

## 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>	DARCC010
<b>Project title</b>	Building effective and equitable multi-stakeholder mitigation for HWC in Tsavo
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Kenya
<b>Lead partner</b>	Zoological Society of London
<b>Partner(s)</b>	KWS, CAK, URSA
<b>Project leader</b>	Ana Pinto
<b>Report date and number</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/kenya-conservation-work">https://www.zsl.org/conservation/regions/africa/kenya-conservation-work</a> Twitter: @ZSLAfrica

### **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).**

*Please note, this project commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022 and therefore we are reporting on 5 months progress for the specific activities relevant to this timeframe.*

#### **Output 1**

##### Activity 1.1. Hold an inception meeting with KWS to set objectives and plan:

A formal meeting with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), representatives from both communities (Kamungi and Mang'lete) as well as project stakeholders (County government, National government and Tsavo Trust) was held in July to launch the project, organised and facilitated by the ZSL project team. The main objective was to sensitise the project, its timeline, objectives and activities, which ensured all stakeholders were well known to each other. During the meeting, HWC was highlighted as the greatest concern both to the communities and KWS (including conservation partners). It was therefore felt the project is timely and would bring some relief. While lauding the project as timely, the Assistant Director for Tsavo West National Park expressed optimism in the project -helping bring down levels of damages and losses resulting from wildlife related conflicts hence demand for compensation. He emphasised on need for collaboration between stakeholders and explained this is a critical strategic pillar for the agency. He thanked ZSL and the Darwin Initiative for the effort bringing the new project in addition to existing ones both on the community front as well as the species' front. Finally, ZSL affirmed our commitment and dedication to working with all stakeholders on the landscape to make a difference for the communities and wildlife. *(Please see Annex 1, and Annexes 1 a-c)*

A separate inception meeting was held in August with partners Conservation Alliance Kenya (CAK), as new partners to ZSL, who were unable to participate in the initial launch with KWS. Again, the main objective was to review the project's approach, its timeline, objectives, activities and associated budget. Monthly meetings have been established and scheduled with partners CAK as key advisors on the project. Potential avenues for sharing outputs from the project were also discussed at the meeting. Generally, the avenues suggested included meetings, conferences and workshops both nationally, regionally and internationally. Instagram and Tweeter were also pointed out as important engagement platforms. *(Please see Annex 1d)*

Upon discussions with partners CAK, a high-level meeting with heads of departments at KWS HQ and from the Ministry of Tourism & Wildlife was agreed; ideally to socialize the project, increase

visibility of the project's outcomes and enhance the potential of working towards common goals and shared visions was planned for October. The project benefitted from our new partnership with CAK and the partner's connections and advantaged position to liaise with higher level KWS and ministry staff. CAK is an alliance comprised of 66 Kenyan conservation organizations in Kenya with the primary role of streamlining engagement with government on cross cutting conservation issues. They are therefore very well placed to convene meetings with government entities as well as facilitate engagement with other players in the sector that have not traditionally been in the ZSL network.

Activity 1.2. Set up of project processes including FPIC, stakeholder mapping, socialising the feedback mechanisms: The project team has started the process of reviewed existing ZSL FPIC processes, and grievance mechanisms, in order to implement these in the project and also support KWS in the implementation of such processes as part of capacity development. As part of the KWS meeting which will include the capacity assessments in November, the team plan to socialise these processes and engage in further discussions regarding KWS' needs for support. *(Please see Annex 2)*

Activity 1.3 Use IIED SAGE governance tool to understand and assess equity in protected area conservation: The use of the IIED SAGE tool has been discussed and agreed by the project team, based on ZSL's experience in Mozambique. A consultant has been identified in Kenya (by the IIED network), contacted and a draft consultancy agreement is in place. Plans are underway to start engaging with the consultant on the preparation of the SAGE process in October, and delivery of the SAGE assessments being scheduled for December 2022. The SAGE tool's questionnaire has been reviewed by the project team and initial discussions on points to include/exclude, tweak or amend have been held, to align with preparation for activity 1.5 below. This will be reviewed in more detail as part of the preparation phase of SAGE. *(Please see Annex 3)*

Activity 1.5. Conduct a capacity needs assessment to identify knowledge gaps among KWS officers on community centred HWC mitigation: The project team has been reviewing the PA Competency Assessment framework, in order to select specific areas of the framework that are applicable, while also suggesting amendments to the assessment questions in order to align with the Tsavo context. The scoring system has also been reviewed in line with the Tsavo context. There's a pending consultation with the Tsavo West National Park Assistant Director before the competency assessment gets finalised; scheduled for the first week of November. *(Please see Annex 4)*

During the Project launch meeting with KWS and other stakeholders, HWC was identified as the main challenge in Tsavo. KWS highlighted that there was a large number of legitimate compensations claim forms that were rejected due to the concerned stakeholders' limited knowledge on how to complete the compensation form occasioned by recent recruitment, reshuffle and transfers, this has caused a lot of grievances among community members. KWS then made an urgent appeal for the project to support a training for all the officers involved in filling the compensation forms and put in place a coordination mechanism that cuts the cost required to get the forms completed accurately and conveniently. The project team identified this as a priority to support in line with the project outcome, and supported KWS to hold a compensation training workshop for all officers involved in filling different sections on the compensation forms. The training was held at the end of August, highlighting the provisions from the Wildlife Act 2013, as well as the amendments done in 2019. The training highlighted the requirements, existing gaps and bottlenecks in filling the forms within the required timeframe accurately to ensure that forms don't get deferred or rejected. A coordination mechanism was put in place ensuring that the victims of HWC were served conveniently. *(Please see Annex 5)*

**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.**

Kenya presidential election: The project launch timeline coincided with the official presidential election campaign period in Kenya (between June and August), with the elections being held on 9<sup>th</sup> August. This period, including election results' announcements was challenging in terms of engaging with stakeholders, as the HWC issues were emotive and highly politicised. While we had planned to launch the project earlier, we anticipated the impact that the election period would cause delays in setting up meetings with KWS and other stakeholders. The launch was postponed twice before the meeting finally happened in July, however as we approached the election the field team worked from home and no field activities planned for a month as a safeguarding measure. Practically, this has not

delayed our projection for budgeted activities as we anticipate being able to complete all planned activities as per the implementation table for the first 6 months of the project.

Project partners URSA: Since the start of the project, it has transpired that for contracting/agreement purposes and payment of services to project partners URSA (Universal Ranger Support Alliance, who we will be supporting on Output 4 and with technical input and guidance throughout the project), will actually be through their member organisation Re:Wild (due to URSA being the Alliance- therefore an umbrella organisation and not a legal entity for contract/agreement purposes). This was communicated with NIRAS-LTS via email but no formal CR was required. *(Please see Annex 6)*

Budget changes: The project has faced higher costs of fuel and transport than originally budget at project proposal development time, resulting from increasing inflation rates in Kenya. We have reallocated budget from 'Operation costs' budget line 'Fieldwork operating costs (not travel)' (which had considerable savings) towards budget lines affected 'Fieldwork travel and Subsistence', to ensure project activities remain unaffected in Y1 of the project. This was approved by a Change Request submitted in October. *(Please see Annex 7)*

**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: not 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?**

**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**