



**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: 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com) including your project ref in the subject line.**

<b>Project reference</b>	IWT 132
<b>Project title</b>	From Forests to Courts: Combatting IWT in West Kalimantan, Indonesia
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Indonesia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Yayasan Planet Indonesia
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Langland Conservation UK
<b>Project leader</b>	Abrar Ahmad
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	31 October 2024, HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<i>www.planetindonesia.org</i> <i>FB: Planet Indonesia</i> <i>IG: Planetindonesia</i> <i>X : planet_indo</i>

**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).**

The following updates are for activities that have been carried out between 01 July and 30 September 2024.

#### **Output 1: IPLCs have access to financial and non-financial services at the village level**

We supported multiple Conservation Cooperatives (CC) across the two target landscapes to strengthen their financial and non-financial services. To develop financial capacity, we facilitated sustainable agriculture training for Productive Business Group members from 11 CCs and introduced 2 new income-generating activities [**Indicator 1.2; IWTCF A08**] that included coffee cultivation and managing stingless bee (*Trigona itama*) apiaries in 5 villages. We also supported CC members from 2 villages with training in financial management to operate their village's savings and loan program. Additionally, we witnessed a slight increase in

the value of assets for 21 CCs across both landscapes (Gunung Niyut - 0.67%; Gunung Naning - 9.3%) **[Indicator 1.1]**.

In this reporting period, we organized training activities for 134 Health Ambassadors (HA) **[Indicator 1.3]** to receive basic training and technical guidance on the 12 health indicators used by the Indonesian Government to track public health trends. Additionally, 166 HAs (Gunung Niyut - 118, Gunung Naning - 48) delivered public health information from Community Health Centers to 1,062 individuals (Gunung Niyut - 831; Gunung Naning - 231) from community households **[Indicator 1.4]**. During these visits, they also collected data on the 12 indicators used by the government and noted diseases affecting community members to inform the government community health clinics to ensure that appropriate medical supplies were available for treatment. We also supported free health check-up events in multiple villages where nearly 400 community members took services such as tests to monitor blood pressure, cholesterol, uric acid, blood glucose, and hemoglobin levels.

#### **Output 2: IPLCs receive Social Forestry permits and trained to develop natural resource management plans for social forestry areas**

We continued our support for 7 partnership communities to access, utilise, and retain their Social Forestry permits across both landscapes. In Gunung Niyut, we supported 3 villages (Merayuh, Sematupang, and Engkangin) with their Social Forestry permit applications **[Indicator 2.1]**. In Engkangin, we facilitated community discussions which led to a decision to apply for a Village Forest (Hutan Desa) permit and a Customary Forest (Hutan Adat) permit. Currently, this community is preparing to develop the documentation that includes participatory mapping of the social forestry areas. For Sempatung and Merayuh villages, they have completed the technical verification stage where a team from the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) carried out field verification to determine the suitability of the proposed sites for social forestry. The field verification results are now under review by the legal section of the MoEF. Additionally, we continued support to the Dange Aji Village Forest Management Unit (FMU) for activities such as boundary marking, forest patrols, and resource management plan development **[Indicator 2.2; IWTCF B04]**. In addition, we supported the Dange Aji FMU to a business group for coffee cultivation and sale. In Gunung Naning, we received a request from the FMU from the Sungai Segak village to provide them support to prepare and submit their social forestry permit application. This village previously received support for the GRID-WWF program to begin their social forestry work. In this landscape, we also supported the 3 newly established Village Forest Management units for Temawang Bulai, Pantok, and Karang Betung Villages to develop their Social Forestry Resource Management Plans **[Indicator 2.2; IWTCF B04]**. We also supported 11 SMART forest patrol teams across both landscapes (Gunung Niyut - 7; Gunung Naning - 4) **[Indicator 2.3]** to carry out forest patrols which covered 25,822 ha (Gunung Niyut - 6,660 ha; Gunung Naning - 19,162 ha).

#### **Output 3: Government agencies are supported to detect, investigate, and prosecute IWT intermediaries**

#### **Output 4: Journalists have access to in-depth information about IWT cases and impacts**

We had meetings with BSKDA to discuss organizing two workshops with the journalists at the end of this year **[Activity 4.2]**. The first workshop will focus on sharing recent trends in IWT in West Kalimantan with selected journalists and provide an opportunity for them to interact with government and non-government experts. In the case of the second workshop, we want to invite a broader audience from media agencies to discuss opportunities to strengthen and encourage media coverage of wildlife crime in West Kalimantan. During this period, we organized 5 media briefings with selected journalists who are part of our network for a pangolin trafficking case that occurred in the Mempawah district **[Activity 4.1; Indicator 4.2]**. Currently, we are continuing to support 2 journalist task forces through which we encourage them to cover news related to wildlife crime and IWT. The first task force was formed with selected journalists

and several senior NGO staff to report on ongoing/recent IWT cases. The second journalist task force was formed to enable BKSDA and us to share wildlife-related promotional material targeted towards awareness creation. The promotional material for the second task force is provided mostly by BKSDA. Together, journalists from both groups published a total of 16 news reports of which 12 were jointly supported by YPI and BKSDA [Indicator 4.3].

**Output 5: Research findings regarding IWT in West Kalimantan is published and shared with government agencies**

We have identified the following 2 research objectives and subsequent research questions that we would like to explore during this project period:

1. Understanding the types of actors, intermediaries, and their organization involved in the pangolin trafficking in West Kalimantan
  - a. What types of communities are involved in the pangolin trade in West Kalimantan
  - b. How are pangolin trade intermediaries organized in West Kalimantan
  - c. Which areas are hotspots for pangolin hunting and trade in West Kalimantan
2. Mapping West Kalimantan's Greater Green Leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*) trade.
  - a. Which locations are popular for hunting Greater Green Leafbirds in West Kalimantan?
  - b. What types of people are involved in the hunting and trading of Greater Green Leafbirds?
  - c. How is the Greater Green Leafbird trade organized in West Kalimantan?

**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.**

We encountered several challenges stemming from interactions with government agencies for our in-situ work. In Gunung Niyut, which is a Nature Reserve under BKSDA's management, we faced delays in carrying out SMART patrols during certain months due to delays in receiving approval from BKSDA management. This led to a lower coverage by forest patrols in Gunung Niyut compared to Gunung Naning. Alternatively, discussions with partner communities about Social Forestry permits have revealed that some communities have a strong interest in pursuing the Customary Forest (Hutan Adat) scheme (See update for Output 2). Although Customary Forest permits provide communities with more flexibility to manage forest resources (avg. size 10,000+ ha) compared to other types of schemes such as Village Forest permits (max. 5,000 ha per village), the pathway to getting the permit is more time-consuming due to significantly more administrative and research requirements. Particularly, the Customary Forest permitting process tends to be lengthy for communities that lack legal recognition as 'Indigenous Peoples' (which is a requirement for Customary Forest permits) from the Regency administration. Additionally, as the Indonesian Government's target for the Customary Forest area in West Kalimantan has surpassed, we think it is has become a low priority for the government to grant Customary Forest permits. Furthermore, we expect that changes in the government (the new President and Ministers) will likely ensue regulatory and policy shifts that may further affect the process of approving Social Forestry permits for local communities. To reduce administrative delays resulting from changing regulations/policies, we have been actively coordinating and consulting with BPSKL (The Social Forestry and Environmental Partnership Agency). However, we still expect that we will need to adjust to the new government appointment made by the new government. Hence, this necessitates us to develop adaptive strategies particularly tailored to each community needs.

**3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with NIRAS:	No
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	No
Change Request reference if known: <i>If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome</i>	

**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 ☒ 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?**

There are no issues to raise at the moment.

**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 responded, please confirm when.

We received multiple comments related to project logic, safeguarding measures, and logframe indicators in the Stage 2 confirmation letter dated September 2023. We have provided brief responses to all the comments through a letter dated 28th October 2023.

## Checklist for submission

<b>For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	
Have you <b>responded to any additional feedback</b> (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 <b>risk register</b> ?	N/A

<b>For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	
Have you responded to <b>feedback from your latest Annual Report Review</b> ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	N/A
<b>For All Projects</b>	
Include your <b>project reference</b> in the subject line of submission email.	Yes
Submit to <a href="mailto:BCFs-Report@niras.com">BCFs-Report@niras.com</a> .	Yes
Have you <b>clearly highlighted any confidential information</b> within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	Yes
Have you reported against the most <b>up to date information for your project</b> ?	Yes
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	Yes