

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: 31st October 2022

Project reference	IWT057
Project title	Building capacity to reduce illegal trade of shark products in Indonesia.
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead partner	Cefas
Partner(s)	Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF), Rekam Jejak Alam Nusantara Foundation (Rekam), University of Salford
Project leader	Joanna Murray
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31/10/2022 HYRP5
Project website/blog/social media	<i>Social media</i> – @Joanna_M_Murray , @cefasgovuk , @dhika_fishery <i>Blog</i> - https://marinescience.blog.gov.uk/

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).

The following report covers progress on activities between April – Sept 2022. A traffic light system indicates where the activity is complete (green), ongoing (orange) or yet to start (red).

2.9 Academic paper drafted by Ph. D student on the dual identification of elasmobranch products.

Andhika submitted his PhD thesis in August 2022 and successfully defended it at his Viva on the 26th of September 2022. The second publication from Andhika's thesis titled 'Shark-dust: High-throughput DNA sequencing of processing residues unveils rife trade in endangered sharks and rays', was submitted to Science Advances in July 2022 and is still under review. The third manuscript, 'Universal closed-tube barcoding for the monitoring of shark and ray trade in megadiverse conservation hotspots' is due to be submitted to Cell-iScience in the next quarter.
**request not to publish this section until peer-reviewed papers are published.*

4.1 Three directorate staff visit the UK for a week to shadow Cefas and Defra staff on science-based policy advice

Eleven participants from the Directorate of Marine Biodiversity and Conservation (MMAF), Centre for Coastal and Marine Resources Management of the MMAF (BPSPL), and Rekam Nusantara Foundation visited the UK between the 12th and 16th of Sept 2022 on a research exchange visit. The event was designed to enable the exchange of knowledge and experiences between Indonesia and the UK in terms of science-based fisheries management and CITES implementation for shark and ray species. The first two days of the visit were held at Cefas Lowestoft where we discussed utilization and conservation of sharks and rays in Indonesia with presentations from MMAF, as well as presentations by Cefas on fisheries data collection, management, and elasmobranch assessments. The third day was spent at the Heathrow's Animal Reception Centre where BPSPL staff and City of London staff shared experiences about

the challenges in wildlife trade control, including challenges in animals and animal products identification. The final two days were spent at Defra in London. Andhika (PhD student funded by this project) shared the results of his study, MMAF presented their newly developed traceability system for shark and ray products through the e-SAJI application, and we had the opportunity to plan continuation activities for future work (e.g. IWTCF Extra application).

4.2 *Directorate staff produce visitation report*

Participants from the exchange visit were required to write an official travel report for their respective institutions. In addition, they were requested to present the results of their visit to their office colleagues as a form of sharing knowledge on their experiences in the UK. A combined report of the visit is currently being developed, which also incorporating feedbacks from the participants.

4.3 *Three regional workshops delivered in Jakarta, Semarang and Surabaya to communicate the improved trade procedures of MMAF to detect illegal wildlife trade.*

With co-fundings from the Shark Conservation Fund and USAID-BIJAK Project, workshops were conducted on CITES implementation and traceability for the CITES Management Authority (the Directorate of Fisheries Resources Management, Coastal, and Marine Resources Management Agency – Balai Pengelolaan Sumberdaya Pesisir dan Laut – BPSPL) offices. Trainings focused on disseminating new procedures of permit issuance mechanism and trade monitoring which aim to strengthen the legal aspect for CITES-species trade: (i) licensing requirements for utilization of CITES Appendix II species using Fish Species Utilization Permit (Surat Izin Pemanfaatan Jenis Ikan - SIPJI), and (ii) standard operating procedures SOPs to ensure traceability using e-SAJI, an electronic system for monitoring trade volumes which is currently in use by all six BPSPL offices across Indonesia. Five online workshops (covering Jakarta, Denpasar Makassar, Padang and Pontianak) were conducted due to COVID restriction (in-person workshops were originally planned in Jakarta, Semarang and Surabaya) and attended by BPSPL staffs and 184-representatives from fisheries businesses. Following these workshops, we have collaborated with MMAF to update the training modules by adding two components: (i) the new procedure of utilization and trade permit process, and (ii) a new shark and rays identification guide (wedge fish and carcass ID). Those modules were trialed in trainings for BPSPL, law enforcement agencies, and private sector in Depok (October 6-7, 2021), Tegal (October 21, 2021), and Bali (December 14-15, 2021).

4.4 *One-day conference with core stakeholders from 1.6 to share project outcomes and knowledge sharing.*

On April 1st 2022, a one-day conference on 'Lessons learned from MMAF and Cefas collaboration; Building capacity to reduce illegal trade of shark products in Indonesia' took place. There were 20 participants and another 163 online participants from multiple agencies and project partners (including the Fish Quarantine Agency, Quality Control and Safety of Fishery Products; MMAF Training Centre, Tuna Fishery Research Agency, and NGOs) attended the event. This event aimed to: (i) share and report project outcomes to MMAF and other stakeholders (delivered by Rekam Foundation), (ii) disseminate the improvement of Indonesia's policy and regulation on shark-ray CITES in Indonesia (delivered by MMAF), and (iii) discuss future development of capacity building program by MMAF related with shark-ray CITES implementation in Indonesia. Key achievements from the last 4 years of project implementation are: (i) capacity building on shark and rays' utilization and trade monitoring, (ii) capacity building on shark and rays identification, and (iii) standardized of module on shark and ray identification.

4.5 *Feedback following the engagement workshops is consolidated and fed back to MMAF on potential improvements in a report.*

From the series of workshops key recommendations to MMAF were documented and focused mainly on improving the capacity building/training program: (i) develop a more systematic, tiered skill, and provide regular training especially for new staff; (ii) provide training to wider range of stakeholders who are involved in shark trade management such as private sector (licensed shark exporters), customs, quarantine agency, and other law enforcement agencies; and (iii) develop a standardized national competency which include shark and ray ID and trade permit process. This feedback has been communicated with the MMAF's Directorate of Marine Biodiversity Conservation (KKHL) and the MMAF's Training Centre. As a follow-up to the recommendations,

the MMAF's Training Centre have conducted a series of workshop (April to September 2022) to improve the shark and ray training modules, as well as to finalize the training materials for the national standard competency. The formal report document is currently being finalized.

4.6 *Five-year plan produced that summarise the results from the project, lessons learned and future directions for improvements to elasmobranch trade management.*

Production of the five-year plan scheduled for the last quarter of the final year.

4.7 *Sign revised implementation agreements between MMAF and Cefas.*

Scheduled for the last quarter of the final year in addition to seeking future funding together (IWTCF Extra stage 1 application submitted).

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 current economic situation meant that we saw an increase in the cost of travel and subsistence to support the UK visit compared to the costs that we originally predicted. We are currently developing a change request form to move some of our staff time to the travel and subsistence budget line.

The research exchange visit fell during the period of national mourning in the UK for Queen Elizabeth II and this did impact on some of our planned activities. Border Force were unable to take part in the visit although City of London were still able to host our visit at the Animal Reception Centre.

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:	No
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	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?

N.a.