

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	DAREX003
Project title	Climate resilience, food and livelihood security for agro-pastoralists in Somalia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Somalia (Somaliland and Puntland)
Lead partner	The Development Fund of Norway
Partner(s)	ADO, HAVOYOCO, KAALO and Amoud University
Project leader	Elin Cecilie Ranum
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR1, 31 October 2022
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.facebook.com/DevelopmentFundNorway/

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 of September).

Development Fund Norway completed the Darwin 24 (25-025) 'Improved seed, food and livelihood security for agro-pastoralists in Somalia project 31 March 2022. This Darwin 28 project was granted 13 April 2022 and in the start-up phase of the new project, DF and partners have conducted the following activities:

- Assessment of needs and intervention scalability at the three existing Community Seed Banks.
- Consultations with central and local government concerning location of 2 new Community Seed Banks. One in Somaliland and one in Puntland.
- Consultations with central government concerning detailed interventions at the National Gene Bank.
- Detailed planning sessions with project implementing partners, including the new partner Amoud University.
- Field visit and technical consultations with DF HO agronomist related to seed varieties, pest control grinding and cleaning machines.
- Contract signed with implementing partners.
- Project launching meeting with government, partners and donors.
- Conducted kick-off meetings with partners and relevant government authorities.
- Revision of the project log frame and overall budget.

- Technical consultation with the HO agronomist to discuss seed varieties, pest control and grinding and cleaning machines.
- Planning implementation of new Seed Security Assessments at the new Community Seed Banks.

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.

DF and partners have spent considerable time in the project design phase to ensure a solid foundation as well as appropriate government and community engagement in programmatic principles and priorities. The project has faced implementation delays in the first 6 months which relate to a number of factors. Firstly, change in government structure and priorities during the ongoing drought in both Somaliland and Puntland has resulted in the delayed selection of location for the 2 new Community Seed Banks. Secondly, the drought has impeded SSA commencement, including participatory varietal testing and selection. Thirdly, beneficiary identification and registration has been delayed as a result of internal displacement of people in search of water and pasture. Lastly, delayed recruitment of key project staff for DF and partners has also resulted in a slow start-up.

Towards the end of the reporting period, DF has been able to ensure new Community Seed Bank locations through extensive engagement with the governments in Somaliland and Puntland and stands ready with partners to commence project implementation as per revised project plans. In view of the details above, DF aims to shortly submit a change request to Darwin Initiative for consideration which highlights all relevant details pertaining to plan and budget revision. DF does not anticipate that said delays will engender any notable problems for implementation of the project's overall objectives.

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: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

Change request reference if 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?
N/A

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**