



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	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 2025 HYR2
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.

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.

Output 1

The annual census of six populations of free-flying yellow-naped parrot (YNP) was carried out over 16 days in July 2025, recording a total of 1,684 parrots – which represents further growth of 10.8% of the monitored population compared to 2024, when 1,502 individuals were counted. We monitored 40 YNP nests during February-June 2025 across six local communities around the Volcán Maderas National Park using a combination of trail cameras (on 37 nests, 93%, Indicator 1.1) and direct field observation. Six nests (15%, Indicator 0.2) experienced disturbances (organised nest-raiding) in the evening time, mainly at the La Palma community (four). Three such incidents were captured by cameras, and two of the cameras were stolen. Fieldwork for the second nesting season started in September 2025 to survey for nest locations in two further sites to the north.

We have subsequently analysed the baseline survey carried out in February 2025 of 133 local people (54% women), finding that 95.5% of respondents perceived some type of risk associated with YNP extraction: 57.1% perceived a risk of falling and 38.4% perceived legal consequences. 51.9% of respondents rated the risk of legal punishment as high, whereas 31.6% rated this risk as low, with the average score being 3.4 on a five-point scale (Indicator 1.2 baseline).

22 community patrols were carried out April-September 2025 – involving at least 30 people (20% women) – covering eight communities to protect 1,870 hectares of YNP forest habitat (Indicator 1.3).

Output 2

A capacity assessment (using the International Consortium on Combatting Wildlife Crime's Wildlife and Forest Crime Analytic Toolkit and the IUCN Global Register of Competences) was conducted in September 2025 with seven law enforcement officers (two women) (Indicator 2.2) – representing the local government, National Police, and Navy on Ometepe. The results showed limited knowledge of applicable laws and low confidence in species identification. They however expressed a strong interest in receiving practical, hands-on training and information, which we have now developed – including a best practice guide on appropriate and specialised initial care of confiscated YNP, to be provided as part of the planned training (Indicator 2.1). We have also worked with both local authorities of Ometepe to install large signs (including the IWTCF logo and acknowledgement) in strategic locations to raise awareness among the local and visitor population of conserving YNP.

Output 3

Fauna & Flora ran a pre-focus group session in April 2025 with 18 local men and one woman (including YNP extractors/traders) to enable update of our crime script and refine our understanding of the actors involved in YNP illegal capture and trade. This has revealed the primary decision-makers, organizers, and repeat offenders to be adult men (aged 20–40) as the main agents involved, rather than younger male climbers. We thus propose a change in audience focus and technique (see Section 2 below) to conduct focus groups with these older men, through their participation in sports – identified as the best entry point for dialogue and behavioural change – to inform tailored community-based interventions aimed at reducing poaching (Indicator 3.1).

Lastly, a meeting of the external project committee was held in July 2025, attended by 11 representatives of local authorities – including officials from the Ministry of the Environment (3), the National Police (2), the Navy (2), and the Municipal Mayors of Moyogalpa (2) and Altagracia (2). Furthermore monthly planning and monitoring meetings have been held with our Biometepe partner, as well as the internal project steering group in Fauna & Flora.

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.

1. Based upon local engagement and updating of our YNP poaching crime script, we now consider the best strategy is for us to target an older male demographic (20-40 years) based upon a Problem-Oriented Policing (POP) approach to discourage unwanted behaviours and encourage compliance – rather than the original specific Situational Crime Prevention (SCP) technique related to neutralising and harnessing peer pressure amongst younger (14-22 years) old males. (Logframe Output 3.1 – change request recently submitted)
2. We experienced some delays in carrying out the capacity assessments of Law Enforcement Authorities due to their availability to be involved, with consequent delays resulting to run their training sessions that are now planned for November 2025. (Output 2.2)

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 2025 – 30 September 2025)

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 2026)?

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

NO

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.

6b. Have any concerns or allegations relating to sexual exploitation, abuse or harassment been reported in the past 6 months?

If yes, please provide further information, ensuring no sensitive data is included within responses. Suspicions or allegations related to safeguarding concerns should be reported to ODA.Safeguarding@defra.gov.uk

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.

Our Year 1 report review included the following action for this reporting round: *"The project does not appear to have responded to the additional feedback points included in their Stage 2 feedback letter. These points should be addressed within your next Half Year Report."*:

We can confirm however that we did indeed respond to the points required in the Stage 2 feedback letter of 13 March 2024, in our email reply of 27 March which was subsequently acknowledged by your email of 2 April. We thus trust that this is all in order.