

## 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: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

<b>Project reference</b>	DAREX004
<b>Project title</b>	Partnering for a biodiverse, prosperous, and resilient Tarangire Ecosystem Landscape
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Tanzania
<b>Lead partner</b>	The Nature Conservancy
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Tanzania People and Wildlife, Istituto Oikos, and Ujamaa Community Resource Team
<b>Project leader</b>	Alphonse Blass Mallya
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	Underdevelopment

**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).**

**Output 1:**

**1.3 Implement science-based project management system for determining the best practices for IRM in the landscape.**

- Project implementing partners continue to implement the three rangelands management approaches: (i) Holistic Planned Rangelands Management (HPRM), ii) Sustainable Rangelands Initiative (SRI), and Community-led interventions for Rangelands Restoration as well as harnessing lessons and adaptively update the IRM Handbook.

**1.5 Establish at least 49 independent community institutions in each participating village and support them with skilled management team to supervise and manage biodiversity conservation activities and IRM plan implementation, and livelihood activities and benefit sharing, building from existing institutions wherever possible.**

- During this reporting period, UCRT introduced the project in 24 new villages (*attachment 1*) bringing the total communities reached so far to 48 and engaged the communities through village general assemblies (VGAs) on the need to either create or strengthen governance institutions at the village level to oversee the implementation of the best practices in rangelands management. The proposal is to restructure grazing/CCROs committees to create the Village Rangelands Management Committee (VRMC) consisting of 11 members, including Ward Livestock Officer, the VLUM chairperson, a traditional leader, and at least five women. The VRMC will assume the role of an independent institution at village level overseeing governance and management of communal grazing resources as well as the soil carbon project at the village level. VRMC will report to the village government. The proposed restructuring was agreed by the VGAs in all 24 villages and the structure will be intrinsic within the HPRM best practices.

**1.6 Conduct at least 49 community and 1 WMA consultations using FPIC principles to discuss the relevance and acceptance of a potential soil carbon activity including honest discussions of potential risks, cost and benefits to local peoples.**

- Community consultations (sensitization phase) considering FPIC on soil carbon and its linkage with IRM were conducted in 26 new villages (8 new villages in Monduli district, 7 new villages in Longido district, and 11 villages in Simanjiro district). Total participation was 1,127 [505 male adults, 176 women adults, 255 youth males and 191 youth females]. Among the participants were village council members and invited representatives from traditional leaders (*Laigwananis*), key influential people, women (especially from the Women Rights and Leadership Forum), youth representatives, and grazing committees' members. Key topics covered were (a) General description of greenhouse gases, their causes and impact on climate change and its contribution to prolonged drought, socio-economic and ecological impacts; (b) Introduction to soil carbon concepts linked to previous partners'

interventions, such as communal land tenure security, rangelands health improvement, and how IRM best practices contribute into increase in soil organic carbon stocks and revitalization of the climate; (c) Introduction and overview of carbon markets and their functionality, i.e., pay for performance, measured impact, how carbon markets work (d) General introduction to the soil carbon project's goals and objectives; (e) Responsibilities of the project, the local communities and benefits to the local communities; (f) National Policy and legal framework governing carbon projects development. Next plan is to conduct the engagement and agreement phases for both groups (1st & 2nd) during the second half of year 2. (Figure 1.6).

### **1.7 Establish a "Herders Under the Tree School (HUTTS)" and conduct trainings of herders in IRM techniques and related grazing practices.**

- 7 HUTTS that were established in year 1 and reached 350 herders are progressing well. UCRT assessed performance and gaps for HUTTS implementation in three communities and conducted practical herding with herders to enforce bunched herding, one of the HPRM best practice. For scaling up, 10 new villages have been identified for HUTTS establishment before year ends. The project team is developing a training program and multiplying HUTTS guides to be delivered to Grazing Coordinators (HUTTS ToTs) during the second half of year 2.

#### **Output 2:**

### **2.1 Scale up the livestock marketing and sales opportunity that adds value for local producers but ties access to market and service opportunities to local conservation and management measures, including rangeland health and wildlife protection.**

- Through a feasibility study in Longido district, 2 new villages were identified and enrolled into the livestock fattening program under traditional fattening model. On the other hand, the project engaged The International Collaborative for Science, Education, and the Environment (ICSEE) to support livestock fattening groups through feedlot fattening scheme in 5 project villages of Monduli district: Mungere, Loosimingori, Lemooti, Selela, and Mbaash. Through the 2 fattening models, pastoralists are exposed to pastoral entrepreneurship to improve diversification for resilience to climate change shock. The feedlot fattening in 5 villages will fatten and destock 150 cows. 80+ livestock keepers will receive trainings on diversification for resilience to climate change shock.

### **2.2 Evaluate and put in place targeted actions for eco-tourism in Lake Natron area.**

- In this reporting period, the leadership and ownership structure of the Women Cultural Boma (WCB) in Engaresero village was overhauled through a meeting which involved 55 participants facilitated by UCRT. Based on this, a new governance model was established, where 30 women formed a steering committee to represent the members of the cultural Boma. This new approach of leadership will ensure transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness of all stakeholders. The new design of the cultural bomas was established which involves cultural and lodges centre. The structures for the cultural boma will be established during the second half of year 2.

### **2.3 Develop and support small enterprises for women and youth that have basic business skills. The target groups will specifically engage in production of bee keeping products (beeswax and honey production).**

- TPW supported the Women's Beekeeping Initiative to participate in the annual *Kilifair* in Arusha, Tanzania, with attendance of 5,000+ people. *Kilifair* is an annual travel & tourism exhibition of over 350 tourism lodges, airlines, restaurants, and local craftspeople and artisans. The participation aimed at empowering women group to advertise their beekeeping products: *Mama Asali* brand honey, beeswax lotion, skincare, lip balm, soap, and candles. The products were displayed and sold to fair participants. Two "Queen Bees" – group leaders – represented the Women's Beekeeping Initiative at the fair. Through the women's beekeeping initiative, 1,844 people (96% women) benefit from membership in a beekeeping group with 398 of them actively participating in a beekeeping value addition training, contributing to the target for indicator 0.8.
- Oikos carried out follow-up of the Marketplace Literacy (MPL) training to Rangelands Guardians (RGs) in project villages. The training aims at leading women and youth groups to be innovative in establishing new business ideas by developing climate smart solutions that solve challenges facing their communities. Through the bottom-up approach, Oikos has capacitated the subsistence pastoralists to think around business ideas related to the livestock markets and livestock value chains in a more strategic way, thus diversifying their income generating activities and increasing the household resilience to climate change shocks. To date, 342 RGs from 12 project villages received the complete MPL knowledge package. The remaining 120 women from remaining villages will receive the training during next half of year 2.

### **2.4 Evaluate, design, and establish a soil carbon activity for communities practicing IRM.**

- TNC finalized the Soil Carbon Project Idea Note (PIN) and submitted for approval and registration to Tanzania's government Vice President's Office – Division for Environment (VPO – DoE). The PIN was approved by the VPO – DoE and the soil carbon project is officially registered within the government's registry: [https://www.ncmc.sua.ac.tz/application-of-projects \(row 23\)](https://www.ncmc.sua.ac.tz/application-of-projects (row 23)). Next move is developing the Project Concept Note (PCN) and submit to the VPO – DoE during the second half of year 2.
- TNC finalized the listing Project Design Document (PDD) and submitted to VERRA, a global carbon registry and verification company for further review to inform next steps such as registration of the soil carbon project. After receiving feedback from VERRA, the team will develop the full PDD and resubmit to VERRA for soil carbon project validation expected by June 2024. The project has drafted a Community Carbon Enterprise (CCE) model that will be integral to 49 Villages Rangelands Management Committees (VRMC), the model will be finalized during the second half of year 2 for deployment in year 3 and 4 during community engagement stage.

**Output 3:**

**3.2 Implement improved grazing actions.**

**3.2.1 Hire, train and equip at least 150 Grazing Coordinators (GC) to support communities in implementing IRM and grazing management plans, support trainings of herders (linked to Output 1 activities to increase capacities of herders and GCs in IRM).**

- The project team conducted a rapid technical assessment by visiting the project villages enrolled into HPG in year 1. The team learned that the pastoralist communities have enforced the wet season grazing plans very well in 23 villages and Randilen WMA covering 350,000+ Ha of communal grazing land, the opening and closing of wet-dry season grazing blocks was satisfactory where the dry season blocks were opened around August and September 2023, a good sign of compliance. UCRT enrolled 7 new villages into HPRM covering additional 150,000+ Ha of priority communal grazing area benefiting over 20,000 pastoralists, a 50% achievement towards this year target, bringing the overall total to over 500,000 Ha under IRM best practices and contributes to achievement of indicator 0.1. During the process, 7 new Grazing Coordination Unit (GCUs) were established in which 21 new grazing coordinators were selected and endorsed by VGAs. The new grazing coordinators will receive a package of trainings and tools to enable them to enforce developed seasonal grazing plans among other IRM best practices.

Below are two community feedback collected during the introduction of HPRM in new villages during first half of year 2:

*"I now understand that climate change is real and that we need to take action by following the planned grazing rotation system we agreed on, where livestock have to relocate to another grazing block to allow regeneration of grasses in preceding blocks, otherwise we will perish." Mr. Kelemu Olekitoo, a traditional leader from Kimokouwa village in Longido district.*

*"I am glad that women are now well represented in the village land governance and management institution, and I feel honored to be one of the selected grazing coordinators in this village. This is an important role that helps our village council to plan and monitor our grazing blocks" Ms. Leah Daniel, GC member Orkejuloongishu village in Longido district.*

- Through TPW's Sustainable Rangelands Initiative (SRI) monthly pasture monitoring is being implemented in 74,600 Ha of critical communal grazing land contributing to indicator 0.1. Pasture monitoring and other SRI interventions are community led and includes rangelands monitors (24, 67% youth) and feedback meeting participants (285, 15% youth, 42% women), 309 people from 12 communities are actively participating and benefit from improved rangeland management (44% youth, 14% women), contributing to the target for indicator 0.6.

**3.2.2 Grazing management learning exchange trip to Kenya for PMU staff and at least 20 community grazing coordinators.**

- Planned during the next half of year 2.

**3.3 Plan and implement landscape restoration actions, with a focus on recruitment of women participants.**

- In this reporting period, TNC led community engagement in Kitiangare (40 members including 26 women), Selela (30 members), Lemooti (30 members) and Randilen WMA (40 members) to implement mechanical uprooting of 95 hectares and 285 hectares of invasive plant species *Ipomea hildebrandtii* and *Dichrostachys cinerea* respectively. To date, our interventions is deterring further spread of invasive plants species in 109,060 hectares of priority communal grazing areas in Simanjiro and Monduli districts. Training on invasive plant species control focus mainly on early detection and rapid responses and on efficient mechanical uprooting methods which consider specific plants regeneration

mechanisms. Early trainings have been done in 4 new villages in Longido district implementing HPRM (Engikaret, Ranch, Lesingita and Kiserian), involving 310 individuals (figure 3.3 a through d).

- Oikos continued to support implementation of rangelands restoration work on 172 hectares in the 13 project villages, through Women Rangeland Guardians (WRGs)., 4 out of the 13 villages decided to allocate multiple restoration sites to allow women from sub-villages to work near their homes. 2 WRGs from Sepeko ward and all 4 villages of Engaruka ward have developed their group constitution, which will be registered at the district level during the second half of year 2. 10 participants from new project villages of Arkatani, Mti mmoja, and Arkaria participated in a learning visit on rangeland restoration to experienced villages of Makuyuni and Naitolia. 45 Resource Assessors (RAs) from project villages were trained and equipped (each with 1 smartphone, uniform, 2 wooden sticks with marks, and boots) to enable them monitor rangeland health (Figure 3.3).
- TPW Invasive species control contributed to deterrence of invasive species spread in an area covering 35,000+ Ha of communal grazing area of Ngoley and Mwada villages. Willing community members received training and equipment needed to mechanically uproot an invasive shrub species *Pluchea odorata* which is preventing growth of palatable pasture and rapidly spreading to neighboring priority wildlife dispersal and breeding areas.
- Two Tree Nurseries which were established in Monduli and Simanjiro districts (with 14,400 native tree seedlings distributed and planted in 11 project villages with more degraded rangelands), were supported in completing their infrastructure improvement as well as enabling condition for strengthening women and youth groups entrepreneurship skills for sustainability. The plan is to hand over the two nurseries to women groups under supervision of the 2 districts councils department of natural resources and continue building financial management capacity of the two groups towards the end of the project. At least 15,000 native tree seedlings are underway for distribution during rainy season in the second half of year 2.
- During this reporting period, 6 established pasture demonstration plots were assessed and drew lessons to adaptively manage and scale up. For the villages whose demonstration plots didn't perform better the team investigated challenges leading to poor performance. The main cause was un-even rainfall patterns on the landscape in year 1. The on-site practical learning to pastoral communities involved training on perennial grass seeds harvesting and storage (Figure 3.3 bullet 4). The reseeded of grass seeds in selected degraded areas in project villages will be integrated with other HPRM best practices including Herders Under The Tree Schools (HUTTS)— a vehicle that will integrate seasonal planned grazing, bunched herding, and reseeded of degraded (bareground) areas on the landscape.

### 3.5 Conduct field survey campaign

- During this reporting period, the baseline socio-economic report was finalized, and two manuscripts drafted out of the report for publication. The two manuscripts are being reviewed internally with plans to submit for publication during the second half of year 2.
- Soil samples were collected and composited at the plot level from 247 random plots across 36 clusters on the project intervention area. 245 topsoil (0-20 cm) samples and 212 subsoil (20-50cm) samples were collected. In addition to top/sub soil samples standard, over 600 cumulative mass samples and 100 bulk density soil samples were collected. The samples were transferred to the ICRAF HQ laboratory in Nairobi for further analysis specifically to establish the baseline soil organic carbon (SOC) stock across the landscape where the soil carbon project is being established. We are expecting the preliminary findings of the analysis by end of January 2024. (Figure 3.5)
- During soil sampling survey, data on types and distribution of desirable native grass species were identified per district. This is critical to inform on establishment of pasture demonstration plots and reseeded exercise to avoid introduction of non-native grass species in the process.

### 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 submitted change request on some of the project indicators in the logframe, which was approved. The change request was mostly based on the lesson learned that the impact and deliverables could be much higher than initially anticipated. The changes will not affect the project's budget.

### 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: not known, e-mail confirmation received Oct 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2023.	

### 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?

None

**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](mailto: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**