

## 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 2022**

<b>Project reference</b>	DPLUS171
<b>Project title</b>	Conservation and awareness raising of the rare and endangered flora of the Red Flora Book of Cyprus and their pollinators, within the Sovereign Base Areas (SBA) of Akrotiri, Cyprus
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	SBA Akrotiri, Cyprus
<b>Lead partner</b>	Enalia Physis Environmental Research Centre
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Joint Services Health Unit, RAF Akrotiri, UK Centre of Ecology and Hydrology
<b>Project leader</b>	Kelly Martinou
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	N/A

**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 September).**

- (1) Establish a baseline of the distribution, population, reproduction biology and threats for each target plant

A baseline of the distribution, population and reproduction biology was undertaken prior the beginning of the fieldwork. The general information was gathered mainly through the literature review. Also, the flowering and seeding seasons of each plant were established on excel forms in order to organise the fieldwork activities.

- (2) Distribution maps of target plants

On site visits were undertaken in order to find the locations of the target plants and record geolocation. During May – September 2022, I have managed to map the distribution of 9 plants in the SBA of Akrotiri (*Cladium mariscus*, *Linum maritimum*, *Silene kotschyj*, *Salvia dominica*, *Mentha aquatic*, *Euphorbia hirsute*, *Taraxacum aphrogenes*, *Lotus cytisoides*, *Convolvulus lineatus*). Three of them (*Taraxacum aphrogenes*, *Lotus cytisoides*, *Convolvulus lineatus*) will be mapped again during 2023 in order to cover their distribution through all the area of Akrotiri.

- (3) Study the diversity of pollinators of each flora species

The pollinator activity was recorded for 9 plants during the flowering season (*Cladium mariscus*, *Linum maritimum*, *Silene kotschyj*, *Salvia dominica*, *Mentha aquatic*, *Euphorbia hirsute*, *Taraxacum aphrogenes*, *Lotus cytisoides*, *Convolvulus lineatus*) using camera and took pictures of them. Some pollinators and visitors of the target plants were identified.

- (4) Collection of genetic material of target plants to be stored in appropriate banks

I have managed to collect of genetic material from 8 plants during the seeding season (*Cladium mariscus*, *Linum maritimum*, *Silene kotschyi*, *Salvia dominica*, *Mentha aquatic*, *Euphorbia hirsute*, *Taraxacum aphrogenes*, *Convolvulus lineatus*). The Department of Forests is aware regarding this task.

- (5) Propose wider conservation measures and promote awareness of the significant flora species

The publication of photos of several plants with their pollinators was uploaded in social media during this period, in order to promote the project and raise the awareness regarding the importance of conservation of the significant flora species. During June 2022 a UKCEH visit by Dr Marc Botham was undertaken in order to design the study and plan dissemination events. The process of the project will be presented in a conference on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022, while on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 a conference will be held where we will discuss the importance of the project, exchange knowledge and discuss the next steps with several stakeholders.

- (6) Prepare seedlings of the target plants to offer to the public and organizations during the dissemination

The seeds from the 8 plants stated above were planted in pots to be given to the public during the dissemination event on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023. This task was done in collaboration with the Department of Forests.

**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-LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: Yes/No

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/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?**

None

**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](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**