



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



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 2024

Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

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

Project reference	IWT112
Project title	A Community-based Conservation Approach to Combat Marine Illegal Wildlife Trade
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead Organisation	Yayasan Planet Indonesia
Partner(s)	Planet Indonesia - USA
Project leader	Adam E. Miller
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	1st April - 30th September 2024, HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	www.planetindonesia.org FB: Planet Indonesia IG: Planetindonesia Twitter : planet_indo

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 M&E 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.

During the past 6 months, the two decreed SMART patrol teams, consisting of 20 community members, 3 BKSDA officials and 5 village officials, continued their monthly patrolling efforts in Karimata Marine Reserve. They covered 42.95% of the total 190,945 ha of the marine reserve and have identified numerous observations across 15 different types of legal and illegal human activities, which have been reported to the BKSDA (the official management and enforcement institution) during a quarterly report and an SMART patrol evaluation session (*output indicators 1.1 - 1.5*)

In addition to the SMART patrol teams, 10 community members have been trained to lead sea turtle monitoring activities. Since the start of the monitoring activities in February 2024, the team has found 47 turtle nests of which 9 are known to have successfully nested and 38 have

been found poached; 23 by humans and 15 by other perpetrators. However, monitoring has only recently begun and thus still needs time to indicate changes (% increase) in the rate of nesting success. These initial results do indicate the importance of the project and turtle monitoring activities as poaching is prevalent (*output indicators 2.1 - 2.3*).

As of October 2024, the 4 Conservation Cooperatives (CC) as the local community governance body have a total membership base of 346 individuals (40% women) directly enrolled and an additional 312 (59% women) indirect beneficiaries through household members. We continue to support the management and operations of the different working groups of each CC. During the reporting period, the community finance working groups of the 4 CCs have seen a growth of 22,83% in savings and loans activities and a loan repayment rate of 86% of loans taken out >1 year ago (*output indicators 3.1 - 3.5*). Also, we have assessed the governance independence level using the [25 applied indicators](#) that led to a result that the 2 CCs in Betok Jaya Village were at developed (*berkembang*) status and the 2 CCs in Padang Villages were at advanced (*maju*) status (*output indicator 5.4*).

The 3 commodities identified as economically valuable (squid, seaweed and mackerel), have also been classified as extractive activities by the BKSDA and thus cannot be further developed as livelihood activities. This means we have to explore other commodities which can be legally developed as new livelihood activities. This is on the agenda for the beginning of 2025, but might extend beyond the project timeline (*output indicators 3.6 - 3.7*). The BKSDA has already approved a fisheries data feedback session, which is planned for the end of October 2024. The outcomes of this will also impact the development of fisheries management plans.

About 557 households are routinely visited each month by the 33 trained Health Ambassadors (HAs), with a report for the Puskesmas on the health issues encountered planned for November 2024. We faced some challenges regarding HAs halting operations until their request for additional compensation was met, but a consensus has been reached about increasing the compensation of HAs to acknowledge their important efforts (*output indicators 4.1, 4.2 & 4.4*).

A total 131 people (87 women) have been enrolled in our literacy program to follow the equivalency education program A, B and C. The enrolled participants are now in the process of verification in Indonesia's Primary Educational System before joining the learning program led by tutors who are currently being recruited by the PKBM (Community Learning Centre) as our official partner for the literacy programme (*output indicator 4.3*).

With regards to publications and communications of our programme impact, we have led the publication of a [paper on non-participation in local governance amongst community members](#). Although the study site for this paper was our terrestrial site in Gunung Nyiut, we do follow a similar core model approach in our coastal sites. The paper found that key factors for non-participation are actually not primarily related to financial incentives, but rather to factors such as time, feeling invited and trust. A summary can be read in our most recent [blogpost](#).

We also have a Participatory Impact Assessment (PIA) paper under review on our terrestrial site, which evaluates the CC model impacts on different program outcomes. A similar PIA is planned to be conducted at the start of 2025 in Karimata Marine Reserve. The final report will include updates on this (*Output indicators 6.1 - 6.4*).

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.

In April to September 2024, the Health Family Initiative Working Group of one CC proactively expressed the need for additional incentives for the Health Ambassadors to continue their valuable contributions. The Karimata team worked closely with YPI management and the CC itself, responding promptly to address this request. As a result, a meeting in May 2024 led to an agreement to provide additional incentives, considering the dedication and hard work of the Health Ambassadors' work.

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 ☐ No ☒

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 to 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

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.

There was no feedback that required a response in this half year report

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 a response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annex other requested materials as appropriate.	N/A
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.	●
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	●
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	No confidential information
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	●
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	●