

## Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

*Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.*

**Submission Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

<b>Project reference</b>	29-004 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report
<b>Project title</b>	Kaya Connect: Restoring the Eastern Africa Coastal Forest Biodiversity Hotspot
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Kenya
<b>Lead partner</b>	Botanic Garden Conservation International
<b>Partner(s)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kenya Forest Service</li> <li>2. National Museums of Kenya</li> <li>3. Little Environmental Action Foundation</li> <li>4. Mandhari Plants &amp; Designs</li> <li>5. International Tree Foundation</li> <li>6. Kilifi County Government</li> <li>7. Kivukoni Indigenous Tree Nursery</li> </ol>
<b>Project leader</b>	Cristina Coletto (maternity cover for Kirsty Shaw)
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="http://www.bgci.org">www.bgci.org</a>

**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).**

- A project kick-off meeting was held in Kilifi on 21<sup>st</sup> July, with representatives from BGCI, Kenya Forest Service (KFS), the National Museums of Kenya (NMK), Kilifi County Government – both Environment and Gender teams, Pwani University, the Little Environmental Action Foundation (LEAF) and Gede Tropical Nursery. The project plan and logical framework was presented to all partners and the group considered the current state of Kilifi’s forests and where the project wants to get to. A discussion was held on project outputs, activities, time frame and partner roles.
- BGCI has recruited a new East Africa Project Manager, Roniance Adhiambo, who will be the Project Manager for the Kaya Connect project.
- Two online meetings of project partners have been held, one focused on Output 1: Mapping, and the other focused on Outputs 2, 3, and 4: Training and employment, Seedling supply and sites to be restored. Following the meetings, the following actions are underway;

- Project partners are identifying with which community groups and from which areas they will collect seed and which areas they will restore / provide seedlings to. Partners are adding suggested areas of focus on to a Google Earth map set up for this project.
- Nurseries are preparing budgets for what nursery improvements are needed. Alongside budgets, nurseries are providing estimates of the number of native seedlings that nursery improvements will support them to produce for the project (years 1, 2 and 3), how many seedlings will be used for project restoration sites or sold, how many additional staff they will need to reach these seedling targets, and costs or staff. BGCI and the project Restoration Advisory Group will review the budget requests against a set of criteria developed, and grant agreements will be prepared.
- Members are being recruited to the Restoration Advisory Group, including Dr. Kate Hardwick from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (co-author of [Restoring Tropical Forests: A practical guide](#), and the [Ten Golden Rules for Reforestation](#)). Kate will visit Kenya in early 2023 to provide training and advice on establishing restoration demonstration sites in this project. A terms of reference for the restoration action group has been developed which will enable the target members to make a decision to join the advisory group.

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

No notable problems or unexpected developments.

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

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: Yes/No

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

Change request reference if known:

**4a. 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: £

**4b. 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 re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a re-budget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

**5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

At the time of proposal writing, Kirsty Shaw was indicated as the Project Leader. Kirsty is now on maternity leave. Her maternity cover is Cristina Coletto, who will be the Project Leader in Kirsty's absence (change request submitted).

**If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response 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 NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com). The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**