to demonstrate viability of income generating livelihoods (bee keeping, poultry and pig production) that are not wetland dependent, while improving habitats of globally-threatened biodiversity.

2. Project partnerships

The project is being implemented in partnership with CELUCT, ZAPP-RDS, EMA and BLI. BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ) is the Lead organisation in the implementation of this project. Over the last 12 months of project implementation there has been shared knowledge among partners during project implementation. BirdLife Zimbabwe has also been instrumental in developing capacity of the local partners during project implementation. The partners got opportunity to learn especially through joint trainings and biodiversity monitoring activities. The joint implementation of some of the project activities brought a great impact on the ground from the diversified and converging ideas. During the year BirdLife Zimbabwe successfully conducted joint trainings with ZAPP-RDS and EMA. In September 2020 BLZ and ZAPP jointly conducted a business plan development workshop (evidence in section 3.1). In March 2021 a successful joint training on leadership was conducted by BZL, ZAPP RDS and EMA (evidence in section 3.1). BirdLife Zimbabwe also worked closely with CELUCT on a bee keeping monitoring activity on the ground. On several community engagement and habitat monitoring activities, BLZ worked jointly with EMA and successfully achieved this. The collaboration was key especially where sensitive issues were also tackled during the process. BLZ, EMA, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) and local communities jointly conducted crane surveys during the year. During the District meetings and National Wetlands Committee meetings, there was involvement of other EMA Officers from other two districts and the Head Office. This was helpful in achieving implementation of such activities. BLI worked closely with BLZ on initiating the development and consolidating of lessons learnt. Through working together in this second year, the relationship between BLZ and the partners become strengthened. Some networks have been developed through this team work. The partners and BLZ managed to bring in expertise from other key institutions such as the ZPWMA, Forestry Commission, AGRITEX, and Women Affairs Community Small and Medium Enterprise Development (WACSMED). This enabled new and shared knowledge for advancing work of this project. Relationship between communities and the participated institutions was strengthened during this project.

3. Project progress

3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities

Output 1

The target villages were engaged on fire suppression during the fire season. Meetings on firefighting conducted with key members of the communities at Shashe, Daviot, Chinyaure and Markdale Villages in June 2020 were successful (Annex 1). These meetings facilitated by BirdLife Zimbabwe (BLZ) and the Environmental Management Agency (EMA) were a follow-up to firefighting trainings conducted in the year 2019-2020. The main output of the meetings was strengthening of the firefighting teams at the beginning of the fire season, a period where fire outbreaks are common. The teams comprising of men and women were established to assist in

leading fire prevention, control and community mobilisation when there is an outbreak of fire. BLZ in collaboration with EMA facilitated construction of fireguards around key wetland and grazing areas in May and June 2020 (annex 2). Fireguards constructed by local villagers had a combined total length of 33 km. The fireguards helped prevent veldt fires especially around key sensitive wetlands. The 2020 fire cases recorded in 2020 in the Driefontein Grasslands were lower than fire cases of 2019 and the other previous years.

Hands on experience on sustainable wetland management in Driefontein Grasslands was practised. This was a follow-up to the wetland management trainings conducted in the previous year. Wetland restoration was identified as one of the key priority action for the four target villages. BirdLife Zimbabwe and EMA with assistance of village representatives identified sensitive wetland areas for protection in Daviot, Shashe, Chinyaure and Markdale in June 2020. Consultation meetings were conducted with Gutu District Development Coordinator (DDC), Gutu Rural District Council (RDC), local representative (councillor) and local communities influenced improved conservation of wetlands. Local communities agreed to protect main sources of the wetlands (seeps) from damage by livestock and cultivation and restore the wetlands. A rapid wetland assessment conducted by EMA with the assistance of BLZ on the identified wetland sites provided basic baseline information on the wetland status before improved management. The wetland assessment was conducted using a tool developed by EMA (Annex 3). Protection of identified sensitive wetlands and restoration of paddocks was initiated in July 2020 with local communities taking a lead in protecting sensitive wetlands. A total of 12 sensitive wetland sites covering a total area of 52.1 in Chinyaure, Daviot, Shashe and Markdale were protected between July 2020 and March 2021. This was through erection of fences around these areas. The seeps were protected from damage mainly by livestock. The protection improved the status of the wetlands as seep are main supplies/sources of water to wetlands. During this reporting year, five of the restored sites were each recolonised by breeding pairs of cranes (Annex 4).

Two meetings were conducted with each of the villages of Shashe, Chinyaure, Daviot and Markdale where environmental protection By-laws were developed. The by-laws developed through a participatory process are set to guide management practices of the sensitive wetlands by local communities. Final drafts of By-laws documents were produced following validation meetings held in March 2021 (Annexes 5-8). These await signatories for them to be binding at village level although implementation of these By-laws by local villagers has already started in March 2021.

Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) monitoring training facilitated by BLZ with assistance of EMA in August 2020 had a total of 33 participants (12 females and 21 males) from the four target villages (Annex 9). Improved knowledge on the application of IBA monitoring framework and establishment of IBA monitoring teams formed the main output of the training. The first IBA monitoring forms completed by these teams of local custodians were received by BLZ in December 2020 and January 2021. Ground surveys of cranes conducted jointly with EMA and the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority from 13-18 July 2020 recorded a total of 89 Grey Crowned Cranes and 41 Wattled Cranes, and a second ground survey conducted from 8-13 March 2021 recorded a total of 142 Grey Crowned Cranes and 49 Wattled Cranes (Annex 10). In addition to surveys, there was continuous monitoring of 15 pairs of cranes and four floater flocks of Grey Crowned Cranes by the Field Officer with assistance of some local villagers. A total of 11 pairs (5 Wattled Crane and 6 Grey Crowned Cranes) produced chicks during this reporting year. Six pairs breed successfully, raising young ones while five pairs were still under monitoring.

Output 2

Shashe and Markdale villages continue to run poultry activities. To date each village received a total of 1,000 chicks and stock feeds from which they raised broilers for sale. Heating equipment procured was handed over to the two villages running poultry projects. Running water was supplied to the poultry sites and a piggery site this year through solar powered boreholes (Annex 11). Expansion of pigsties at Daviot Village is near completion. Income has been generated from the poultry and pig production activities. Shashe Village has generated a total of [REDACTED] And Markdale a total of [REDACTED] At least 80 households already benefitted in the form of cash and groceries from the poultry income generating activities (Annex 12). Income generation at Daviot Village (piggery activity) was initiated at the end of the third quarter of this year. A total of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] was generated from piggery production.

Two bee apiaries were successfully established at Chinyaure Village each bee apiary with a total of 322 bee hives. A practical training on site monitoring facilitated by CELUCT in September 2020 equipped villagers with hands on apiary monitoring skills. Inspection of bee hives conducted by CELUCT with the assistance of BLZ, EMA and Forestry Commission between November 2020 and March 2021 helped equip communities with additional skills and knowledge on bee keeping. This formed part of the hands on training by CELUCT as guided by their training manual.

Development of a business plans for the Income Generating Activities (IGAs) was initiated jointly by BLZ and ZAPP RDS in September 2020. A total of 37 (20 females and 17 males) villagers from Shashe, Markdale and Daviot were trained in small scale business enterprise and marketing in September 2020. The training conducted jointly by ZAPP RDS and BLZ equipped villagers with skills and knowledge in managing IGAs as a small scale business enterprise. ZAPP RDS conducted follow-up visits to poultry and piggery sites between November and December 2020 where they explored market opportunities with communities especially under the COVID-19 situation. Business plans were developed to guide poultry and piggery small-scale business enterprises and marketing (Annexes 13).

In March 2021, ZAPP RDS reached the Pig Producers Association of Zimbabwe and the Poultry Association of Zimbabwe where they introduced the poultry and piggery community groups in Driefontein Grasslands at this level. Registration forms to register Shashe, Markdale and Daviot community groups were secured. Plans are in place to have poultry and piggery groups registered at this level. Once registered the community groups will benefit from various services that include further training, information on markets, networking with other members in the association.

Paddocks to control grazing were established at Shashe, Chinyaure and Markdale Villages. A total area of 1,950 ha were covered by these paddocks. Inside the paddocks are some of the seeps that are protected from damage by livestock.

Output 3

BirdLife Zimbabwe and EMA (Gutu Office) participated in the Gutu RDC environmental sub-committee meeting held on 22 July 2020. The project updates presented to this committee put emphasis on how the project deliverables are contributing to the Implementation of the Driefontein Grasslands Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

A meeting was conducted with each of the Rural District Councils (Chikomba, Chirumanzu and Gutu) within the Driefontein Grasslands in December 2020 (Annexes 14-16). The meetings provided an update to stakeholders on the implementation of the Driefontein Environmental Management Plan, influenced action by districts in contributing to current initiatives. The chiefs present at the meeting emphasized the need to include Indigenous Knowledge Systems in wetland conservation.

A national wetlands committee meeting held virtually on 26 February 2021 was successful. The meeting attended by government, civil society and members of the academia stakeholders gave feedback on progress for the implementation of the Driefontein EMP.

On 26 March 2021, a leadership training facilitated jointly by BirdLife Zimbabwe and ZAPP RDS with the assistance of EMA was attended by group leaders from the four target villages (Annex 17). This meeting, conducted in Driefontein, focused on group governance, conflict resolution with gender mainstreamed in these two aspects. The outcome of this meeting was improved knowledge among villagers on good leadership skills, group governance and conflict resolution. The villagers got insight of being mindful of gender consideration in leadership and management of group activities.

Output 4

A case study on this project developed in July 2020 was shared with BirdLife International and forms the initial steps for the lessons learnt document. More input to this document will be provided as the project progresses.

Collation of lessons learnt is in progress and this took a participatory approach. In January 2021, templates for collecting lessons learnt from communities were designed. These templates were distributed in to all four target villages in February 2021. Feedback from villagers was received

in March 2021 and collation of the lessons learnt is in progress. A guiding template developed by BLI with input from BLZ is used in pulling together the lessons document.

Some lessons learnt so far were shared with the members of the National Wetlands Committee during the wetlands committee meeting held in February 2021 (Annex 18).

3.2 Progress towards project Outputs

Output 1: Wetland habitat under improved conservation management for globally threatened indicator species within Driefontein Grasslands IBA increased and supporting increasing trend in breeding pairs of target species.

Building of local capacity in sustainable wetland management yielded positive results in terms of bringing villagers into action as far as wetland management is concerned. Participatory wetland restoration that took place contributed to improved management of wetland habitats as main sources (seeps and soaks) of wetlands were protected. This approach has also built sense of ownership among local villagers who actively participated in this process. The By-laws (Annexes 14-16) developed by local villagers guide management of wetlands at local level. Re-colonisation of some of the restored wetland sites is a positive pointer of improved habitat and indicator for increasing breeding pairs of cranes. Increasing pairs of cranes have been noticed. At least 15 active breeding pairs recorded already indicated a positive change as compared to the 2018 baseline where 10 pairs were recorded. This represents a 50% increase in the number of breeding pairs since. Involvement of local villagers in IBA monitoring will assist in long-term monitoring of globally-threatened biodiversity in the Driefontein Grasslands through active citizen science (Annex 9).

Output 2: Four Villages located in proximity of key crane breeding and foraging areas, have adopted three alternative IGAs, with active participation of women (at least 50%) and young people increasing their monthly household incomes by a minimum of 50%.

The three alternative livelihood options established have been adopted by local villagers. Poultry and piggery have already generated income for the local villagers. More than 50% of beneficiaries of these livelihood activities are women. There has been active women participation in day to day running of the project as well as in leadership at village level during the year. Women have also participated actively in bee keeping activities (Annexes 19, 20). By the end of the project this output will be achieved as there is already positive indicators of achievement despite covid-19 challenges encountered during the year.

Output 3: Implementation of the Driefontein EMP mainstreamed into Zimbabwe's government and civil society operation strategies for the benefit of communities and biodiversity conservation.

The engagement of districts during the district meetings this year built more awareness on the Driefontein EMP. The stakeholders identified their roles in mainstreaming the Driefontein EMP into their work programmes. A national wetlands committee meeting conducted this year discussed progress on the implementation of Driefontein EMP at national level. There was national level support on the implementation of this EMP. These meetings attended by both government and civil society stakeholders agreed to have follow-up meetings to discuss progress and provide more input into the process. Since government and civil society stakeholders at both district and national levels are on board, there is high likelihood that this output will be achieved.

Output 4: Lessons shared nationally, in Africa and beyond in integrated wetland management for livelihood and biodiversity benefits.

Capturing of lessons learnt that is in progress is contributing to attainment of this output. A basis for documenting these lessons learnt is in place. The meetings conducted at both district and national level with government and civil society stakeholders have already shared some of the lessons learnt nationally (Annex 21). Furthermore, stakeholders also got opportunity to input into the lessons learnt during these meetings as the project progresses. Togarasei Fakarayi was on national radio (Classic 263) in February 2021 sharing the lessons proceeding from the project with Zimbabwean populace.

3.3 Progress towards the project Outcome

Livelihood activities have been strengthened during the year with poultry and piggery community groups already generated income from their activities (section 3.1). The villagers have adopted these income generating livelihood activities. There is high potential for improving on the income generated by the end of year 3. The local villagers who took initiative in wetland restoration and firefighting have applied the knowledge gained from the previous and follow-up trainings. There has been a reduction in wetland degradation noted across these key targets villages. Cases of fires were also low in the last fire season in the Driefontein Grasslands. In one of the villages (Chinyaure), there was no fire outbreak recorded throughout the year. Cases of fire outbreaks used to be recorded annually in the other previous years except last year (*pers comm* with villagers).

A total of 12 sensitive wetland areas were protected by local communities. All of the protected wetlands have improved their status following protection and normal to above normal rains received during the last season (Annex 22). The protected wetlands in Driefontein Grasslands improved both the breeding and foraging habitats for cranes. Five of these wetlands have been used by the breeding pairs of cranes during this reporting year. Currently, 15 breeding pairs of cranes are monitored, with 6 already recorded successful breeding. In addition distribution of crane sightings including breeding pairs indicates improved management of wetland habitats in the area (Annex 23 [REDACTED]).

Initiation of lessons learnt sharing took place at national level provide pointers for potential of replicating the project model nationally for improved wetland management. Government and civil society participation at district and national wetland meetings conducted this year showed commitment of these stakeholders in ensuring that good practices at wetland areas are adopted and shared with other non-affected communities or areas.

The project is highly likely to achieve its outcome by the end of the project funding considering the key achievements highlighted above.

3.4 Monitoring of assumptions

Outcome Assumptions

Assumption 1: Government field extension officers remain committed in providing field technical assistance required by the communities on livelihood initiatives and site monitoring.

Comments

During the year there has been active participation of government field extension officers in carrying out our activities. These include Officers from EMA, Forestry Commission, AGRITEX, and Rural District Councils. They played a role of providing technical assistance required on the ground by the communities especially on poultry, piggery and bee keeping activities. EMA has been very instrumental in providing technical assistance in site monitoring. The assumption on government commitment to providing technical assistance to this project therefore remains true.

Assumption 2: Income generating activities remain viable with no unforeseen setbacks

Comments

With regards to income generating activities, covid-19 challenges created a setback on this aspect. There was restrictions in terms of markets due to local downs across the country. However, focus was on local markets that enabled sales to take place. The poultry groups worked with a manageable scale of production. Demand for food (pork, chicken) is still there supporting the IGAs as viable alternatives.

Assumption 3: Extreme drought conditions are not experienced during the project to the extent of affecting water levels including IGAs.

Comments

Dry spells have been experienced during the first year of the project and had negative effects on bee colonies. This slowed down the bee keeping income generation activity. Effective monitoring

of the bee keeping activities are underway to ensure that the available bee colonies will be captured for the bee keeping this year. However, this year, the Driefontein area received normal to above normal rains. With regards to wetlands, they recharged well in the last raining season and the assumption still holds true (Annex 22). The above normal rains demonstrated the need to have alternative livelihoods as the fields/gardens within or close to wetlands were flooded with no viable produce.

Output Assumptions

Output 1 Assumption: People are to invest part of their time and adopt use of technology in species and habitat monitoring.

Comments: This assumption still holds true. During the year there was great participation of local villagers in species and habitat monitoring especially through IBA monitoring and participatory crane surveys. Members of the community that took part in the crane surveys were taught how to use GPS units to record locations.

Output 2 Assumption: Willingness of women to take a leading role in biodiversity monitoring and livelihood business enterprise.

Comments: There is active participation of women in both livelihood and biodiversity monitoring. In 2020, 37% of participants of the IBA training were women. All committees for the livelihood initiatives have mixed gender (men and women). The livelihood groups at Markdale and Daviot Villages are led by women. The assumption therefore still hold true.

Output 3 Assumption: Stakeholders at national level are willing to participate in Driefontein EMP implementation meetings.

Comments: There was a delay in holding a national wetlands committee meeting during the year due to covid-19 restrictions. However, a virtually meeting conducted in February 2021 demonstrated willingness of stakeholders' participation in the EMP implementation.

Output 4 Assumption: SSG members have interest for exchange and learning visit.

Comments: Although the exchange visits have not yet done, community members expressed great interest for exchange and learning visits.

3.5 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and poverty alleviation

Project Impact: Driefontein Grasslands Ramsar Site in Zimbabwe is managed to enhance community livelihoods and conserve wetland habitat for endangered biodiversity informing wider wetland management in Zimbabwe and beyond.

Project contribution to higher-level impact on biodiversity:

Protection of sensitive wetlands by local communities improved breeding and foraging habitat for cranes. Species monitoring during the year contributed to biodiversity data. An increase in the number of breeding pairs recorded during the year in the Driefontein Grasslands provide pointers for improved biodiversity. Active participation of local villagers in site monitoring including habitat management as motivated by livelihood initiatives indicates positive coexistence of biodiversity and humans in this area. Indications of species and habitat improvement contribute towards improved biodiversity conservation in the Driefontein Grasslands (Annex 23 on section 3.3).

Project contribution to higher-level impact on human development and wellbeing (Poverty alleviation):

Adoption of the three alternative livelihood income generating activities by local communities has been a positive development in the Driefontein Grasslands. The income already generated from the poultry and piggery project activities is improving the well-being of the rural communities living in this Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). New sources of income established help empower local communities, women in particular who are actively involved in the livelihood project activities (Annex 20). Local villagers have already identified opportunities for diversifying these income generating activities. Adopted livelihoods and potential diversification, all improve human wellbeing and contribute to poverty alleviation.

4. Contribution to the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs)

This project contributing to the delivery of SDGs 1 (No poverty), 2 (ZERO hunger) and 15 (Life on Land). The income generating activities implemented in Driefontein Grasslands are contributing to the delivery of SDGs 1 (No Poverty) and 2 (ZERO hunger). Beneficiaries of the income that is being generated are rural villagers with very limited resources for survival. The small scale business enterprise established is supporting household incomes helping to reduce poverty and hunger among the villagers. Poverty and hunger in the Driefontein has always caused by either excessive rains and/or erratic rains causing crop failure due to high soil drainage or flooding of crops in low lying areas. The income generated from poultry and piggery activities during the reporting year and benefitting households from the three villages contributes to poverty and hunger alleviation.

Participation of local communities and stakeholders in sustainable habitat management and species monitoring during the year contributes to delivery of SDG 15 (Life on land). This active participation of communities in biodiversity conservation and consistent monitoring of biodiversity by BirdLife Zimbabwe and its partners/stakeholders promoted biodiversity conservation in the Driefontein Grasslands.

5. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements

This project has supported meeting of Aichi target 10 of the CBD that promotes prevention of the loss of known threatened species, and improve and sustain conservation status of these species particularly of those most decline or endangered by 2020. During the year 2020-2021, conservation efforts under this projects were centred on improving habitats and breeding pairs of cranes. The two cranes species found in Driefontein Grasslands are globally threatened with the Grey-crowned crane being an endangered species (IUCN 2021). During the year local communities were empowered for long-term biodiversity conservation. This was demonstrated by communities taking a leading role in wetland restoration.

The project contributes to meeting the National Biodiversity Targets 3, 12, and 13 and the corresponding Aichi Targets. These are also still relevant post 2020. This was achieved through improving wetland habitats in the Driefontein Grasslands, species and site monitoring, engaging district decision makers and building capacity of local villagers in species and site monitoring.

Target 3: By 2020 reduce the rate of loss of natural habitats including forests by at least 50%.

Under this target one of the aims of the Zimbabwe government is to achieve 15% reduction in area burnt per year. The follow-up fire meetings conducted in Driefontein Grasslands and establishment of fireguards contributed to reduction in fires (evidence provided in section 3.1). This contributes to meeting this set target.

Target 12: By 2020, implement policies and strategies to maintain and restore ecosystem, integrity and reduce ecosystems degradation to enhance the livelihoods and well-being of all Zimbabweans, especially women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable

Strengthening of IGAs and technical support to livelihoods contributed as well as influencing policy decisions at district and national level meetings contributed to meeting this target. Sharing of the work being done in Driefontein Grasslands informed policy decisions at both local and national levels (evidence provided in section 3.1 and 3.2).

Target 13: By 2020 combat desertification, and enhance ecosystem resilience through conservation and restoration of degraded ecosystems

Restoration of sensitive wetlands (seeps) during the year contributed to attainment of this target.

Crane monitoring through two major surveys conducted during the year and snap surveys contributed to fulfilment of objective 3 and results 3.1.1. and 3.1.2 of the AEWA Plan of Action under the Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS).

The project is also directly contributing to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention though supporting implementation of the Driefontein Environmental Management Plan. During the year, both livelihood and biodiversity conservation activities being implemented have been addressing conservation gaps identified in the Driefontein EMP. Meetings conducted at both District and

national levels and engaged stakeholders in the implementation of the Driefontein EMP contribute to implementation of the Ramsar convention in Zimbabwe.

During the national wetlands committee meeting, the project interacted with the Officials from the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry (METHI) representing the convention focal point. Our project partner EMA falls under METHI and their work under this project always feeds into the METHI.

6. Project support to poverty alleviation

The project is contributing to poverty alleviation through the livelihood income generating activities that are being implemented. The income generating activities are benefitting four rural villages namely Shashe, Daviot, Markdale and Chinyaure who are living and co-existing with cranes in the core crane area. The project helped communities reduce further wetland degradation which was mainly caused by cultivation for income generation. Provisioning of alternative livelihoods created a non-wetland dependent income generating stream for the rural villagers in Driefontein. This project therefore increases household income of the communities and the same time created a motivated community that promotes sustainable natural resources management. Habitat restoration that took place this year significantly contributes to improved wetland ecosystem services in this IBA.

Communities are beginning to demonstrate governance of natural resources by willing to have local by-laws in place that protect biodiversity (Annexes 5-8). Improving the natural capital is a pointer long-term sustainability of livelihoods and poverty alleviation. Active participation of women and young people in the project is also contributing towards poverty alleviation. Women play a key role in ensuring food for the families in these rural communities. Most of the registered project beneficiaries who received benefits from the proceeds of the project are women. Benefits received in the form groceries and cash so far from the poultry activities contributed to improved welfare of the beneficiary households (Annex 12).

7. Consideration of gender equality issues

The project has mainstreamed gender across its activities. Both men and women as well as young people, elderly and people living with disability participated in the project activities. For instance, the IBA training participants were boys, girls, women and men (Annex 24). Women in particular are also given equal opportunity in bee keeping livelihood activities that were previously dominated by men (Annex 19). During the year there was active participation of women in bee keeping activities. Identification of sensitive wetlands and development of by-laws also involved active participation of women and young people (Annex 25). Although women participated in these kind of activities in the past, their voice received little weight in decision making at village level. This project has promoted active participation of women and ensured that women voice is heard and given equal weight in decision making at village level.

With regards to leadership, this project ensured gender balance among leaders of the project groups at each target village. The Markdale Village Poultry group and Daviot Village Piggery group are all led by women. This was done to empower women in leadership and decision making.

The project beneficiaries has more women than men who directly benefit from the income generated from the livelihood activities. This was purposefully done in order for women have some economic freedom. The project beneficiaries from the three alternative livelihoods comprised of 62 % being women and 38 % of beneficiaries are men.

Special attention was paid to the needs of women at meeting avenues. This included meeting at places where there was adequate sanitation facilities and also meeting times ended before dark to ensure safe travel home.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

The project was monitored based on the indicators in the log frame. The adaptive management approach was applied in project monitoring this year. This was informed by current status of activities on the ground and situation at country level in terms of COVID-19 challenges. Regular reflections on project indicators was conducted to check progress in meeting the project targets.

Monitoring data was collected to track progress towards each output. Progress on each activities was tracked and measured against the output it is contributing to. The project activities were maintained where possible adapted but meeting the same output target. This ensured strong connection between the output and activities during implementation of the project and consistence in delivering the project outcome.

Key indicators of achievement this year include increased biodiversity monitoring data generated from ground surveys of cranes and habitat monitoring, improved income generated from the poultry and piggery activities this year, increased stakeholder participation in the implementation of the Driefontein EMP indicated by stakeholders participating in district and national meetings. Qualitative indicators include change of human behaviour measured by wide distribution of cranes in the target area and increasing number of breeding sites, improved knowledge from the IBA monitoring trainings and meetings.

Currently there are no changes to the M & E plan. The project partners are also involved in M & E of their activities. However, they are guided by the lead organisation. Meetings with partners also focus on the M & E work, reviewing on progress and planned activities.

9. Lessons learnt

A number of lessons were learnt during project implementation this year. It was noted that use of participatory approach in reflecting on how the project is progressing was useful. Project beneficiaries were willing to share their views on lessons learnt. Through the process, the villagers get to understand their involvement better than how they view it before. The villagers' role in contributing to knowledge and data through citizen science was also another key lesson learnt. The IBA monitoring forms completed by the trainees of the IBA training contributed to IBA monitoring data (Annex 26). A quick response of protected wetlands was a learning experience from project implementers, stakeholders and communities. This was an indication of high potential for successfully restoring degraded wetlands and breeding sites across the whole IBA. The approach taken in protecting sensitive wetlands worked very well with good results produced. There was motivation from the villagers in protecting seeps due to quick positive results obtained from the protected wetland sites.

With regards to project administration, key lesson learnt was that a strong team makes successful delivery of the project. It is important for all members to have a good understanding of the project status enabling them provide any input where needed during project implementation. The partners, consultancy, stakeholders and any other volunteer in the project need to be managed and guided in their work to ensure that the project remains on target.

Understanding the requirements of stakeholders is of importance during the project. There is need to understand stakeholders needs and requirements. This will enable to clearly demonstrate how these needs are met in the project. Even if some of these needs are not met during the current project, it is always wise to show how the project contribute to meeting those needs. For instance, on the livelihood activities, additional needs were identified by villagers and put forward to project implementers. In this project there was emphasis to build up on the current poultry, piggery and bee keeping support activities, and do them in the right way. Villagers were then encouraged to meet their needs identified during the project design, and where more proceeds are generated expand on project to help address other emerging needs.

Continuous communication is essential with partners, stakeholders and communities. This was found essential during project implementation. There is need to be very responsible in terms of communication and endeavour by all means to avoid communication errors. It was noted that information about the project goes far through different avenues. In this regard the project information should be communicated at the right time. Partners, stakeholders and communities

all require clear communication from the leading project implementing agent. Without proper communication it is difficult to deal with project problems effectively.

Fighting for project deadlines has also been another key management lesson learnt. It was realised that not all project activities always go smoothly. Sometimes changes are made especially when dealing with government institutions due to multiple tasks among their officers and this may disrupt the overall workflow, making it harder to meet the project deadline. Certain challenges encountered may impede the process of the project e.g. delays in getting response or confirmation for meetings. For instance it took long for the National Wetlands Committee meeting to happen due to various circumstances. To overcome such challenges the project management team need to fight for viability of their project. The project management team continue persistence and working closely with key organising institution for this national level meeting hence this helped to overcome the challenges. There is also need to carefully monitor and defend the project goals, timelines and as much as possible.

For the project to run effectively, the project management need insight and input from the project team. During the year, the project got input from other stakeholders such as Forestry Commission. This was helpful as additional skills and knowledge were provided at the right time. Input from partners received was also valuable during project implementation. However, some the partners took long to provide feedback or reporting. In future, fixing early deadline for such input might be helpful.

With changing environments and emerging issues, investing time and resources in planning and prioritising activities was identified important during the year. During covid-19 challenges re-grouping of activities was helpful as the project implementers managed to implement those activities doable during a particular time. This ensured continuity of the project. Constant review of project activities and communication was essential during the year. Although we had set dates of some activities in particular meetings, some of the meetings did not happen as planned due to covid-19 restrictions. However, following relaxation of restrictions, the outstanding meetings and trainings were then conducted. The approach of joint planning and collaboration in trainings helped to speed up the process of trainings and efficiency in covering outstanding trainings/meetings within the project period. Where there are challenges, it is highly recommended to build up and strengthen team work in overcoming such challenges

10. Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)

In response to last year's review comment number 3, the crane breeding and foraging sites have been highlighted on the map (Annex 23). The sightings indicated on the map show the survey and monitoring data collected to date (2019-2021). Separate maps indicating crane sightings for each year from 2019 to 2021 were produced in addition to a combined map (2019-2021).

A detailed on the point and count methodology has been included in the crane survey report for this reporting year (Annex 10). This addressed reviewer's comment number 4.

In response to reviewer's comment number 5, feedback as a result of trainings has been presented in this report through active participation of villagers in identification of sensitive wetlands and development of local By-laws. These are also indications of positive results of the trainings. The IBA form completed by local villagers presented in this report indicate feedback from the IBA training (Annex 26).

Partners meetings as well as follow-up meetings with partners were conducted this year. Joint-trainings with ZAPP RDS were conducted in the development of the business plan and leadership training. This offered an opportunity to exchange workshop delivery methods and appreciate the value that partners bring to the project.

11. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere

The local communities have identified other opportunities they can potential help to increase income streams during and after the project period. This include gardening activities at the piggery and poultry sites where they will make use of available manure to grow vegetables. For piggery there is potential to engage in fish farming using pig waste. These additional activities

will also help improve nutrition of people in the villages as well as generating additional income. In future there potential to consider this in the project design.

Restriction on gatherings during covi-19 has been a challenge encountered during the project. This delayed some meetings as it was impossible to conduct these meetings through virtual. The project team complied with the government guidelines and plan accordingly. With national stakeholders, a virtual meeting was successfully conducted. At this stage there are particular risks encountered in the project as targeted activities were achieved during the year.

In the 2020/21 summer season normal to above normal rains were received in the Driefontein. Local communities realised importance of wetlands in regulating flood control as there were no flooding cases occurred in this area. The area would have flooded if there were no wetlands.

There is need to strengthen the communities abilities to run IGAs particularly given the turbulent economic environment in Zimbabwe. It is also equally important to continue draw the attention of the communities to saving wetland biodiversity as the heart of the project as it will sustain all other activities in the long-term.

12. Sustainability and legacy

National stakeholders were reached during the national wetlands committee meeting conducted in 2021 where awareness about the project was raised. The project got buy-in of national level stakeholders. Understanding of this project at national level is key in ensuring sustainability of the project as key decisions are made at national level.

There was several broadcasting of the project on the national television during the year with emphasis on wetlands, birds and people. This raised the profile of the project at national level. In February 2021, BirdLife Zimbabwe and the Environmental Management Agency held a radio talk reflecting on Driefontein work and wetland issues in general. This also build interest among various people on wetland conservation and the livelihood and biodiversity model being conducted in Driefontein Grasslands.

The planned exit strategy is still valid. Involvement of all key stakeholders from national to local level strengthened this year indicate stakeholder support beyond project period. Empowering of local communities who include Local Conservation Groups during this project ensures a sustained legacy of the project outcome.

13. Darwin identity

Great efforts were made during the year to publicise the Darwin Initiative. The Darwin logo was used on PowerPoint Presentations and funding from Darwin was always mentioned in the presentations. The Darwin logo was also used on participant list forms (Annex 27).

The Darwin funding is recognised as a distinct project in the Driefontein Grasslands. It is currently the only project run by BirdLife Zimbabwe in Driefontein Grasslands. The project is recognised by project partners, communities and local stakeholders as a distinct project. However, this project is contributing to implementation of the Driefontein EMP.

The civil society and the involved government stakeholders are familiar with the Darwin Initiative though this project. They understand the Darwin Initiative a donor that provide financial support to projects of this kind.

14. Impact of COVID-19 on project delivery

COVID-19 posed some delays of certain activities those that require gathering of people in particular. The affected meetings and workshops were conducted post their planned time but managed to be done with the reporting period. In response a shift of activities put more focus on field based monitoring activities as opposed to those activities that involve human interaction. The travel restrictions in the country as a result of COVID-19 negatively impacted on some of the targeted markets for livelihood income generating activities. In response to

this, the local villagers targeted the local markets and maintained production that suits the available market.

The delays encountered during COVID-19 were not long-term as affected activities were fitted during periods when restrictions were relaxed by the government. However, all COVID-19 rules and regulations were adhered to during the year. The health and safety of staff and beneficiaries were kept safe through limiting human contact during meetings, ensure social distancing, and working with small number of people per group during meetings and workshops. Post pandemic, at Office level there is potential to adopt some of the new ways of working that include virtual meetings. However, at community level, virtual meetings are impossible due to technological challenges.

15. Safeguarding

BirdLife Zimbabwe has safeguarding policies in place which were shared with partners in the first year of the project. Implementation of BLZ's policies continued this year with BLZ staff, partners and stakeholders being reminded about these safeguard policies. During the year, it has become a standard practice to remind stakeholders or communities on BLZ safeguarding policies at all gatherings or meetings. Implementation of project activities on the ground by project partners are in most cases done with the presence of BLZ staff, a field Officer in particular. This enabled BLZ check if the safeguard procedures are implemented by partners on the ground.

16. Project expenditure

Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021)

Project spend (indicative) since last annual report	2020/21 Grant (£)	2020/21 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Consultancy costs				
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E)				
Others (see below)				
TOTAL				

Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against Logical Framework for Financial Year 2020-2021

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Progress and Achievements April 2020 - March 2021	Actions required/planned for next period
<p>Impact</p> <p>Driefontein Grasslands Ramsar Site in Zimbabwe is managed to enhance community livelihoods and conserve wetland habitat for endangered biodiversity informing wider wetland management in Zimbabwe and beyond.</p>		<p>Biodiversity monitoring, wetland ecosystem management with active participation of local communities, and establishment of alternative sustainable livelihoods in Driefontein contributes to improved management of this Ramsar site. Engagement of both national and district stakeholders informed policy decisions for improved management of the Driefontein Grasslands.</p>	
<p>Outcome</p> <p>Adoption of alternative income-generating activities by villagers living in core crane area in Driefontein, reduces degradation of wetlands critical for globally threatened biodiversity, supporting livelihoods, species conservation and management plan implementation.</p>	<p>0.1 Four villages sharing habitats with cranes in the IBA have adopted three alternative sustainable income generating activities (IGAs) increasing the incomes of 170 households by at least 50% by end of project.</p> <p>0.2 Capacity in sustainable wetland management, fire management and IBA monitoring by the communities in four villages within the IBA developed by Year 1.</p> <p>0.3 At least 10 key wetland areas identified in the target area. Management by communities improve the status of these habitats. Breeding pairs of crane species occupy at least 6 of the 10 wetland habitats by the end of the project.</p> <p>0.4. Number of breeding pairs of globally threatened wetland bird species (Wattled and Grey-crowned cranes) in core areas targeted by the project in the Driefontein Grasslands IBA increased by at least 25% (from</p>	<p>Ongoing support provided to the three alternative livelihoods at the four target villages strengthened income generating activities of these target villages. Income generated during the year helped to maintain these project activities and initiated support to beneficiary households. Knowledge gained from the wetland management trainings help villagers amplify local actions in improving wetland management. A second IBA monitoring conducted further developed local capacity that improved biodiversity monitoring. The number of breeding pairs of cranes increased by 50% from the 2018 baseline. At least five of the protected wetlands were occupied by the breeding pairs of cranes.</p>	<p>Continue provide technical support to community IGAs</p> <p>Continue working with local villagers in IBA monitoring including species and site monitoring.</p> <p>Finalising development of lessons learnt and facilitate wide sharing of the lessons learnt.</p>

	<p>2018 baseline) by the end of the project.</p> <p>0.5 The project model and lessons learnt shared with community, government, and civil society stakeholders within and beyond Zimbabwe by end of project. At national level this will be built into ongoing implementation of the Crane Action Plan (2010) and the Environmental Management Plan for Driefontein.</p>		
<p>Output 1.</p> <p>Wetland habitat under improved conservation management for globally threatened indicator species within Driefontein Grassland IBA increased and supporting increasing trend in breeding pairs of target species</p>	<p>1.1 Key wetland areas (core crane breeding and foraging areas) mapped by end of Year 1 (BEY1).</p> <p>1.2 Consultative community meetings with District Environmental Officers to agree on modalities for adhering to avoidance of cultivation of sensitive wetland areas BEY1.</p> <p>1.3 Increased capacity of at least 170 community members (including at least 85 women and 25 young people) representing 4 Villages in sustainable wetland management, and fire control through provision of fire-fighting training and gear.</p> <p>1.4 At least 10 % increase of wetlands with improved management status by end of project (BEP) in crane core areas, against baselines recorded in Year 1.</p> <p>1.5 At least 25% increase in crane breeding pairs BEP, against 2018 baselines</p> <p>1.6 At least 28 people from the four villages are trained, capable of conducting detailed IBA monitoring, and coordinate with at least 280</p>	<p>Meetings were conducted with villagers from the four target villages that resulted in the development of the By-laws for improved management of wetlands in Driefontein Grasslands (Evidence of By-laws provided in section 3.1).</p> <p>Follow-up meetings on firefighting were conducted with the target villages in June 2020 (Evidence provided in section 3.1).</p> <p>Protection of sensitive wetlands (seeps) by took place and was spearheaded by the local villagers (evidence provided in section 3.1). A total of 12 wetland sites covering a total of 52.1 ha were protected.</p> <p>A 50% increase in breeding pairs was realised resulted from improved wetland management and monitoring.</p> <p>Follow-up IBA monitoring training conducted in August 2020 was successful. A total of 33 people (12 females and 21 males) were trained in IBA monitoring and IBA monitoring teams were established (evidence provided in section 3.1).</p>	

	villagers in active citizen science activities providing data on species sightings and threats in the IBA by Year 3.	
Activity 1.1. Mapping of critical wetland areas	Completed	Updating crane sightings on the maps
Activity 1.2. Conduct consultative meetings with District Environmental Officers, and hold meetings with communities collecting gender disaggregated data	Ongoing- gender data has been collected during meetings and workshops	Gender data will continue be collected from across all project activities.
Activity 1.3. Conduct training in sustainable wetland management, firefighting and prevention with active participation of women	completed	Follow-up to check good practice of skills gained from trainings.
Activity 1.4. Procure and distribute firefighting equipment	Completed for the year	Procure a few fire equipment
Activity 1.5. Conduct crane surveys	completed for the year	Last two ground surveys under this project to be conducted in the year 2021/22.
Activity 1.6. Training of local villagers in IBA monitoring	completed	Continue providing guidance to local villagers in site monitoring using IBA framework.
Activity 1.7. Conduct site monitoring using BirdLife IBA monitoring framework	Ongoing	Site monitoring with input from communities to continue in the year 2021/22.
Activity 1.8. Set fireguards around sensitive forests and restored areas	Ongoing, fireguards were established by local communities during the year.	This is an annual activity and fireguards for this year will be established between April and June 2021
Activity 1.9. Develop Village Land Use Plans, facilitate their approval and signing at village and ward levels.	Ongoing, initial step was done through identification and demarcating sensitive wetlands. Each Village identified key areas that require management and agreed on certain rules to safeguard such areas.	Ensure that By-laws that regulate human activities on sensitive areas are signed at Village and Ward levels.
Activity 1.10. Develop local agreements with communities on protecting identified sensitive wetlands.	Ongoing. The process of developing the By-laws was completed. By-laws are awaiting signing at Village, Ward and District levels.	Facilitate signing of by-laws.

Activity 1.11. Project Launch to raise awareness on project		Completed
<p>Output 2. Four villages located in proximity of key crane breeding and foraging areas, have adopted three alternative IGAs, with active participation of women (at least 50 %) and young people, increasing their monthly household incomes by a minimum of 50%.</p>	<p>2.1 Baseline household income and vulnerability assessment data for 4 target villages collected by end of year 1</p> <p>2.2 A business plan for IGAs in place by year 1.</p> <p>2.3 At least 170 people (with at least 50% being women, and at least 10% are OVC and people with disability) trained on establishing target IGAs by end of Year 1.</p> <p>2.4 At least 40 villagers including 50% being women and 10% being OVC and people with disability adopt small scale pig production enterprise by Year 2.</p> <p>2.5 At least 90 villagers comprising of a minimum of 50 women and 9 OVC in this group collectively run a viable poultry production, join the Zimbabwe Poultry Production by end of Year 1.</p> <p>2.6 40+ villagers including (50% being women) adopt bee keeping as small scale business by Year 2.</p> <p>2.7 170+ households (including those of female-headed, OVC and people with disability) have their income increased by at least 50% by end of Year 2.</p> <p>2.8 At least 2 paddocks for controlling cattle grazing restored by villagers using part of income generated in each of the four villages.</p>	<p>A joint business plan development workshop was conducted in September 2020 and this initiated development of the business plan for the IGAs.</p> <p>During the year, the IGAs were strengthened with infrastructure at the poultry and piggery developed.</p> <p>Income was generated from the two poultry activities and a piggery activities during the year (evidence provided in section 3.1). The poultry groups have already benefitted from the proceeds of their activities.</p> <p>Field visits and site monitoring were conducted during the year where technical support was provided to livelihood IGAs.</p> <p>Initial training on business enterprise and marketing was conducted during the business plan workshop</p>

	2.9 At least 30 people (ToT) representing the four villages trained in small scale business enterprise and marketing of produce by end of Year		
Activity 2.1. Carry out a baseline survey and vulnerability assessment on household incomes for Shashe, Chinyaure, Daviot and Markdale Villages		Completed	
Activity 2.2. Conduct training in poultry production		Completed, follow-up site visits were conducted this year.	Follow-up site visits to be conducted
Activity 2.3. Conduct training in pig production		Completed	Follow-up monitoring
Activity 2.4. Conduct training in bee keeping		Completed	Follow-up monitoring
Activity 2.5. Purchase materials for pig sty and poultry house		Completed	
Activity 2.6 Facilitate construction of pig sty and poultry house.		Completed	
Activity 2.7 Purchase bee keeping materials		Completed	
Activity 2.8 Facilitate construction of bee hives		Completed	
Activity 2.9 Inspection of sites for bee apiaries		Ongoing	Provide more technical support
Activity 2.10. Restoration of paddocks to regulate cattle grazing		Completed	Monitor status of paddocks
Activity 2.11. Training in small scale business enterprise and marketing		Ongoing	Follow-up training to be conducted
Activity 2.12. Development of a business plan linked to markets		Ongoing	Survey on market response to products and readjust the business plan.
Activity 2. 13. Poultry business registration to the Zimbabwe Poultry Production, honey and pig production certification and marketing		Ongoing, Registration forms secured	To complete the registration process.
Output 3. Implementation of the Driefontein EMP mainstreamed into Zimbabwe's government and civil society operation strategies for the	3.1 At least three National Wetland Committee meetings supported by BLZ conducted where structures and	A national wetlands committee meeting held in February 2021 was successful (evidence provided in 3.2).	

benefit of communities and biodiversity conservation.	<p>measures for implementing the EMP are set up by Year 2.</p> <p>3.2 At least four meetings conducted with each of the three Rural District Councils within the Driefontein Grasslands influencing mainstreaming of the Driefontein EMP into their district plans.</p>	<p>A meeting was conducted with each of the three districts in the Driefontein Grasslands (evidence provided in section 3.1)</p> <p>A leadership training was conducted. This was jointly facilitated by BLZ, ZAPP-RDS and EMA (evidence provided in section 3.1)</p>	
Activity 3.1. Conduct National Wetland Committee meetings		Ongoing. One national wetlands committee meeting conducted during the year.	Follow-up national wetlands committee meetings to be conducted in the next year.
Activity 3.2. Conduct meetings with District Environmental Officers and Rural District Councils of Gutu, Chikomba and Chirumanzu.		Ongoing, a meeting was conducted with each district during the year.	Follow-up district meetings to be conducted in the next year.
Activity 3.3. Leadership training covering group governance, conflict resolution and gender		Completed	Follow-up training will be conducted next year.
Output 4. Lessons shared nationally, in Africa and beyond in integrated wetland management for livelihood and biodiversity benefits.	<p>4.1 Widely shared lessons learnt documents and news articles across Driefontein, Zimbabwe and beyond reaching at least 50 institutions in Zimbabwe and 120 BirdLife partners across the globe.</p> <p>4.2 At least two learning and exchange visits conducted with community members visiting other wetland areas in Zimbabwe.</p> <p>4.3 At least one lessons learnt workshop conducted at national level, attended by at least 40 people from communities, civil society organisation and relevant government departments advocating for adoption of good wetland management practices in Zimbabwe.</p>	Some lessons learnt were shared during district and national wetlands committee meetings conducted in December 2020 and February 2021 respectively (evidence provided in section 3.1 and 3.2)	
Activity 4.1. Produce articles to be uploaded online in respective project partner websites		Ongoing, key materials for articles gathered	Produce and share the articles

Activity 4.2. Collate, design and print lessons learnt document and disseminate across Driefontein and SSGs in Africa	Ongoing, some lessons shared during meetings, template for the document agreed upon by BLI and BLZ.	Continue working on lessons learnt document and share.
Activity 4.3. Share lessons learnt with members of National Steering Committee, Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry, and portfolio committee on environment in the Zimbabwean Parliament	Ongoing, initial lessons learnt were shared with members of the National Wetlands Committee during the year.	Share lessons learnt with a wider range of stakeholders.
Activity 4.4. Facilitate two exchange visits by SSG members visiting other wetland areas in Zimbabwe to learn good management practices.	Planned for coming year	
Activity 4.5. Development, packaging and dissemination of CEPA materials	Planned for coming year	
Activity 4.6. Produce guidelines on IGAs linked to wetland management that provide recommendations on mechanism for livelihood transformation for saving threatened biodiversity	Ongoing	
Activity 4.7. Conduct a lessons learnt sharing workshop at national level	Planned for coming year.	

Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project summary	Measurable Indicators	Means of verification	Important Assumptions
<p>Impact: Driefontein Grasslands Ramsar Site in Zimbabwe is managed to enhance community livelihoods and conserve wetland habitat for endangered biodiversity informing wider wetland management in Zimbabwe and beyond.</p>			
<p>Outcome: Adoption of alternative income-generating activities by villagers living in core crane area in Driefontein, reduces degradation of wetlands critical for globally threatened biodiversity, supporting livelihoods, species conservation and management plan implementation.</p>	<p>0.1 Four villages sharing habitats with cranes in the IBA have adopted three alternative sustainable income generating activities (IGAs) increasing the incomes of 170 households by at least 50% by end of project. 0.2 Capacity in sustainable wetland management, fire management and IBA monitoring by the communities in four villages within the IBA developed by Year 1. 0.3 At least 10 key wetland areas identified in the target area. Management by communities improve the status of these habitats. Breeding pairs of crane species occupy at least 6 of the 10 wetland habitats by the end of the project. 0.4. Number of breeding pairs of globally threatened wetland bird species (Wattled and Grey-crowned cranes) in core areas targeted by the project in the Driefontein Grasslands IBA increased by at least 25% (from 2018 baseline) by the end of the project. 0.5 The project model and lessons learnt shared with community, government, and civil society stakeholders within and beyond</p>	<p>0.1 Baseline, initial and end of project socioeconomic reports 0.2 Training reports, completed IBA monitoring forms 0.3 Baseline and end of project reports with maps. project biodiversity reports with maps 0.4 Reports based on baseline bird survey and end of project reports 0.5 National reports to Ramsar capturing lessons learnt and biodiversity conservation achieved by the project in Driefontein Grasslands.</p>	<p>Government field extension officers remain committed in providing field technical assistance required by communities on livelihood initiatives and site monitoring. This is possible considering that BLZ had established good working relations, and in the past collaborated with these key stakeholders on various activities. Income generating activities remain viable with no unforeseen set backs Extreme drought conditions are not experienced during the project to the extent of affecting water levels in the wetland including the IGAs</p>

	Zimbabwe by end of project. At national level this will be built into ongoing implementation of the Crane Action Plan (2010) and the Environmental Management Plan for Driefontein.		
<p>Output 1</p> <p>Wetland habitat under improved conservation management for globally threatened indicator species within Driefontein Grassland IBA increased and supporting increasing trend in breeding pairs of target species</p>	<p>1.1 Key wetland areas (core crane breeding and foraging areas) mapped by end of Year 1 (BEY1).</p> <p>1.2 Consultative community meetings with District Environmental Officers to agree on modalities for adhering to avoidance of cultivation of sensitive wetland areas BEY1.</p> <p>1.3 Increased capacity of at least 170 community members (including at least 85 women and 25 young people) representing 4 Villages in sustainable wetland management, and fire control through provision of fire-fighting training and gear.</p> <p>1.4 At least 10 % increase of wetlands with improved management status by end of project (BEP) in crane core areas, against baselines recorded in Year 1.</p> <p>1.5 At least 25% increase in crane breeding pairs BEP, against 2018 baselines</p> <p>1.6 At least 28 people from the four villages are trained, capable of conducting detailed IBA monitoring, and coordinate with at least 280 villagers in active citizen science activities providing data on species</p>	<p>1.1. Biodiversity monitoring reports</p> <p>1.2. Project reports</p> <p>1.3 Training reports and completed IBA status report for Driefontein.</p> <p>1.4. Biodiversity monitoring reports</p> <p>1.5. Biodiversity monitoring reports</p> <p>1.6. Training and IBA reports</p>	<p>People are willing to invest part of their time and adopt use of technology in species and habitat monitoring. This is highly likely as livelihood improvement will be a motivation.</p>

	sightings and threats in the IBA by Year 3.		
<p>Output 2</p> <p>Four villages located in proximity of key crane breeding and foraging areas, have adopted three alternative IGAs, with active participation of women (at least 50 %) and young people, increasing their monthly household incomes by a minimum of 50%.</p>	<p>2.1 Baseline household income and vulnerability assessment data for 4 target villages collected by end of year 1</p> <p>2.2 A business plan for IGAs in place by year 1.</p> <p>2.3 At least 170 people (with at least 50% being women, and at least 10% are OVC and people with disability) trained on establishing target IGAs by end of Year 1.</p> <p>2.4 At least 40 villagers including 50% being women and 10% being OVC and people with disability adopt small scale pig production enterprise by Year 2.</p> <p>2.5 At least 90 villagers comprising of a minimum of 50 women and 9 OVC in this group collectively run a viable poultry production, join the Zimbabwe Poultry Production by end of Year 1.</p> <p>2.6 40+ villagers including (50% being women) adopt bee keeping as small scale business by Year 2.</p> <p>2.7 170+ households (including those of female-headed, OVC and people with disability) have their income increased by at least 50% by end of Year 2.</p> <p>2.8 At least 2 paddocks for controlling cattle grazing restored by villagers using part of income generated in each of the four villages.</p>	<p>2.1. Baseline and vulnerability assessment survey report on current household incomes.</p> <p>2.2. Business plan document</p> <p>2.3 Training report</p> <p>2.4. Progress reports</p> <p>2.5. Progress and village reports</p> <p>2.6. Monthly Village reports</p> <p>2.7 Progress report</p> <p>2.8 Mid-term project report</p> <p>2.9 Training and project reports.</p>	<p>Willingness of women in particular to take a leading role in biodiversity monitoring and livelihood business enterprise. One of the four SSGs in Driefontein Grasslands is led by a woman. There is high potential to motivate more women in active participation in biodiversity conservation. Uptake of the livelihood options is well received by the community beneficiary. This is very likely because these were ideas suggested by the communities during engagements with them.</p>

	2.9 At least 30 people (ToT) representing the four villages trained in small scale business enterprise and marketing of produce by end of Year		
Output 3 Implementation of the Driefontein EMP mainstreamed into Zimbabwe's government and civil society operation strategies for the benefit of communities and biodiversity conservation.	3.1 At least three National Wetland Committee meetings supported by BLZ conducted where structures and measures for implementing the EMP are set up by Year 2. 3.2 At least four meetings conducted with each of the three Rural District Councils within the Driefontein Grasslands influencing mainstreaming of the Driefontein EMP into their district plans.	3.1. A National Steering Committee for implementing the Driefontein EMP in place. 3.2. Monitoring and evaluation reports.	Stakeholders at national level are willing to participate in Driefontein EMP implementation meetings. This is possible considering that BirdLife is a key stakeholder in National Wetlands Committee, and EMA hosts this committee.
Output 4 Lessons shared nationally, in Africa and beyond in integrated wetland management for livelihood and biodiversity benefits.	4.1 Widely shared lessons learnt documents and news articles across Driefontein, Zimbabwe and beyond reaching at least 50 institutions in Zimbabwe and 120 BirdLife partners across the globe. 4.2 At least two learning and exchange visits conducted with community members visiting other wetland areas in Zimbabwe. 4.3 At least one lessons learnt workshop conducted at national level, attended by at least 40 people from communities, civil society organisation and relevant government departments advocating for adoption of good	4.1. Publicised articles, and lessons learnt documents. 4.2. Learning and site exchange reports. 4.3. Workshop report	SSG members have interest for exchange and learning visits. This possible as most SSG members in the BirdLife network have expressed great interest before for such visits. BLI has experience in facilitating such activities as well as sharing lessons across Africa.

	wetland management practices in Zimbabwe.		
<p>Activities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Mapping of critical wetland areas 1.2. Conduct consultative meetings with District Environmental Officers, and hold meetings with communities collecting gender disaggregated data 1.3. Conduct training in sustainable wetland management, firefighting and prevention with active participation of women 1.4. Procure and distribute firefighting equipment 1.5. Conduct crane surveys 1.6. Training of local villagers in IBA monitoring 1.7. Conduct site monitoring using BirdLife IBA monitoring framework 1.8. Set fireguards around sensitive forests and restored areas 1.9. Develop Village Land Use Plans, facilitate their approval and signing at village and ward levels. 1.10. Develop local agreements with communities on protecting identified sensitive wetlands 1.11. Project Launch to raise awareness on project <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1. Carry out a baseline survey and vulnerability assessment on household incomes for Shashe, Chinaure, Daviot and Markdale Villages 2.2. Conduct training in poultry production 2.3. Conduct training in pig production 2.4. Conduct training in bee keeping 2.5. Purchase materials for pig sty and poultry house 2.6. Facilitate construction of pig sty and poultry house 2.7. Purchase bee keeping materials 2.8. Facilitate construction of bee hives 2.9. Inspection of sites for bee apiaries 2.10. Restoration of paddocks to regulate cattle grazing 2.11. Training in small scale business enterprise and marketing 2.12. Development of a business plan linked to markets 2.13. Poultry business registration to the Zimbabwe Poultry Production, honey and pig production certification and marketing <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. Conduct National Wetland Committee meetings 3.2. Conduct meetings with District Environmental Officers and Rural District Councils of Gutu, Chikomba and Chirumanzu. 3.3. Leadership training covering group governance, conflict resolution and gender <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. Produce articles to be uploaded online in respective project partner websites 4.2. Collate, design and print lessons learnt document and disseminate across Driefontein and SSGs in Africa 4.3. Share lessons learnt with members of National Steering Committee, Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry, and portfolio committee on environment in the Zimbabwean Parliament 4.4. Facilitate two exchange visits by SSG members visiting other wetland areas in Zimbabwe to learn good management practices. 4.5. Development, packaging and dissemination of CEPA materials 			

- 4.6. Produce guidelines on IGAs linked to wetland management that provide recommendations on mechanism for livelihood transformation for saving threatened biodiversity.
- 4.7. Conduct a lessons learnt sharing workshop at national level.

Annex 3: Standard Measures

Table 1 Project Standard Output Measures

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
Established codes								
6A	Number of people received other forms of education/training (which does not fall into categories 1-5 above) * Total number of people received IBA monitoring, fire and sustainable wetland management and IGAs training, Leadership training, business enterprise training.	Females 109 Males 82	Zimbabwean	198	161			
6B	Number of training weeks provided		Zimbabwean	4.5	4			
7	IBA training tool, Bee keeping training manual and fire management training materials		Zimbabwean	3	3			
14A	Project Launch event, three district meetings, one national wetlands committee meeting	Females-24 Males-56	Zimbabwean, One Kenyan (participated in project launch)	80	65			

Code No.	Description	Gender of people (if relevant)	Nationality of people (if relevant)	Year 1 Total	Year 2 Total	Year 3 Total	Total to date	Total planned during the project
----------	-------------	--------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------	--------------	--------------	---------------	----------------------------------

Established codes								

Table 2 Publications

Title	Type (e.g. journals, manual, CDs)	Detail (authors, year)	Gender of Lead Author	Nationality of Lead Author	Publishers (name, city)	Available from (e.g. weblink or publisher if not available online)

Annex 4 Onwards – supplementary material (optional but encouraged as evidence of project achievement)

Checklist for submission

	Check
Is the report less than 10MB? If so, please email to Darwin-Projects@itsi.co.uk putting the project number in the Subject line.	Yes
Is your report more than 10MB? If so, please discuss with Darwin-Projects@itsi.co.uk about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	No
Have you included means of verification? You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	Yes
Do you have hard copies of material you need to submit with the report? If so, please make this clear in the covering email and ensure all material is marked with the project number. However, we would expect that most material will now be electronic.	No
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	Yes
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	Yes
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	