



**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	IWT130
Project title	Protecting yellow-naped parrot through situational crime prevention in Ometepe, Nicaragua
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Nicaragua
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Partner(s)	Biometepe R.L.
Project leader	Angelica Valdivia
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	October 2024 HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.fauna-flora.org/

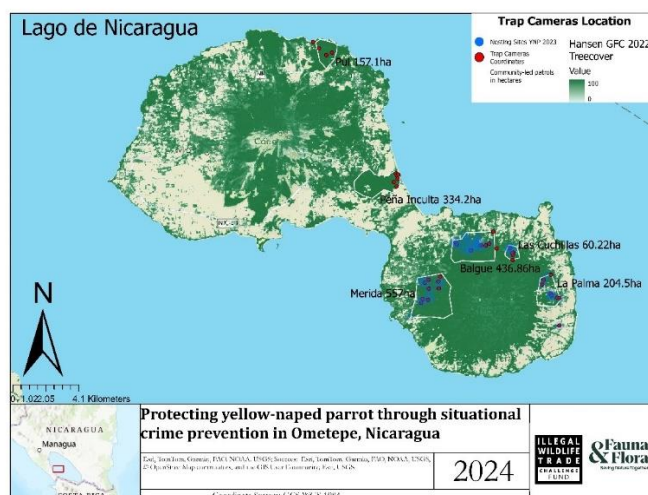
1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end of September).

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.

Here we report the first two months of the project implementation, having commenced in August. Detailed project implementation planning has taken place with our local delivery partner Biometepe through two working sessions, to work through the project implementation plan with definition of roles and responsibilities to create a detailed shared work plan according to the project indicators. We have also held an initial meeting with representatives of the Nicaragua Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) to present the project and the methodology of Situational Crime Prevention, and agree the steps to follow for the project implementation. We have produced a short video on the project and species in association with MARENA for online dissemination.

We have worked with Biometepe to carry out the annual census (Outcome indicator 0.1, supporting Outcome indicator 0.2) of the Yellow-naped Parrot (YNP, *Amazona auropalliata*) in six communities of Ometepe island (Mérida, La Palma, Balgue, Pull, Las Cuchillas and Peña Inculta) in August-September. Their distribution is uneven across the sites, with varying population sizes and individual trends. The total population trend is positive, with a count of 1502 individuals flying free in 2024, an increase of 8.6% from last season in 2023 (1383 individuals) - following a similar increase (9.2%) from 2022 (1267 individuals).

We have also identified specific potential sites for the installation of camera traps (see map), with a total target of 40 trees in the communities where YNP nesting is monitored (Output indicator 1.1). A Data Management Protocol has been drafted through a series of meetings between specialists in Fauna & Flora's HQ in the UK and the project team in Nicaragua, to cover procedures for all stages of the process – from the installation of the camera traps to their data collection, checking, cleaning and analysis. This considers all the protocols and mechanisms of Fauna & Flora, including on Social Safeguards (Output 1 assumptions).



A questionnaire survey has been developed between the Fauna & Flora specialist in the UK and the Nicaragua project team to measure the baseline perceptions of community members (Output indicator 1.2, supporting Outcome indicator 0.3) prior to implementation of the Situational Crime Prevention strategies. This instrument will be validated by conducting 10 pilot interviews, and then proceed to conduct all the 100+ interviews in the coming months. Fauna & Flora staff have also collaborated to elaborate a grievance mechanism, which sets out everything related to complaints and suggestions that may be made to our established contact point, as part of our approach to Safeguards and Social Safeguards. This mechanism will be made available soon, for example in relation to the installation of signs for the communities on the use of cameras.

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 delay in the approval of the project start has resulted in an imbalance in the initial phase of this project, however this is not considered to represent a significant risk for the project execution as we have revised our implementation plan to the reduced project period.

In August the Nicaraguan government brought in new legislation to reform how NGOs can operate, adding to the existing requirements for NGOs to inform and obtain specific government approval to collaborate in proposed project activities. We are now in the process of seeking revised approval for alliances with MARENA.

A delay was experienced by Biometepe in getting government approval to release the funds transferred by Fauna & Flora to their bank for the first year of project operation, resulting in some reduced spend on early project implementation activities.

Lastly, we submitted a change request on our revised members of staff from then original proposal which has been approved (see below).

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
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes

Change Request reference if known: NO318

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)?

No ☐ Estimated underspend:

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 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

Not applicable

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1st 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 response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	N/A
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	N/A
For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1st 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.	Y
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	Y
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	N/A
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	Y
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	