

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: 31st October 2022

Project reference	<i>This should be the project reference provided in your offer paperwork and not your application number</i> 29-009
Project title	Empowering Cabo Verde communities towards responsible practices in artisanal fisheries
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Cabo Verde
Lead partner	BirdLife International
Partner(s)	Biosfera, Associação Projecto Vitó, Associação Projeto Biodiversidade (APB), Portuguese Society for the Study of Birds (SPEA), University of Oxford
Project leader	Susan Waugh
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.birdlife.org https://www.birdlife.org/news/2022/09/08/big-wins-for-conservation-and-livelihoods-thanks-to-uks-darwin-initiative/

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).

GOVERNANCE:

- The project steering group meeting was held on 15 June 2022. Key contact points for partners were established
- Job Description for Project Manager drafted and circulated to partners for comment.
- Contracts with partners were signed with the exception of SPEA, which is expected by 31 Oct 2022.
- Project staff assigned (and recruited where necessary) by project partners. Projecto Vito – 2 technicians, Associação Projeto Biodiversidade – 1 project manager and 1 part time technician; Biosfera – Project coordinator, technical staff, Oxford University – project staff time allocated.

IMPLEMENTING PROJECT ACTIONS:

- Planning was undertaken for the initial meeting of project partners, planned for October 4-8, 2022, with a range of trainings to support delivery of the project objectives.

Guardians of the Sea protocols and data collection

- Planning for training session for all Cabo Verde based partners 5 October 2022 at Sal Island, Cabo Verde.
- MOUs for Guardians of the Sea protocol and branding use established by Fundação Maio Biodiversidade, APB, Biosfera, Projecto Vito and Bios.CV.
- APB started recruitment of new Guardians of the Sea (GoS), in addition to its current GoS contingent, with contacts with fishers and listing the candidates to join the programme.
- APB has accompanied the GoS currently as the programme is already up and running, with weekly visits to allocate the kits amongst fishers, to check equipment and collection of the data sheets.
- Technicians from APB and an intern from a German university joins the GoS some days a week for data support register, data collection on conflict with dolphin/sharks and data regarding grouper fishery (release after capture).
- APB undertook to work on the data base of monitoring species from GoS.
- **Certification of fisheries and restaurant partners developed** – training planned for all Cabo Verde based partners 6 October 2022 at Sal Island, Cabo Verde.
- **Behaviour change** – training sessions have been planned with Oxford University in Cabo Verde for all project partners for 7 October. Diogo Veríssimo will lead a workshop on the principles of behaviour change, followed by a participatory session on the design of a theory of change that will underpin the behaviour change component of the project. This Theory of Change (ToC) relating to behaviour change work with fishers will ensure that the behaviour change interventions focuses on behaviours that have a clear link with the ultimate biological goal of the project. The process of designing, refining or revisiting the ToC will also help to ensure all project partners are aligned in terms of what intermediate steps they need to achieve, for the project to reach its goal.
- **Communication strategy** – planning for communication strategy development to be held 4 October 2022 for all Cabo Verde based partners.
- **Bycatch estimation** – data were collated for improved baseline estimates at Sal Island, Fogo and Sao Vicente, with the most up to date information to be sent by 20 October 2022.
- **Species monitoring data** – data were collated by partners and harmonised for reporting on the programme.

- **Mitigation identified for use in fisheries** – presentations of mitigation options, including Scary bird kites and line weighting options, were planned for the workshop in October.
- **Workplans** – these were supplied by Biosfera and APB. Projeto Vito have still to send their workplan.
- **Government parties engaged in the meeting** – meeting with the IGQPI board (Cabo Verde government agency involved in Intellectual Property monitoring) has been planned to agree on the certification process, roles of each organization and next steps.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- Contacts with Government parties in Cabo Verde were initiated
- Non-governmental stakeholders in Cabo Verde were engaged to contribute and advise the programme, eg Fundação Maio Biodiversidade, regarding the guidelines and actions to operate under the Guardians of the Sea branding.

Discussion and contributions of Santa Maria (Sal Island) Fisheries Association have been planned for the meeting of 4 October 2022. A first approach to the restaurants and fisheries association presidents on Santo Antão and São Vicente islands to discuss about the project has been made by Biosfera.

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 specific impediments were encountered.

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: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance 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?

The development of the Risk Register was not completed during this grant period. This was an oversight on our part. We expect to complete the Risk Register within two weeks.

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. 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**