



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



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	DARCC060
Project title	Strengthening climate change capacity for effective management of Madagascar's PAs
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Madagascar
Lead Organisation	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
Partner(s)	MEDD (Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development), FAPBM (Fondation pour les Aires Protégées et la Biodiversité de Madagascar)
Project leader	ANDRIANANTENAINA Hanitra Nomentsoa
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1 31st October 2024
Project website/blog/social media	

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).

The project was officially launched on 24/05/2024 and named FAMPITAFANA 2 (FAnamafisana ny fahaizamanaon'ny MPITAntana Faritra Arovana (meaning 'strengthening the capacity of Protected Area (PA) managers') following on a previous Darwin funded project focused on building capacity of PA managers. A Project Advisory Committee has been established and is composed of key actors in the PA management and Climate Change in Madagascar. Members of the committee are representatives of Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), the Foundation for Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Madagascar (FAPBM) and Madagascar National Parks (MNP). The first meeting (held on 07/05/2024) provided an opportunity to discuss the main activities to be conducted, and the involvement and roles of the committee members in implementing these activities.

We have reviewed the indicators and assumptions in our logframe and believe at this early stage of the project that they still hold true. We will continue to review these as part of our project management.

<p>The progress made against each output is detailed below:</p> <p>Output 1. Empower PA co-managers to take effective environmental action through improved technical and operational knowledge and skills.</p> <p>1.1. To date, training has been delivered to 19 PA practitioners, including 7 women (37%). The course provided an introduction to climate change (the main concepts, climate risk analysis and ecosystem-based adaptation).</p> <p>1.2. 17/19 trainees stated in the post-training assessment that they had good or excellent competences on all themes covered, and 2 reported having basic competences.</p> <p>1.3. 28 members (including 3 women) of local associations co-managing PAs in the Central and Eastern regions of Madagascar received training on an introduction to climate change (causes and consequences, ecosystem-based adaptation)</p> <p>1.4. 20 new official trainers from different PA management institutions attended an initial training course from 15 to 19 July 2024. The training focused on adult education techniques, the general concept of climate change, climate risk analysis and ecosystem-based adaptation.</p> <p>1.5. Training modules, pedagogical progress sheets and a handbook for new trainers have been developed by the expert climate change consultants recruited.</p> <p>Output 2. Increase uptake of best practice on PA management including climate change adaptation and mitigation measures through peer exchange.</p> <p>2.1. 2 exchange visits were made to the eastern and southern regions of Madagascar. The main themes addressed during these exchange visits were ecosystem-based adaptation, with an overview and guidance on concrete measures employed by local communities such as climate-smart agriculture.</p> <p>2.2. To date, 108 people have participated in the 2 exchange visits organised: 12 were professionals from organisations managing PA and 96 were members of local associations.</p> <p>Output 3. Fund small projects to tackle the impacts of climate change through adaptation or mitigation measures</p> <p>A call for projects was launched on 30/09/2024 inviting PA managers to submit proposals of projects designed to implement climate change adaptation or mitigation measures in their PAs.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>The main problem faced during the first six months of the project was finding female participants, especially from the local communities. We aimed to include at least 30% women in training courses but contacting female association members was challenging. We are reviewing our methods to address this, for example, investing more time identifying where female associations exists to target our communications effectively. We do not anticipate an impact on timetable and budget.</p>	
<p>3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p>	
Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes/ No
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/ No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes/ No
<p>Change Request reference if known: <i>If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome</i></p>	

<p>4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)</p> <p>Actual spend:</p>
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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.

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.

How does the project design build on previous work and how were the interventions identified?

The project was designed to strengthen activities already carried out in 2022-24 as part of a similar project, FAMPITAF 1. It builds on the lessons learned from previous interventions that arose from project evaluations and participant activities. This enabled us to define new objectives and activities, expanding the target groups to align with the actual needs of PA Managers. Therefore, we will continue the capacity-building activities, including training and exchange visits. The following points have been improved and added: targets now include local communities; all training themes are focused on climate change, the biggest challenge faced by PA Managers; projects will be funded to better support the application of knowledge.

Clarify the extent to which the project is focused on responding to climate change challenges vs engaging with collaborative management.

The core objective is to equip local communities and PA managers with the knowledge and skills necessary to integrate climate change considerations into the management of PAs. This includes understanding climate impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services and adapting management practices accordingly. At the same time, the project places significant emphasis on collaborative management, as the participation of local communities and other stakeholders is essential for the long-term sustainability of these efforts. Through training and capacity building, these groups are empowered to work together in addressing climate-related risks, enhancing both the resilience of the ecosystems and the effectiveness of PA management.

It is not clear what the community associations to be supported are, or how training will positively support these associations.

The community associations to be supported are those directly involved in the management of PAs. Associations play a key role in implementing conservation actions at the local level. We must first encourage behaviour change and create an understanding for the importance of alternative management practices. Training on climate change topics aims to strengthen technical and organisational capacities, enabling them to better integrate these issues into PA management and training them in how to disseminate new skills and knowledge. Furthermore, FAMPITAF 2 now includes funding to support a small number of project implementation.

It is not clear that 1% of the budget is sufficient to cover M&E across the various elements of the project.

Two types of evaluations are to be conducted, which are very low cost: pre- and post-training and exchange visit surveys/ questionnaires. Six months after the training an online survey will aim to understand the changes that these capacity-building efforts have brought about at the level of their own and partner organizations. The only additional costs will be for monitoring of the four small, funded projects.

You do not mention diversity in the identification of participants and how you will ensure organisations' nominations are unbiased, fair and transparent.

For the selection of participants, we issued a call for expressions of interest by emailing the current list of managers (~380 individuals), which reflects our target audience. Additionally,

members of the committee were informed and requested to widely disseminate the call, especially within their respective teams, who carefully selected for the training.

Greater clarity would be good on how this project will not repeat past training but be new and additional.

The topics addressed during the previous project were aimed at equipping PA managers with the necessary knowledge for effective management, such as: Leadership and Management skills; Gender equality; Conservation Planning; Assessing PA Management Effectiveness; Fundraising; Concepts and Evaluation of Ecosystem Services Applied to PA Management; Ecological Monitoring; Climate Change: Key Concepts and Integration into Development Planning; Ecological Restoration; Community Engagement and Monitoring of Behaviour Change; Value Chain Approach to Sustainable Management of PA; Law Enforcement in Madagascar PAs; Data Analysis. In contrast, this project focuses on themes that will enable PA managers to integrate climate change into their management tools and help local communities cope with climate change. Among other topics, there are themes such as Climate Risk Analysis, Ecosystem-based Adaptation, Nature-based Solutions etc.

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 ?	
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.	X
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	X
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.	X