



Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects

Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus

Submission Deadline: 31st October 2024

Half Year Report

Project reference	DAREX004
Project title	Partnering for a biodiverse, prosperous, and resilient Tarangire Ecosystem Landscape
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Tanzania
Lead Organisation	The Nature Conservancy
Partner(s)	Tanzania People and Wildlife, Istituto Oikos, and Ujamaa Community Resource Team
Project leader	<i>Alphonse Blass Mallya</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>31st October 2024, HYR3</i>
Project website/blog/social media	<i>Implementing partner use of their website and social media handles tagging BCF</i>

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).

Output 1:

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

Project partners continue to implement the three rangeland management approaches: Holistic Planned Rangeland Management (HPRM), Sustainable Rangelands Initiative (SRI), and Community-led Interventions for Rangeland Restoration. They are also updating the Integrated Rangeland Management (IRM) Handbook. During joint field visits in May and August 2024, partners shared practical lessons and brainstormed ways to enhance their approaches while delivering activities 1.9, 3.1, and 3.3 as outlined in the project log frame. The need for standardized monitoring variables for rangeland health was identified, and partners agreed to develop a common method to quantify changes in rangeland condition over time. These standard metrics will be incorporated into the integrated rangeland health monitoring methodology for the next project reporting period (see Figure 1.3).

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, costs, and benefits to local peoples.

In this reporting period, the TNC and UCRT team conducted a soil carbon project co-design workshop with 46 participating communities (4 communities requested more time to discuss) in the three project districts: Monduli, Longido and Simanjiro involving 1,650 community representatives (represented by the following groups: elders/village leaders, women, and youth). The co-design workshop allows communities to discuss soil carbon project design elements to understand existing practices and to elicit feedback and input into key project design elements ([Annex 1.6](#)). The collected information and data are being used for developing the Project Design Document (PDD) for validation of the soil carbon project.

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.

11 new traditional livestock fattening groups were established in 5 project villages aimed to boosting livelihoods activities and ensuring livestock keeping is more diversified to counter climate change shock. 213 members (54 female and 159 male) from 11 groups have received intensive training in livestock fattening principles and entrepreneurship. This enabled members to participate in developing group business plans, formulating governing constitutions, and record keeping. The 11 groups are now officially registered at the district level and have opened bank accounts to facilitate groups transactions resulting from seasonal sales of fattened livestock. In jumpstarting 11 new livestock fattening operations, each group member contributed at least 2 cattle or shoats for fattening. Total number of livestock that have been introduced into traditional fattening after group establishment are: 80 shoats and 25 cattle for the 4 groups in Longido district, 80 shoats and 20 cattle for the 4 groups in Monduli district and 33 shoats and 20 cattle for 2 groups in Simanjiro district (Annex 2.1). Next plan is to integrate pasture demonstration plot with small-scale feedlots and traditional fattening groups.

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

Two rest houses are 60% towards completion in Engaresero village, with roofing and electrical wiring recently completed (see Figure 2.2). These facilities aim to promote eco-tourism and set standards for rest houses in the area. This initiative seeks to boost women's income in Lake Natron, with plans to create four to six rest houses. UCRT and the Pastoral Women's Council (PWC) are collaborating on plans to support women's cultural Bomas and develop a vibrant and diverse tourism accommodation.

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).

During this reporting period, TPW continued support to the Women's Beekeeping Initiative, with Queen Bees (women members) in six villages (Lemooti, Lengolwa, Mswakini Chini, Mswakini Juu, Naitolia, and Oldonyo) monitoring 224 hives. Remarkably, 98% of these hives are in good condition and 85% are colonized by bees. Additionally, 29 out of 109 women's groups harvested honey from 733 hives, producing over 3,500kg of crude honey in total (valued at \$ 7000+). In September 2024, leaders from women's groups in the six villages attended a training on leadership and conflict resolution, involving 125 people (97% female). The purpose of this training was to strengthen the leadership capacity of the women's group leaders and enhance their ability to manage conflicts within their groups. Through Oikos, 82 women from Mswakini, Lolkisale, and Naitolia received refresher training in Marketplace Literacy and Community Conservation Microfinance Groups (CCMGs), raising the total number of women trained in Marketplace Literacy and CCMGs to 536. Approximately 60% of beneficiaries started new businesses or improved existing ones by addressing customer needs. Additionally, several Rangeland Guardian (RG) groups began small-scale joint businesses, such as chicken and goat husbandry targeting improved income and nutrition at the household level. In total, 295 RGs and Resource Assessors (Ras) received CCMG training, gaining skills in saving and lending, which allowed them to start collecting shares during their weekly meetings (see Annex 2.3).

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

Soil Carbon Project Concept Note (PCN) has been approved and registered by Tanzania's government Vice President's Office – Division for Environment (VPO – DoE) (<https://www.ncmc.sua.ac.tz/application-of-projects> (row 23)). This was followed by the NCMC issuing of the Letter of No Objection endorsing the project establishment (Annex 2.4). Drafting of the Project Design Document (PDD) is in progress with the plan to submit it to VERRA, a global carbon registry and verification institute for review, during the next project period.

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).

Project partners have enhanced grazing activities by establishing Integrated Rangeland Management (IRM) in 7 new villages in the Monduli and Longido districts, covering 49,470 hectares. This contributes to indicator 0.1. Village Councils in the same villages have selected 21 Grazing Coordinators (GCs)-3 per village who will continue to receive training and tools to enforce seasonal grazing plans. Additionally, TPW continues to support monthly pasture monitoring over 74,600 hectares of communal grazing land, also contributing to indicator 0.1 whereas Oikos has trained 100 Rangeland Assessors (RAs) to collect rangeland monitoring data across 16 villages (see Annex 3.2).

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

In continuing rangeland restoration efforts, 980 hectares infested with invasive species have been cleared—182 Ha by TNC, 178 Ha by Oikos, and 620 Ha by TPW. TNC has trained 1,300 participants,

primarily women (70%), from 12 new villages across three districts in Early Detection and Rapid Response (ED-RR) to control invasive species and minimize bush encroachment. Additionally, result from the assessment of 11 pasture demonstration plots shows a 73% success rate where 8 out of 11 pasture demonstration plots performed very well, this will inform future management strategies. Oikos facilitated learning visits for community representatives involving 60 RG members on landscape restoration. These interventions are safeguarding 120,000 Ha of degraded priority communal grazing areas in the Simanjiro, Monduli, and Longido districts (Annex 3.3).

3.5 Conduct a field survey campaign.

The project team has submitted the paper “Balancing pastoral livelihood and biodiversity conservation in the Tarangire-Manyara Ecosystem” to Elsevier- Science Direct: Rangelands journal. The team received and addressed reviewers' comments (Phase I) and waiting for approval or a second round of comments.

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.

None.

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: *If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome*

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 ☐

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?

No issues.

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.

Addressing comments from the Yr 2 Annual Report

1. *'Carbon Cowboys'* issue: The Central Government has resolved the Carbon Cowboys issue by ordering them to stop signing contracts and making upfront payments to communities without adhering to FPIC guidelines, as doing so violates carbon trading regulations. District and Regional Authorities were also reminded to ensure that carbon project developers comply with the necessary procedures. The government will closely monitor these authorities to ensure adherence.
2. *Government's proposal on establishing game reserves in the communally owned grazing areas.* The government has pulled back this move stating it will no longer establish game reserves in communal grazing areas, as mentioned during a parliamentary session in June 2024 by the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism.

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1 st 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.	
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	
For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1 st 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.	Feedback from the latest ARR added in section 6
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	Noted
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	Noted
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	No any confidential information
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.	Not included