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 2023

Project reference	DARCC015
Project title	Haitian fellowship programme to strengthen sustainable livelihoods for biodiversity conservation
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Haiti
Lead partner	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
Partner(s)	International Institute for Environment and Development
Project leader	Anna Cadiz-Hadeed
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	October 31, 2023 (HYR2)
Project website/blog/social media	https://canari.org/haitian-fellowship/

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).

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your M&E systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

After a delayed start due to reasons outlined in previous project reports, the project has made significant progress over the last 6 months:

Output 1 Capacity building of Haitian CSOs and Fellows
Five Haitian environmental professionals working with local civil society organisations (CSOs) in key biodiversity areas in Haiti were selected to join the fellowship programme after a screening process was undertaken based on the selection process, criteria and terms of reference outlined in the revised Fellowship Terms of Reference. Logistics were put in place for the Fellows' arrival in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) for the first three months of the fellowship programme beginning in early September 2023, including securing visa waivers, insurance coverage, flights, accommodation, etc. Each Fellow signed a Fellowship Agreement and letters confirming their adherence to CANARI's Code of Conduct, to guide their work under the fellowship programme.

A Fellowship Training Curriculum and outline of assignments for each Fellow were developed based on the priority needs identified in baseline Fellow capacity assessments as well as baseline CSO capacity assessments. For the month of September, Fellows completed their introduction and orientation to T&T and CANARI, and capacity building efforts began through training sessions, coaching and mentoring facilitated by CANARI and partner CSOs and SMEs (as these remain in progress, they will be reported on in full at the next reporting period).

Output 3 Knowledge mobilisation and information exchange

During the reporting period, CANARI updated the project communication, engagement and product dissemination strategy. CANARI also began training the Fellows in innovative and participatory Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, including participatory GIS, participatory video, photo-journalling and community mapping. The Fellows began work on their first ICT product (individual GIS StoryMaps) to share their experience and key learnings from their time in T&T. These products will be created in Creole.

The Fellows also received training in effective advocacy for CSOs, including how to develop an advocacy strategy and action plan.

In addition, the Fellows received training in how to write blogs and were given an assignment to develop a blog each. These blogs will be completed and disseminated in the next 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.

The project continued to experience some delays in April and May due to the socio-economic and security crisis in Haiti and the resulting impacts on the project (detailed in the Annual Report Y1). Once the Fellows were finally selected, CANARI spent a significant amount of time on the logistics of bringing the Fellows from Haiti to Trinidad for the first 3 months of the fellowship programme. The utmost priority was ensuring the safety of the Fellows traveling within Haiti to eventually fly out of Port-au-Prince international airport. Some delays were also experienced in securing visa waivers for the 5 Fellows from the Trinidad and Tobago Government as well as flight itineraries for 4 of the 5 Fellows who do not have US visas, requiring them to travel through a very complicated route to get to Trinidad and Tobago. These challenges have altogether meant that the project is roughly 6 months behind on implementation, but still within the overall approved budget. A Change Request will be submitted shortly to outline the proposed changes.

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:	

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)

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 2024)?

Yes ☒ **No** ☐	Estimated underspend:	£▮▮▮▮

4c. 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.

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?

A Change Request will be submitted shortly to request changes to the project timeframe, financial year expenditure (requesting to shift funds from Year 2 to a proposed extension period into a Year 3, April – September 2024) as well as logframe targets.

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response, 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.

All new projects (excluding Darwin Plus Fellowships and IWT Challenge Fund Evidence projects) should submit their Risk Register with this report if they have not already done so.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but should also be raised with NIRAS 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**