



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus

Half Year Report

Project reference	29-027
Project title	Developing 'Lion Friendly Livestock' to reduce poverty and incentivise conservation
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Kenya
Lead Organisation	Loisaba Community Trust
Partner(s)	Borana Conservancy; Lion Landscapes
Project leader	Tom Silvester
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	1st April 2024 to 30 september 2024; Half Year Report Year 3 (HYR3)
Project website/blog/social media	www.lionlandscapes.org www.facebook.com/lionlandscapes www.instagram.com/lionlandscapes www.linkedin.com/company/lion-landscapes twitter.com/LionLandscapes

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed project implementation timetable.

Activity 1.1 Development and registration of Lion Friendly certification criteria (Lion Landscapes lead)

Completed. This activity was completed during the first year of the project but will be regularly reviewed.

Activity 1.2 Certification of commercially run wildlife conservancies and their community grazing schemes (Lion Landscapes lead)

On schedule. Currently, five conservancies have joined the Lion-Friendly Livestock programme. As reported previously, properties can enter the programme at any stage, provided they commit to progressing toward the agreed-upon standards, with clear criteria set to track their progress. Encouragingly, all five properties currently in the programme are on track to meet all Lion-Friendly standards after 6 months to one year of data collection.

Activity 1.3 Ongoing monitoring and verification that Lion Friendly standards are being met for all certified wildlife conservancies and their community grazing schemes (Lion Landscapes)

On schedule for everything but the camera trap surveys, which are delayed. As reported in the last report, localised surveys on Lion Friendly properties have evolved into an annual

regional survey. We have submitted permit applications but this process is slow and we are still waiting for the final permits. Surveys should start in January.

Streamlined data collection and sharing systems between the Lion Friendly properties and Lion Landscapes are in place for all LFL properties, so that robust and useful data can be collected whilst not overburdening any of the partners.

Activity 1.4 Development and verification of Conservation Agreements with participants in Lion Friendly certified community grazing schemes (Lion Landscapes)

On schedule. Over the entire project period, Lion Landscapes has signed conservation agreements with the following five communities: Morijoh, Koija and Lobarishereki (signed in the first year), Il Mamusi and Arijiju (signed in the second year). The agreements are reviewed with the community every 3 months. No new agreements were shared during this reporting period.

Activity 1.5 Development of partnerships with women's groups in communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (all partners)

On schedule. Borana has deepened its partnership with five women's self-help groups and the Oramat Cooperative Society in the surrounding area of the Borana Conservancy. These groups have participated in various trainings, including financial literacy and governance, aimed at building their capacity and sustainability. Supported by the Mazingira Conservation Fund, the Oramat Cooperative Society purchased steers, which were successfully fattened and sold. The women are now actively planning how to reinvest the profits from these cattle sales to further benefit their group activities.

Activity 2.1 Development of a Lion Friendly Livestock marketing and communication plan and materials (all partners and consultant)

Behind schedule. The project engaged a consultant, who has produced a marketing and communications plan, and is working towards achieving that before grant end.

Activity 2.2 Development of agreements with meat packers and butchers, to directly supply Lion Friendly certified livestock (all partners)

Behind schedule. Building relationships with meat packers and butchers was badly delayed by the drought and will probably now occur beyond the life of this grant. Rangelands are recovering well after the return of the rains but livestock numbers are still low and grazing schemes will take time to recover. Several of the LFL properties have created a cooperative - Ag Wild - which should help ensure this. AgWild are not sure if the LFL certification will be the one they use to sell their products but they want to market test it. We will review our log frame to reflect the impacts of the drought, as suggested by our annual report reviewer.

Activity 2.3 Quarterly analysis of local livestock market trends and assessment against data from Lion Friendly Livestock records (Lion Landscapes lead)

On schedule. We are gathering this data on a monthly basis. Since March 2024, cattle prices have steadily increased, raising the average price from 33,315 KES in the six months preceding the reporting period to an average of 39,256 KES during the reporting period. For medium-sized goats, we observed an increase in average prices from 6,053 KES to 6,652 KES over the same period.

Activity 3.1 Expansion of the Lion Extension Officer programme (Lion Landscapes lead)

On schedule. In the past six months, nine additional Lion Extension Officers (LEOs) were hired and trained in Lion-Friendly Livestock areas, increasing the total number to 18—surpassing the target set for the end of year three. These new LEOs received comprehensive training in large carnivore ecology and predator-proof livestock management. They shared this knowledge through household and boma visits, community meetings, and DVD nights. By

fostering continuous dialogue with communities, LEOs provide a crucial bridge between scientific advancements and traditional practices, promoting sustainable methods to protect livestock from predators and support rangeland regeneration.

Activity 3.2 Household livestock enclosure and herd visits by Lion Extension Officers to discuss predator-proof livestock husbandry practices, and collect conflict data in communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Lion Landscapes lead).

On schedule. LEOs play a crucial role in promptly addressing human-carnivore conflict events and proactively working to prevent conflicts during calm periods through household and herd visits. In this reporting period, LEOs conducted an impressive 2,216 livestock enclosure and herd visits during non-conflict times, providing guidance to help prevent future predation and associated conflicts. Additionally, LEOs responded to 177 incidents where livestock had been killed by carnivores, supporting livestock owners with strategies to prevent further losses.

Activity 3.3 Provide demonstrations of how to build a predator proof boma at livestock markets (and other gatherings) serving the communities in the LFL area.

On schedule. In the past six months, project partners conducted 11 demonstrations on building cost-effective predator-proof livestock bomas at community livestock markets and events, reaching a total of 1,054 individuals—47% of whom were women. By hosting these demonstrations at busy livestock markets and community meetings, project partners made this information accessible to a wide audience of livestock owners. The bomas were displayed for the entire duration of the market day or community meeting, allowing time for open discussions between visiting pastoralists and project team members on predator-proof husbandry practices and other project-related topics.

Activity 3.4 Work with local hardware stores that serve the communities in LFL areas to make sure they are connected to suppliers selling the materials needed for predator proof bomas at cost.

On schedule. In the last reporting period, two suppliers agreed to provide materials for predator-proof bomas at cost, and eight store owners committed to capping the sales price (after transport costs) to keep these materials affordable. This agreement has improved access to both knowledge and materials for community members in Lion-Friendly Livestock (LFL) areas. While the drought has left many local pastoralists in financial hardship, limiting their ability to purchase new boma materials, there is strong interest and willingness to invest in these materials once financial conditions improve. Notably, two predator-proof bomas were sold to pastoralists in Lobarishereki in September.

Activity 4.1 Development of rangeland regeneration demonstration projects in communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Borana Conservancy lead)

On schedule. The two rangeland regeneration demonstration plots on Maiyanat community land are now fully operational and open to visitors. Regeneration work is ongoing, with continued support for the community in developing effective grazing schemes and related strategies.

The first demonstration plot continues to show impressive regeneration, especially on its western side, thanks to the impact of community cattle enclosures used to fertilise and break up the soils in March. In September, the Maiyanat community again allowed 400 head of cattle into the plot for 30 days to further support regeneration efforts ahead of the October–December rains. In July, women and youth groups harvested grass seeds, collecting a total of 750 kg, with full ownership retained by the groups. These seeds can now be purchased by the CLMC or other restoration partners for reseeded degraded areas of community land. The funds

generated from these sales will provide economic empowerment opportunities for both women and youth in the community. Additionally, tree pruning activities took place in July to encourage growth, involving eight women from Olkinyei Village over a period of 20 days. The work was supervised by the Lolldaiga Conservancy Rangelands Officer and two plot attendants.

A location for a third demonstration plot within Maiyanat has been selected, though work has been delayed due to the logistical challenges of transporting heavy equipment to the site. Improved infrastructure now allows us to begin work in early November, when a caterpillar will start creating swales on the new plot.

Additionally, discussions are underway about establishing a demonstration plot on the Loisaba side. We anticipate making substantial progress, with initial development on this fourth rangeland regeneration demonstration plot expected before the end of this grant.

Activity 4.2 Six monthly assessments of rangeland regeneration demonstration projects (Borana Conservancy lead)

On schedule. The initial demo plot recently completed its third Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV) assessment, while a new plot underwent its first EOV assessment. We have just received the reports and are currently analysing the results. These baseline EOVs are designed to establish initial conditions, and it will take additional time to determine if there is a positive trend. We anticipate seeing the first indications of progress by next year.

Activity 4.3 Design and delivery of Lion Extension Officer training on sustainable rangeland management (True Range lead)

On schedule but changed approach. We are shifting our approach: rather than providing all LEOs with in-depth training on sustainable rangeland management through a course—which proved too technical for practical use during household visits—LEOs will now accompany community members on visits to the Rangeland Regeneration demonstration plots, where they can share practical rangeland management techniques. This hands-on approach allows community members to observe regenerative practices directly, making the concepts more accessible and applicable to their own land management. LEOs who participated in the original training have distilled their knowledge into key messages and actionable steps, which they now share with community members in an accessible and engaging way during household visits (see activity 4.4). These distilled take-home points were passed on to all new LEOs via a full day training by our team in August as part of their onboarding, following a train-the-trainer model to ensure that knowledge and skills are effectively passed on within the team.

Activity 4.4 Household visits by Lion Extension Officers to discuss sustainable rangeland management practices in communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Lion Landscapes lead)

On schedule. During routine household visits, LEOs emphasise the benefits of healthy ecosystems in mitigating droughts and floods, raising community awareness and support for conservation practices that protect against land degradation, including the key practical interventions from activity 4.3 above. Over this reporting period, LEOs completed 2,216 household visits, many of which involved informal discussions on livestock and rangeland management. This informal setting allows household members to ask questions and share their thoughts openly, encouraging deeper engagement. Notably, women often participate more actively in these smaller settings than in large group events, making these visits a valuable opportunity to involve them in critical conservation conversations.

Activity 4.5 Design and delivery of sustainable rangeland management days (held on Lion Friendly certified conservancies or at community Rangeland Regeneration)

demonstration projects) for communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Loisaba and Borana Conservancies lead)

On schedule. The diverse methodologies applied to the demonstration plots showcase a variety of effective strategies for reversing desertification, restoring land health, and enhancing productivity, establishing the site as an ideal training hub. During the reporting period a total of 1,208 people visited the site, approximately 40% of which were women. Some highlights of the activities conducted up to 30 September 2024:

- On June 17, Kenya celebrated World Desertification and Drought Day (WDDD) with a national event held at the Maiyanat Community, which began on the rangeland regeneration demonstration plot. The event was led by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuya, accompanied by Environment PS Festus Ngeno, Wildlife PS Silvia Museyia, NEMA Director General Mamo Mamo, Laikipia Governor Joshua Irungu, NEMA Chairperson Emilio Mugo, and Kenya Forests Chief Conservator Alex Lemarkoko. This high-profile event has greatly elevated the visibility of the Maiyanat Conservancy and, in particular, the rangeland regeneration demonstration plot. Approximately 1,000 people visited the demo plot on this day, 40% of which were women.
- A group of livestock farmers from Ilpolei, Munishoi and Mumonyot community lands, all members of Upper Naibunga Conservancy, visited the demo plot to learn about various rangeland restoration practices. Participants explored the interventions applied, observed the results achieved and discussed plans going forward.
- A team representing five community conservancies, NET Fund, WRTI, KFS, the World Bank, Anchor Environment, and KFS, led by LCA, visited the site to learn about various restoration methodologies and community engagement strategies implemented in the demonstration plot over the past two years. They were able to compare the site's current state to its condition before the restoration efforts began and observe the positive changes firsthand.

Activity 4.6 Design and delivery of sustainable rangeland management DVD/film nights for communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Lion Landscapes lead)

On schedule. During the reporting period, a total of 543 pastoralists viewed the rangeland regeneration films, with 36% of the audience comprising women and girls. The films shown included "Restoring Dry Land in Tanzania," "Story 2022" by Justdiggitt, and episodes 1-3 from the NRT's Rangelands series.

Activity 5.1 Development of a financial literacy building workshop (Lion Landscapes and Department of Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives, Laikipia County lead)

Completed. This activity was completed during the second year of the project but will be regularly reviewed.

Activity 5.2 Financial literacy building workshops held for pastoral women's groups in the communities participating in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme (Department of Trade, Tourism and Cooperatives, Laikipia County lead)

On schedule. The 7 women's groups (110 women) that were part way through the course at the time of the previous report have since completed the course. In addition 6 women's groups (103 women) started and completed the full financial literacy building course bringing the total in this reporting period to 13 groups and 213 female participants.

5.3 Review local financial institutions and work with them to provide (or develop where necessary) products specifically supporting the needs of pastoral women in communities taking part in the Lion Friendly Livestock programme or neighbouring Lion

Friendly Livestock properties (Community Women's groups and local SACCOs/banks – facilitated by Lion Landscapes)

On schedule. In the previous reporting period 4 different savings and credit institutions were identified as providing suitable products for pastoral women in the project area. These financial institutions are: Rasilimali SACCO, Siraji SACCO, and KCB and Equity Banks.

5.4 Prior and post surveys on the use of savings accounts Vs. livestock to store family wealth (Lion Landscapes lead)

On schedule. - We revised our approach on this activity after the first year of this project and have since stopped conducting pre-surveys on random individuals, and instead have been administering the Financial Questionnaire to each member of women's groups participating in the awareness building workshops before the workshop begins. This is then followed by a 6-month and 1-year post-course follow-up, and the data collected so far will be analysed at the end of the grant.

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 that impacted the project over the last 6 months.

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

Discussed with NIRAS:

No

Formal Change Request submitted:

No

Received confirmation of change acceptance:

No

Change Request reference if known: *If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome*

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)

Actual spend:

4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2025)?

Yes ☐ No ☒

4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should 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 to your project if necessary. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.**

NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.

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

No

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report. If your project was subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment please use this space to comment on any changes to international human rights risks, and to address any additional mitigations outlined in your offer letters. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.

The reviewer encourages the project to do a full logframe review and adapt indicators to reflect what is realistically feasible given the drought and timeline implications. This external factor is beyond the control of the project, and it has done well to pivot, but indicators should be reflected to detail what is possible and feasible. The project should seek to alter Outcome indicator 0.1.

We plan to do a full logframe review in November and adjust indicators to reflect what is feasible and submit the revised logframe for review early December.