



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 2024

Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

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

Project reference	<i>DARCC050</i>
Project title	Strengthening Kilifi county's Beach Management Units Network to improve co-management
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Kenya/EAST AFRICA
Lead Organisation	Oceans Alive Foundation (OA)
Partner(s)	Fauna and Flora (F&F) Kilifi County Directorate of Fisheries Kilifi County Beach Management Unit Network
Project leader	Mr. Lionel D. Murage
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1 (April – September, 2024) 25 th October, 2024
Project website	To be implemented in Q3

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September)

The project inception meeting was held with Kilifi County Beach Management Unit (KC BMU-NW) and the Blue Economy Division of Kilifi County on 11th May 2024 in Vipingo to introduce the broader project and the SAGE assessment (A1.1) as one of the key activities to be conducted. Two initial planning meetings were subsequently held on 27th and 31st May 2024, involving a team made up of SAGE lead facilitator (Fauna & Flora), the convenors (Oceans Alive), County Government Fisheries Department and chairperson of the KC BMU-NW. During the meeting, the SAGE framework was introduced to the team within the context of the broader project. In addition, the preliminary identification of stakeholders to be involved in the assessment was conducted and an initial scheduling of key activities done.

The first stakeholder workshop under the SAGE process was held on 7th June 2024, to introduce the SAGE process and principles, secure consent from the KC BMU-NW to proceed with assessment, select the assessment approach, discuss the role of various actor groups in the assessment exercise, prioritise principles to be assessed and schedule assessment based on availability of the actor groups. The draft stakeholder analysis using the Interest and Influence matrix was presented to the participants and updated based on feedback provided during the meeting.

The **SAGE assessments** were conducted between 10th and 28th June 2024 with the four actor groups (*KC BMU-NW Assembly, KC BMU-NW Executive Committee, Non-State Actors (NGOs), Government Department and Agencies (National and County)*) identified during the stakeholders workshop and involved a total of 39 participants of which ten (10) were women. The data collected during the desk review, consultations and assessment by the actor groups was analysed in July 2024 using the excel based SAGE data entry and analysis tool which calculates the mean scores, generates basic graphs, and compiles all the supporting evidence and ideas for action. **The Synthesis workshop** was conducted on 2nd August 2024, with representative from the four actor groups involved in the SAGE assessment. The objective was to present and validate the results of the assessment.

The SAGE assessment report is being finalized. To further strengthen the report, identification of gaps in governance guidelines, procedures, and training resources are ongoing. Training on structures and processes for KBMU Network operations, which cover aspects of A1.2 to 1.4, has been included in the Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA) Training has been set for early October 2024. Any emerging issues and gaps identified will be incorporated in the SAGE training on effective governance (A1.3) that has been rescheduled to Q3 to maximise the impact of the capacity building.

OCA-related activities commenced in May 2024 with the development of the OCA manual and assessment tools. Staff training on the survey tool was conducted, followed by field data collection and analysis in July. The findings were compiled and reported in August 2024. Based on the OCA findings and recommendations, a training program and design were developed in September and shared with the facilitators. Following their feedback, comprehensive training materials and a full training schedule were created. Training approval and coordination are led by the Kilifi County Division of Blue Economy, with sessions set to begin in October 2024.

Finally, some awareness materials that include a project poster has been produced as well as support to Network meetings and consultations during the reporting period.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt.

During the reporting period, the project has not experienced any major notable problems or unexpected developments that are likely to curtail implementation of the project. However, in the intervening period from when the proposal was submitted to its award, the project proponent (OA) and F&F significantly strengthened their internal capacity specifically in Governance, making it necessary to reallocate the originally budgeted consultancy funds to partially cover the costs associated with engaging this additional staff for the project implementation. As a result, a change request to reallocate funds meant to pay for a consultant was submitted to Darwin Initiative on 8th July, with a formal approval for the change provided on 15th July, 2024.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS?

Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes
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Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes
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Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes
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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 – Reference number not provided, but a copy of the change acceptance email attached to this report.*

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?

None

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report. If your project was subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment please use this space to comment on any changes to international human rights risks, and to address any additional mitigations outlined in your offer letters. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.

Attached as an annex

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.	Annex 2.
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	

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?	None
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	Yes
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	