



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



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

Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

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 2025

Please note all projects that were active before 1st October 2025 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Project reference	30-004
Project title	Collaborative approaches to manage human-wildlife conflict in transboundary Ruvuma landscape
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania and Mozambique
Lead Organisation	WWF-UK
Partner(s)	WWF-Tanzania, WWF-Mozambique, SWISSAID, UniLúrio
Project Leader	Katherine Elliott, WWF-UK
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31st October 2025 – HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.wwf.org.uk/what-we-do/projects/tackling-human-wildlife-conflict-ruvuma

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

Output 1: Adoption and roll-out of Conflict to Coexistence (C2) approach to manage Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC)

Activity 1.1: WWF's project technical leads in Tanzania and Mozambique are now considered experts on the C2C approach. In June 2025 they participated in a Training of Trainers workshop in Kenya on the C2C methodology, which brought together staff from 15 WWF offices, alongside government and NGO partners. The C2C approach is currently being piloted in 11 countries, with six more preparing to adopt it.

Activity 1.2: In Tanzania, WWF and SWISSAID are continuing to implement the local HWC strategies across six priority hotspot villages, co-developed with communities and local partners during year 1 of the project. In Mozambique, following the C2C co-design process, a local level HWC strategy was drafted covering the five villages in Chipanje Chetu. The draft strategy will shortly be presented at village meetings to be validated. The strategy has guided the preparation of HWC intervention measures for the upcoming crop season.

Activity 1.3: The project team continue to share learnings from the C2C approach with stakeholders. For example, in August 2025, a joint stakeholder trip to the Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor involving WWF, Honeyguide Foundation and Carbon Tanzania provided an opportunity

to discuss key conservation challenges and identify areas of collaboration particularly in HWC management and wider adoption of the C2C approach.

WWF-Tanzania's project lead will present on C2C at the World Bank's Global Wildlife Program Conference in Ethiopia in November 2025, providing an opportunity to share insights on C2C and scale up the approach. The project team are also collaborating on a draft article for publication in the journal *Conservation Science and Practice* – sharing the theoretical basis for the C2C approach as well as learnings from its application in the Ruvuma Transboundary Landscape. WWF-Mozambique's project lead is also supporting the development of Portuguese C2C guidance documents and data collection tools to enable wider roll out in other countries.

Activity 1.4: WWF has successfully secured funding from a private donor to implement a new project titled 'People Powering Biodiversity', with one of the sites being the Ruvuma Transboundary Landscape. Through this new project WWF and SWISSAID are planning to scale-up successful activities started through this Darwin project focused on agroecology and HWC mitigation in three additional locations. The IUCN SADC TFCA Financing Facility project (value EUR 800,000) to be implemented by WWF-Tanzania and WWF-Mozambique within the Niassa-Selous Transfrontier Conservation Area, is expected to start in early 2026. WWF is also discussing with Carbon Tanzania the potential to use future carbon revenues (through the Ruvuma Wilderness Project) to better support HWC mitigation and prevention at village level.

Output 2: Implementation of HWC management interventions

Activity 2.1: In Tanzania, 25 Village Game Scouts (2 Females, 23 Males) participated in refresher training on HWC prevention, incident recording, team drills, and rapid response tactics, improving coordination among local Rapid Response Teams (RRTs). During April – September 2025, 202 HWC incidents were recorded across the six hotspot villages in Tanzania's Tunduru and Namtumbo districts. Most incidents (96%) involved elephants, mainly causing crop damage and property destruction, while a few were linked to hippos and crocodiles near water sources. Local RRTs responded to all 202 incidents, achieving a 100% response rate, minimizing losses and reinforcing community trust and collaboration in HWC management.

In Mozambique, from April to September 2025, 171 HWC incidents were recorded across the five villages in Chipanje Chetu. According to the Yambone project, 84% of cases were successfully responded to by RRTs / community inspectors using equipment provided in the HWC kits. 95% of the incidents were crop raiding, with 52% caused by wild pigs (bush pigs and warthogs) and 29% caused by elephants. Vuvuzelas (air horns) were the most frequently used (58%) equipment by the RRTs responding to HWC incidents.

Activity 2.2: In Tanzania, 579 community members (342 women, 237 men) from six hotspot villages participated in village assemblies and awareness sessions on HWC prevention and reporting. Communities reviewed RRT performance, reporting mechanisms, and equipment needs. WWF continues to promote youth engagement through Miombo School Clubs, including a recent school excursion with 33 students (20 female, 13 male) to Mikumi National Park to help raise awareness of conservation and HWC.

Activity 2.3: The ongoing use of HWC deterrents combined with RRT response and improved collaboration with communities, is helping achieve the project outcome (0.1) of reducing HWC incidents. For example, in Tanzania project villages, 314 acres of farmland were damaged by elephants during April-September 2025, compared to 872 acres during April-September 2024 (a 64% reduction). This improvement equates to roughly 558 metric tons of maize saved (based on an average yield of 10 bags (100 kg each) per acre), demonstrating how the project is making progress to achieve its outcome (0.3) on improving food security.

In April 2025, WWF-Mozambique provided five villages with 10 HWC kits (rope, reflective tapes, horns, spotlights), and training to support RRTs with assisting farmers to safely prevent crop damage from wildlife. In July, UniLúrio collaborated with communities in Segundo Congresso and Matchedje villages to undertake beehive fence maintenance, including shade instalment,

stake replacement and hive relocation. The hives are now producing honey which is shared amongst community members.

Output 3: Sustainable and conflict resistant livelihood strategies

Activity 3.1: Four agroecology demonstration sites have been successfully maintained in Tanzania at Marumba, Misyaje, Mandela, and the newly established Nambecha. The maintenance of the demonstration sites is periodically supervised by SWISSAID staff, while a gardener manages the day-to-day operations with support from on-duty community facilitators. The farms have a mixture of food and cash crops and successfully demonstrate strategies to deter wildlife including chilli fences, unpalatable crops and pepper-based natural pesticides.

In Mozambique, 13 facilitators (8 women and 5 men) from the Segundo Congresso village were involved in maintenance activities of the ecological agriculture demonstration field, which focused on vegetable crops using organic fertilisers.

Activity 3.2: In Tanzania, the Nambecha agroecology site was established to fast-track activities of eight Farmer Field Schools (FFS), which has enabled new facilitators and farmer groups to resume learning and replication of agroecological practices on their own farms. The demonstration sites have strengthened extension services and accelerated the adoption of agroecological practices among farmers. Continued farmer engagement demonstrates the long-term benefits of the approach, including improved soil health, greater crop resilience, and reduced dependence on external inputs. SWISSAID has also recently provided training on beekeeping to 38 farmer facilitators.

In Mozambique, 17 facilitators (9 women, 8 men) have continued to demonstrate the knowledge learned at previous training sessions at the agroecology plots. Facilitators were provided with ingredients scarce in the area e.g. chilli peppers, which were mixed with other locally available ingredients to produce pesticides. Revenue from the crops was distributed amongst facilitators.

Activity 3.3: In Tanzania, a further 105 households have been reached through the agroecology training, with 68 households replicating techniques, producing vegetables for income generation and household consumption. In Tunduru and Namtumbo, 61 farmers have returned to original farmlands and adopted agroecological techniques reducing further encroachment on natural habitats. During the recent crop season in Mozambique, 5 of the facilitators replicated agroecology training for a further 32 farmers. Total revenue from all crops planted in Mozambique sites is around 36,719 MZN.

Activity 3.4: In August 2025, SWISSAID organised training for farmers (18 female, 24 male), organised into marketing committees, to build capacity on agricultural marketing, market surveys and facilitate direct linkages with buyers for products including sunflowers and chillis.

Output 4: Improved HWC monitoring and reporting systems.

Activity 4.1: In Tanzania, the use of incident report books, alongside increased awareness led by RRTs and village assembly meetings continues to strengthen reporting and documentation of HWC incidents across the six project villages. In Mozambique, WWF coordinated with other partners that are managing HWC in Chipanje Chetu, to produce a HWC monitoring framework. During the C2C meeting in April 2025, representatives from village, district and province level compiled HWC incidents.

Activity 4.2: During the remainder of Year 3, WWF-Tanzania is planning training for local RRTs and Village Executive Officers on digital HWC data collection, which will strengthen existing reporting using HWC incident report books.

Activity 4.3: Communities have continued to use the established HWC reporting framework, including reporting cases directly to village offices and RRTs using incident report books. In addition, a hotline managed by Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA) and district-level RRTs remains active, allowing community members to directly report urgent incidents for rapid

intervention. WWF-Tanzania has recently procured mobile phones which have been customised with HWC reporting tools. In the coming months this will allow HWC data to be captured on a digital system sent directly to a central server to analyse real-time HWC incidents.

In Mozambique, HWC information continues to be recorded through community inspectors, MOMS guardians located in each village and the respective RRT who responds to HWC incidents.

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.

The project team is currently planning for the year 3 household surveys using WWF's wellbeing tool to monitor livelihood changes including food security. To avoid survey fatigue amongst communities we are planning to integrate the household survey questions with the follow-up C2C assessment in Tanzania. In Mozambique, we are also planning to carry out the year 3 household surveys. However, as the initial C2C survey in Mozambique was only recently completed in year 2, we are not planning to carry out a follow-up C2C assessment in year 3, as the timeframe is too short to allow a meaningful comparison. We are currently reviewing the project logframe and will shortly submit a revised version explaining the impact on Outcome 0.5. These changes will not impact the project budget and timetable.

There have been some unexpected delays to national wildlife census data in Mozambique and Tanzania, impacting our ability to assess changes in target wildlife species (elephant and lion), in outcome indicator 0.2. See further detail in section 7.

WWF-Mozambique has encountered some challenges with retaining agroecology facilitators, with seven leaving for alternative paid work. In response, the team have recruited a further four volunteer facilitators and continue to collaborate closely with SWISSAID to learn from their successful approach of the agroecology replication model.

Throughout the project, collaboration with other local partners has been strengthened, with roles and responsibilities on HWC improved. Key lessons have been learned on HWC data management, for example at the recent C2C meeting in Mozambique it was agreed that more regular meetings on HWC data would be coordinated by the Yambone project, which helps ensure long-term sustainability post project.

We are currently undertaking a detailed review and forecast of the year 3 budget, and will shortly submit a Change Request outlining a few staff changes and small adjustment to budget lines.

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

Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes/ No
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/ No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes/ 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 2025 – 30 September 2025)

Actual spend: XXXXXXXXXX

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 2026)?

Yes ☐ No ☒ Estimated underspend: £

4c. If you expect an 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, and not later than 31st December. 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 BCFs management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

Suspensions or allegations related to fraud and error concerns should be reported to fraudanderror@Defra.gov.uk

6. Project risk management

6a. If your project has an Overseas Security and Justice assessment, please provide an update on any related risks, and any special conditions in your award paperwork if relevant for your project.

The project team continues to review and update the project risk register (updated version shared with this report submission). In relation to the Overseas Security and Justice assessment, WWF Mozambique is in regular contact with the provincial and district government authorities of Niassa to track news and updates related to risks. Nationally, the most reliable source of accurate information is the Mozambique Conflict Monitor known as [Cabo Ligado](#), which contains data on specific events related to the insecurity. WWF International has a Risk Management Hub which works with country offices to proactively track and prepare for risks, including by using Seerist to understand how emerging issues could impact fieldwork.

6b. Have any concerns or allegations relating to sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment been reported in the past 6 months?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If yes, please provide further information, ensuring no sensitive data is included within responses.

Suspensions or allegations related to safeguarding concerns should be reported to ODA.Safeguarding@defra.gov.uk

7. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent Annual Report. As a reminder, all projects that were scored as 'Not Yet Sensitive' in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment of their latest Annual Report should demonstrate how they are meeting the minimum GESI-Sensitive standard.

Checklist for submission

Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, and annexe other requested materials as appropriate.	✓
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	✓
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	N/A
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	✓
Submit to BCF-Reports@niras.com	✓
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	✓