



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 2025

Please note all projects that were active before 1st October 2025 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Project reference	IWTEV022
Project title	Project Minerva: Establishing Malaysia's Baseline of Wildlife Crime Court Cases
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Malaysia
Lead Organisation	Justice for Wildlife Malaysia
Partner(s)	Malaysian Judiciary, Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (Perhilitan), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD)
Project Leader	Hazeeq Syahme bin Mohd Afzan
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	Website: www.justicewildlifemy.com Twitter: @jwmys Instagram: @jwildlifemy

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).

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

This reporting corresponds to the first six months of the second year of the project period (1st April 2025 – 30th September 2025).

On 17th May 2025, JWM co-organised a Social Media Workshop on Illegal Wildlife Trade with Macaranga Media, an independent media company focused on covering environmental and sustainability issues in Malaysia. This one-day workshop aimed to target interested journalists, content creators, influencers and non-governmental organisations to help them learn how to cover or create content on illegal wildlife trade issues. 15 participants from various backgrounds attended the workshop (**refer to photo 5 in Annex**).

There has been progress on the peer-reviewed publication of the baseline assessment (**Indicator 3.3**). A collective decision was made to keep the prosecution data from the three main regions (Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Sabah) separated due to the differences such as the type of wildlife / wildlife parts, type of offences under each particular legislation and severity of punishment. While the prosecution data for Peninsular Malaysia has gone through multiple rounds of analysis and review [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] All three databases from the three regions have been cleaned up by the Data Analyst.

As part of JWM's relationship-building effort with Sabah Parks, a capacity-building workshop focusing on investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime was held from 20th May 2025 to 23rd May 2025 at The Palace Hotel and Kota Kinabalu Court Complex, Sabah. A total of 20 participants consisting of 18 Sabah Parks rangers / enforcement officers and two from Sabah Wildlife Department attended the workshop (**refer to photo 4 in Annex**).

From the workshop we found that the majority of Sabah Park's cases are civil cases. This posed a unique problem as the type of data that this project is tracking is prosecution data (criminal in nature). When raised and discussed during the weekly team catchup on 29th September 2025, it was mutually agreed between the team that civil cases from Sabah Parks will not be tracked due to lack of manpower and experience dealing with the civil cases.

From 1st August 2025 to 3rd August 2025, JWM assisted Perhilitan with the coordination of the *Program Pemuliharaan Hidupan Liar Bersama Badan Kehakiman Semenanjung Malaysia* (translated into Wildlife Conservation Program with the Peninsular Malaysia Judiciary) at the National Wildlife Rescue Centre (NWRC) and Sungkai Wildlife Conservation Centre (PKHL), Perak. A total of 32 participants attended the workshop, consisting of judges, deputy public prosecutors and enforcement officers. This workshop was sought to spread awareness on issues related to wildlife crime and well-being as well as create opportunities for all the participants to talk to each other (**refer to photo 3 in Annex**).

Case tracking

In Sabah, the case tracking work has been progressing slowly due to the low number of cases charged in court [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] As of 30th September 2025, we are tracking a total of **55 cases** in Sabah, including the past cases received from SWD and SP.

Similarly, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] despite having a more stable number of cases tracked. As of 30th September 2025, we are tracking a total of **35 cases** in Sarawak, including the past cases received from SFC.

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.

Internal Restructuring

Since 17th July 2025, the organisation has been undergoing an internal restructuring with the support of a third-party consultant, JalinCo Asia, through corporate and leadership training (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/jalinco-asia>). This change was put into motion due to the growing number of JWM team members, which could result in the unequal distribution of responsibilities/delegation of tasks further in the future. JWM went from a more horizontal organisational structure to a more conventional one. Some JWM team member were also elevated to take on leadership roles within their respective departments. Not only was there a restructuring, but the job descriptions of all the team leads, and team members were also amended to standardise and formalise the way JWM has been operating.

These changes will not significantly deviate from our logframe activities.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS:	No
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	No
Change Request reference if known: -	

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)

Actual spend: [REDACTED]

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 2026)?

Yes No Estimated underspend: -

4c. If you expect an 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, and not later than 31st December. 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 BCFs management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

Suspicions or allegations related to fraud and error concerns should be reported to fraudanderror@Defra.gov.uk

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6. Project risk management

6a. If your project has an Overseas Security and Justice assessment, please provide an update on any related risks, and any special conditions in your award paperwork if relevant for your project.

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7. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent Annual Report. As a reminder, all projects that were scored as 'Not Yet Sensitive' in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment of their latest Annual Report should demonstrate how they are meeting the minimum GESI-Sensitive standard.

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The outline and topics covered during the training is as follows:

1. Understanding PSEAH
 - a. What is Sexual Exploitation, Abuse & Harassment
 - b. Key concepts: consent, power dynamics, safeguarding vs protection
 - c. What does a survivor-centred approach look like?
 - d. Overview of international standards (UN, OECD-DAC)
2. JWM's PSEAH Policy and Procedures
 - a. What does the policy say? What are JWM's reporting mechanism on PSEA? Overview of commitments, definitions, and scopes (including responsibility to beneficiaries)
 - b. Staff responsibilities and reporting obligations
 - c. Overview of Code of Conduct
3. Interactive Case Studies
 - a. Break into small groups to analyse fictional case studies:
 - i. Identify red flags
 - ii. Duty to report and referral pathways
 - iii. Survivor-centred response
4. Building Safe Culture
 - a. How to we integrate PSEAH in day-to-day work?
 - b. Mitigating power imbalances in programming and partner relationships
 - c. Psychological safety and staff wellbeing
5. Reporting & Whistleblowing
 - a. Internal vs External Reporting Channels
 - b. How to respond to disclosures
 - c. Ensuring Confidentiality, Protection from Retaliation
6. Accountability & Next Steps
 - a. Risk Assessment Tools for Projects
 - b. Integration in M&E and Partner Due Diligence
 - c. Capacity Needs and Resources
7. Closing Circle
 - a. Reflections, Key Takeaways
 - b. Feedback

c. Final Remarks