



Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus

Half Year Report

Project reference	IWTEX005
Project title	Strengthening Indonesia's capacity to reduce illegal shark fisheries and trade
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead Organisation	Cefas
Partner(s)	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), National Research and Innovation Agency (NRIA), Rekam
Project Leader	Joanna Murray
Report date and number	31/10/2025 HYRP1
Project website/blog/social media	LinkedIn – Cefas, Fisheries Resource Center of Indonesia (FRCI), Joanna Murray, Andhika Prima Prasetyo. Website: FRCI Kegiatan Home - Cefas (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science) Blog - https://marinescience.blog.gov.uk

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).

Increased institutional co-ordination: Recommendations on enhanced species-specific data collection, capacity building for enumerators, and the development of Non-Detriment Findings (NDFs) and catch quotas for CITES-listed species [identified during the national workshop (Jan 2025)] were formally presented to the Directorate of Species and Genetic Conservation – Directorate General of Marine Management, NRIA, and relevant authorities in April 2025. Implementation of these recommendations was advanced through technical and coordination meetings including three shark stock assessment meetings (Jun, Aug, Sept) involving the Directorate of Species and Genetic Conservation, Directorate of Fish Resources Management – Directorate General of Capture Fisheries, National Stock Assessment Committee, NRIA, universities, and NGOs. Outputs included consolidated data, identification of priority species (giant guitarfish, hammerhead shark, silky shark), and initial analyses for stock assessments. A technical coordination meeting between the Directorate of Species and Genetic Conservation (Indonesian MA CITES for fish) and the Directorate General of Surveillance of Marine and Fisheries Resources resulted in a trade monitoring workshop (16 Sept 2025) attended by over 600 fisheries inspectors, reinforcing inter-agency enforcement collaboration. Further cross-agency NDF development meetings (Jul–Oct 2025) facilitated consolidation of data for giant guitarfish NDF and catch quota, with silky and hammerheads proposed for subsequent assessment. Complementary activities included an initial stock assessment training (Aug 2025) with 15 participants from universities, NRIA, and Directorate of Fish Resources Management, preparatory coordination for CITES CoP20 (Aug 2025) and IOTC compliance reporting (Jun–Sept 2025). Finally, an online national workshop on surveillance and law enforcement (Sept 2025) reached over 900 fisheries inspectors nationwide. Organized by the Directorate General of Surveillance with keynote speakers from the Directorate of Species and Genetic Conservation, the event strengthened cross-agency understanding of CITES regulations, surveillance protocols, and sanctions related to illegal marine species trade.

Increased institutional co-ordination: By May 2025, 20 expert trainers (12 men, 8 women) from MMAF, NRIA, and universities had completed updated CITES species identification training and a 1-day DNA sampling course. Complementing this, a national webinar on DNA barcoding (May 2025) introduced molecular identification tools to 146 participants from universities, NRIA, MMAF, and the private sector, improving understanding of molecular-based trade monitoring approaches. The Advanced Shark ID Training scheduled for 20–24 Oct 2025 in Lombok for 20 participants from MMAF technical units (BPSPL), will integrate DNA sampling techniques led by Dr. Andhika Prastesyo (NRIA shark DNA expert), and whole body and fin visual identification led by Dr. Rima Jabado. Preparatory activities included coordination between the MMAF Training Centre and the Directorate of Species and Genetic Conservation to formalize two standardized curricula (beginner and advanced), which will enable trained staff to serve as mentors for future sessions. Training materials, including translating [existing CITES identification guides](#) for both whole body and dried products, were translated into Bahasa to enhance accessibility and application. Finally, an initial identification training workshop was conducted in Aug 2025 at Pati Fishing Port, training 48 enumerators in species identification of CITES-listed sharks, delivered by trainers from IWT057.

Engagement with the private sector: Preparatory work for a pre/post impact assessment survey (to be conducted in January 2028) was completed, including the Terms of Reference and draft questionnaire, targeting fishers, processors, domestic traders, and exporters across key sites in Central Java (Pati, Rembang, Tegal, Batang, Cilacap), Jakarta, Semarang, and Surabaya. To operationalize this, two coordination meetings were held with private sector stakeholders, one in Jakarta (Jul 2025) attended by 83 licensed traders, and one in Semarang (Aug 2025) attended by 20 traders. Supported by BPSPL, these sessions brought together government representatives (MMAF, Directorate of Species and Genetic Conservation) and traders to discuss quota assessment, permit compliance, and the establishment of a Central Java traders' group, fostering shared accountability for legal and sustainable trade practices. To support compliance with trade management systems, a national quota evaluation workshop was held in Surabaya (20–21 Aug 2025) with 27 participants from the Directorate of Species and Genetic Conservation, BPSPL, and partners. The meeting reviewed the 2024 trade quota performance and discussed the 2026 proposed quotas for 34 CITES-listed species. Measurable enforcement impact has been made in terms of reducing illegal trade. Analysis of 2024 case data from the Directorate General of Surveillance and the Supreme Court's Case Tracking System showed three shark fin smuggling cases (Lampung, North Jakarta, Central Sulawesi), with two successfully prosecuted. As of 2025, no new cases of illegal shark trade have been processed.

Local fisheries management: In June 2025, a coordination meeting with 15 staff from Directorate of Fish Resources Management and Directorate of Fishing Port under Directorate General of Capture Fisheries produced actionable recommendations for standardised data collection, including: developing pocket identification guides using real species photos, updating national identification protocols, enhancing the national catch database and mobile app to include species photos and length data, and introducing quarterly evaluations of data officers to improve data reliability and professionalism. There was continued engagement with four shark-fishing communities in Central Java (Batang, Tegal, Pati, and Cilacap), representing both ray bycatch and targeted shark fisheries. The bycatch reduction program engaged 42 skippers from Batang (20), Rembang (12), Tegal (8), and Pati (4) fishing ports. Together, these skippers reported catch of 673 wedgefish and giant guitarfish, with 53% of the smaller individuals released, demonstrating measurable adoption of voluntary release practices. Recruitment of additional skippers is ongoing to scale participation across more regions. Progress of work with tuna fishing companies on bycatch reduction included a logbook and vessel data review (July–Sept 2025) from 98 vessels operating in the Indian Ocean, covering six major ports (Cilacap, Dobo, Masami, Nizam Zachman–Jakarta, Palabuhanratu, and Benoa). The review informed Indonesia's IOTC compliance reporting and identified 15 private tuna fishing companies for upcoming perception studies on bycatch reduction practices.

Finally, all [PhD scholarships](#) have been filled and are underway.

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.

N.A

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: N/A	

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.

1. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCFs management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

NA

2. 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.

OSJA assessed by the Defra team, so no action required from the project team.

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.

Provide an outline of bespoke training topics covered along with confirmation of staff who attended the training. Information on training topics including DNA techniques for trade monitoring, whole body and product (fin) visual identification is provided in section 1. Further detail on the national curriculum will be provided in the annual report.

Please further clarify on whether the project will be working at the national or international level and whether domestic harvest and trade is considered illegal at the Indonesia border.

Our project fundamentally operates at the national level with the primary aim of strengthening Indonesia's capacity to comply with international treaties such as the CITES and the IOTC. Domestic harvest and trade are not considered illegal at the Indonesia border if they comply with national regulations (e.g. not species which are nationally protected or beyond quota) and international obligations (e.g. not species with non-retention bans). The project supports the Indonesian government in aligning domestic regulations with global standards to ensure sustainable and legal trade.

Please consider if the timeframe for completion of the domestic consumption

component is feasible; Increased understanding about domestic consumption of shark meat will be addressed through the PhD scholarships (Livelihoods and Tools). Domestic consumption is dynamic, changing over time and across different regions of Indonesia. However, we believe through dedicated field research we can gain a good understanding of what species are being utilised, who is involved in processing the product, and to what level the case study communities rely on it.

The risk framework appears to identify more internal/reputational risks, it may be useful for the project to consider some implementation specific risks: The risk register is continually reviewed and updated to reflect specific implementation risk now the project is underway. One recent example is the violent demonstrations that were taking place across Indonesia in recent months which were being reviewed in relation to the implementation of project activities.

it would be useful to demonstrate how you have engaged with other organisations in this work: Within Indonesia we engage with other organisations through project activities. For example, at the National workshop in January 2025 representatives across many government ministries and directorates, universities and NGOs were invited to identify key recommendations in shark and ray fisheries and trade management. Internationally we are supporting Indonesia in the running of a side event on CITES implementation for marine species at CITES CoP20, exploring how the PhD candidates can share their research at IOTC working group meetings, and hosting a panel at Sharks International 2026 to showcase work being done within our project and its global relevance to shark conservation.

please consider using existing tools that are available i.e. existing CITES shark

identification tools; Existing tools form the basis of visual identification training, both internationally available CITES guides (see project progress above) and existing material produced by Indonesia. Dr Rima Jabado, author of the CITES ID guides will deliver training on their use to Indonesian technical staff in Lombok in October 2025.

the logframe should be strengthened: there appears to be a tendency to link indicators which has the potential to result in a lack of specificity i.e. indicator 1.2 highlights recommendations will be actioned in bi-annual meetings in years two, three, and four - while these recommendations will be informed by indicator 1.1 some further detail would be useful here; o some indicators need to be simplified, as some indicators are process based or currently measuring multiple things (i.e. indicator 0.2); Thank you for providing this feedback regarding the specificity of the indicators. We are reviewing the appropriateness of all indicators and will provide an updated log framework ahead of the next annual report.

it would be useful to consider if the targets for 50:50 male/female participation is appropriate for the context. Given the baselines have a much higher % of male attendees it may be useful to reflect on targets within the context and how the project is considering GESI within its design: Within the current log framework we consider the context for our male/female participation in activities. Where we have a baseline from previous engagement, and we understand that due to the context the gender balance is not equal (e.g.

3.4. training enforcement staff – baseline M89%: F11%) we aim to ‘improve on this baseline where possible’. Where we do not have a baseline from previous work and are undertaking household surveys (4.3), we aim to interview 50:50 males/females within households, where possible. We will continue to review the appropriateness of these targets as the research progresses.

Checklist for submission

Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, and annex other requested materials as appropriate.	Yes
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	Yes
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	Yes
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	Yes
Submit to BCF-Reports@niras.com	Yes
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	NA