



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



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

Half Year Report

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2024

Project reference	31-006
Project title	Equitable Responses to Illegal Wild Meat Hunting in Tsavo, Kenya
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Kenya
Lead Organisation	Zoological Society of London (ZSL)
Partner(s)	Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA), Tsavo Trust (TT), University of Wyoming (UoW), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI)
Project leader	Gurveena Ghataure
Report date and number	HYR1 31 st October 2024
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/kenya-conservation-work Twitter: @ZSLAfrica

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).

Please note this project started on 1st July 2024 following an approved change request and the below progress aligns to the revised workplan.

Output 1 Activity 1.1: Project inception meetings held in Taita Taveta and Mito Andei

The project inception meeting was held on 3rd July, 2024, at the AVID Hotel in Voi, Taita Taveta County, bringing together 41 representatives from key project stakeholders including ZSL, Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA), Tsavo Trust, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Wildlife Research & Training Institute (WRTI), the County Government, NGOs, the National Government, and local community members (**Annex 1.1a- Attendance list**). The meeting brought together stakeholders from two counties in Tsavo (Taita Taveta and Makueni) across which the project will be working. The meeting provided an opportunity for everyone to understand the project's goals, objectives, and planned activities including discussing the sensitive nature of the project and safeguarding considerations. Stakeholders provided insightful feedback, with discussion around community site selection based on the most recent data on wild meat hotspots, food security, understanding cultural heritage, de-snaring efforts, and improving how we track wild meat sales. The meeting sparked a lot of enthusiasm for the project, with a strong focus on collaboration and regular evaluations to measure our progress. Overall, it was a productive kick off that set a solid foundation for the work ahead. (**Annex 1.1b- Project inception Report**)

Activity 1.2: Regular snare patrols with TT to remove threat and provide data on snaring trends and monitoring trends

Over the past three months (July to September), significant progress has been made in targeted law enforcement and de-snaring efforts aimed at reducing snaring in the Tsavo landscape. In collaboration with our partner, Tsavo Trust, these efforts have focused on Tsavo West National Park (TWNP) to better understand trends in snaring and illegal wildlife killings. Patrol teams- Tembo 5, 6, and 9, covered extensive ground: 7,912 km, 9,753 km, and 10,154 km respectively, with each team conducting 92 patrol days over the 3 months. (**Annex 1.2 a- TT data**)

The patrol results have been noteworthy. Tembo 5 recovered 99 snares and 44 kg of Dik-dik bushmeat, including 14 Dik-diks killed using the lamping method. Tembo 9 found 55 snares, while Tembo 6 which patrols the central part of the park where wildlife crimes are less frequent, encountered no active snares. Arrests were also made, with Tembo 5 apprehending 3 bushmeat poachers, and Tembo 9 arresting 1 bushmeat poacher and 2 illegal herders. Tembo 6 made no arrests in the period.

Regular snare patrols remain a core activity, providing critical data on snaring trends and monitoring illegal activities. Monthly de-snaring reports are generated, detailing the number of snares recovered and evidence of illegal wildlife killings. These reports, along with patrol maps (**Annex 1.2 b- Patrol maps & Annex 1.2 c- Snare Map**), offer valuable insights into the areas being patrolled and snaring hotspots. Monthly arrest reports are also compiled, providing data on the number and reasons for arrests although some details remain confidential. (**Annex 1.2 d- Tsavo Trust Monthly Reports**)

Activity 1.3-Activity removed in the log frame following DEFRA feedback regarding sensitivities around strengthening law enforcement; Activity 1.4 -This will commence in Q4

Output 2 *Activity 2.1: Conduct baseline survey to assess levels of harvesting, consumption and sale of wildmeat and their drivers across target communities*

The baseline survey has been drafted and is going through review by our partner, TTWCA to enable delivery in Q3 as per the revised workplan. The development of this survey has taken significant review of the literature on sensitive questioning techniques and consultation with both ZSL and external experts on questions around illegal behaviour to ensure that we can obtain as honest answers as possible whilst protecting respondent identities. As described in our change request, we also received updated information on wildmeat hunting hotspots from our partners, Wildlife Research & Training Institute (WRTI) and Tsavo Trust since the information submitted with the proposal and this led to consultation with 'illegal behaviour' research experts and our partner, TTWCA on how to select the target communities. We agreed to carry out an initial assessment of the key actors and main trade paths through key informant interviews (KIIs) ahead of the baseline survey. These KIIs will help us to understand the key drivers behind wild meat hunting and consumption and key locations enabling us to triangulate with law enforcement data to identify hotspots for community engagement and inform the development of the baseline survey (**Annex 2.1-KII questions**). The project's activities that collect human data were submitted to ZSL's Human Ethics Committee for review to ensure alignment with ZSL's policies, ethical guidelines and safeguarding protocols related to human data collection, as well as ensuring we are upholding to principles from the IUCN ESMS. The survey tools were reviewed and approved as well as FPIC protocol and statement. The grievance mechanism (which is being co-developed with communities and our partner TTWCA) and inclusive stakeholder engagement plan will be submitted next month. The KIIs will be conducted at the start of Q3 as part of the project's inception phase. Both the KIIs and the baseline surveys will be crucial for informing the livelihood development component of the project as well as the behaviour change campaign.

Activity 2.2- Activity pushed to begin in Q3 as per the change request submitted

Activity 2.3 Develop culturally sensitive, targeted messaging to discourage wild meat use, aligned with local values and motivations identified in 2.2, highlighting negative impacts of wild meat.

The delivery of the campaign activity is planned for Y2; however, we have been working on the Terms of Reference for hiring a Behaviour Change Consultant who will design the campaign strategy, implementation and evaluation plan before end of Y1. We hope to have this consultant in place in Q3. The consultant will play a key role in reviewing the baseline survey to ensure we include questions that obtain the data required to develop targeted messaging.

Activity 2.4,2.5 (not in this timeframe)

Activity 2.6 Conduct surveys to measure changes in wild meat use.

This survey is the same as the baseline survey described in activity 2.1 and will be delivered in Q3. The survey is being co-developed with our partners, UoW and TTWCA and will be conducted by all three organisations in wild meat hotspots identified by the KIIs and snaring data.

Output 3 *Following the approved change request, no activities under this Output occur in the reporting period*

Output 4 Activity 4.1 Conduct surveys in key markets to assess the availability and variety of meat products. Record information on species, quantities, prices, and sources of meat

Between July and September, our partner, UoW (through PhD student Douglas Njeri) documented 40 arrests made by KWS for possession of wild meat, including 2 dikdiks, 4 giraffes, 6 impalas, 1 duiker, 1 oryx, 1 kudu, 1 zebra, 1 hare through visual identification and 4 unknown species (currently under investigation through DNA analysis). This data was collected at the point of arrest. Moving forward, additional methods will include visiting butcheries and hotels in hotspot areas, as well as surveying villages where most of the trade occurs.

Most wild meat arrest cases were reported in Voi (55%), with 15% in Wundanyi, 13% each in Mutomo and Taveta, and 5% in Makindu. This data will be combined with snaring data to calculate the catch per unit effort of wild meat hunting in our annual report. (**Annex 4.1**)

Activity 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 (not in this timeframe)

Output 5 *Following the approved change request, no activities under this Output occur in the reporting period*

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.

Over the last six months, the project has encountered several challenges that have impacted its timeline and ultimately required a change request submission in July. The delay in the confirmation of the grant until 9 April 2024, after the original project start date of 1 April 2024, caused an initial setback in recruitment for key roles and project initiation. Additionally, severe flooding in Kenya in April and May restricted the movement of staff and stakeholders to the project site, leading to delays in project planning and the inception meetings.

Furthermore, the process of obtaining research permits to collar wild dogs in Tsavo has taken longer than expected and continues to be a challenge for the project whilst we wait for these to be issued. This will likely impact the activities under Output 5 which are planned to start in Q3 as per the revised workplan. We are looking at an alternative route to obtain the required permits through our partner, UoW who already have research permits for Tsavo and we may be able to add this project as an addition. ZSL's CEO and Director of Conservation are visiting Kenya at the start of November with meetings planned with KWS and WRTI and we hope they can help expedite the process. We will keep NIRAS informed should we foresee a significant further delay that will impact the budget and require a second change request before the end of December.

Another key development was the receipt of updated information on wild meat snaring hotspots from our partners, WRTI and Tsavo Trust. This new data necessitated a re-evaluation of the target communities for the project. As a result, we have planned Key Informant Interviews to identify key actors and trade paths and levels of wild meat hunting and consumption, to help select hotspot communities before conducting the baseline survey. These delays, along with necessary changes to indicators and activities in response to feedback from DEFRA regarding sensitivities around law enforcement, required a revision of the project work plan and budget. This resulted in the project start and end dates being pushed forward by 3 months to 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2027, respectively.

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
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes
Change Request reference if known: CR24-057	

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.

Yes, we received feedback at the award, and questions asked by Defra were addressed via email on 18th March 2024 and on 3rd April 2024 (subject line: RE: Application Ref: DIR30S2\1044) – Refer to Annex 6

In our response, we mentioned that we will be conducting an in-depth Environmental and Social Risk Assessment and will establish grievance mechanisms within our target communities. We are currently in the process of developing these following approval by ZSL's Human Ethics Committee, working closely with our partner TTWCA to co-develop the grievance mechanism with communities. We will share these documents and processes with our annual report.

We also mentioned that ZSL would ensure all relevant safeguarding policies are again communicated to KWS, and we will provide refresher trainings to help ensure they are implemented. Special attention will be given to refreshers on human rights principles, trust building, and conflict de-escalation. This will be achieved by leveraging on ZSL's Darwin C&C grant (Ref: DARCC041 - *Ranger Empowerment: Strengthening Skills in Kenya's Conservation Areas*), which will cover these thematic areas in new modules that will be developed as part of the grant that started in April 2024. We also plan to re-share our safeguarding policy with KWS when we communicate the grievance mechanism process in Q3 with all project stakeholders.

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1st April 2024)

Have you **responded to any additional feedback** (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.

x

If not already submitted, have you attached your **risk register**?

Already submitted

For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1st April 2024)

Have you responded to **feedback from your latest Annual Report Review**? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.

For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project?	
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	