

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	DARCC012
Project title	Capacity for Natural Capital Accounting for Sustainable Development in Ghana
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Ghana
Lead partner	UNEP-WCMC
Partner(s)	Ghana Statistical Service (GSS)
Project leader	Kiruben Naicker
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	28-10-2022
Project website/blog/social media	

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).

Progress has been made in the last 6 months, as outlined below:

- UNEP-WCMC and GSS signed an agreement to support the continued production and development of NCA in Ghana.
- The first draft of the Stakeholder Analysis and User Needs Assessment has been compiled and shared with relevant stakeholders. It will remain a live document and will be validated at the first stakeholder engagement workshop planned for a time and date to be agreed upon by GSS and in country partners
- Workshop planning has begun and is ongoing. The draft agenda of the stakeholder engagement workshop has been compiled taking into consideration inputs and requests from the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS). Further amendments will be accommodated following requests from the country office and will be finalised in due course
- Q3 advance claim has been submitted and funds have been received in the WCMC account by Q2 FY 2022/3.
- All change requests have been submitted during the FY 2022/3.
- Meeting with World Bank, FAO, and relevant stakeholders in Ghana have been conducted to synergise project deliverables and avoid duplication

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.

Due to changes in the UNEP-WCMC team, the project leader (Sarah Ivory) and the project manager (Katherine Moul) had to be replaced with new members joining the UNEP-WCMC team i.e. Kiruben Naicker and Hashim Zaman respectively. A new project administrator - Ms. Helga Sterckx was also added to the team, along with other experts including Mr. Matt Jones, Mr. John Tayleur, and Mr. Abisha Mapendembe. The outputs, project outcomes, budget and timetable of project activities will however not be impacted by these changes. The changes requested are purely to ensure sufficient capacity in the project team in terms of lessons learned and previous project experiences.

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

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

Change request reference if known: Change Request was under other; Received email on the 04/08 2022, indicating change was acceptable with further requests for curriculum vitas of new staff members which were subsequently submitted.

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?

No. The project is closely managed through internal processes at UNEP-WCMC.

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**