

## Biodiversity Challenge Fund Projects

### Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund and Darwin Plus Half-yearly report

*Note: If there is any confidential information in the report that you do not want shared on our website, please be sure to highlight it clearly.*

**Submission deadline: October 31 · 2023**

<b>Reference project</b>	28-011
<b>Project title</b>	"We are the forest:" beiradeiro training and socio-environmental services, Amazonia
<b>Country(s)/territory(s)</b>	Brazil
<b>Main partner</b>	Instituto Socioambiental
<b>Partner(s)</b>	AMORERI (Association of Residents of the Rio Iriri Extractive Reserve), AMORA (Association of Residents of the Riozinho do Anfrísio Extractive Reserve), AMOMEX (Association of Residents of the Rio Xingu Extractive Reserve)
<b>Project leader</b>	Roberto Sanches Rezende
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	

**1- Describe progress over the last 6 months (April to September) against the agreed project implementation schedule (if your project started less than 6 months ago, please provide the period from start to end of September).**

**1- Territorial management course, beiradeiro SAT and practical courses on traditional activities:**

*According to our schedule, we have completed three modules of the Territorial Management Course with young beiradeiros from Terra do Meio. In addition to the modules, we have conducted six practical sessions on latex extraction and rubber production activities, following the traditional historical methods. These sessions were led by experienced beiradeiros to provide guidance and mentorship to the young workers.*

*The planned modules took place between July and August, with one held in each Extractive Reserve. Each module lasted for five days and focused on two central themes: the Traditional Agroforestry System of the beiradeiros and the potential public policies that can support this system. We also explored the concept of Payments for Environmental Services, which is now part of the new Brazilian legislation, approved in 2021.*

*Working in collaboration with the young people, we developed a proposal for an experience in payments for environmental services linked to the traditional native rubber production chain. The rubber chain was chosen due to its significant contribution to conservation, as it involves activities directly related to the forest. While the younger beiradeiros expressed interest in the idea of associating payment for environmental services with the Traditional Agroforestry System and launching a pilot program in the rubber chain, they pointed out that many of them lacked knowledge and experience in traditional techniques and forest work. Rubber production was commonly practiced until the 1980s, and there is a generation that did not have the opportunity to work in this sector, most of them being the parents of the present-day young "beiradeiros." We organized practical modules led by seasoned experts in traditional methods. These experts dedicated ten to twelve days to teach the young beiradeiros all the necessary*

knowledge and practices related to rubber production. So far, we have completed five modules in different locations, and three more are scheduled to be held by the end of the year, with an average of seven participants per module

**2- Archeology:** During the period covered by this report, we conducted two archaeological field activities, one in May and another in July.

In May, our fieldwork coincided with the inter-module activities of the Territorial Management Course, and our outbound journey was made in collaboration with Raquel Santos, who oversees student activities at Resex Rio Iriri and is also involved in monitoring Resex Riozinho do Anfrísio. This joint arrangement allowed Vinícius Honorato, one of our archaeologists, to accompany some of the students, and it helped reduce logistical and transportation costs.

The May fieldwork involved surface prospecting without any subsurface excavation. Our strategies for identifying archaeological sites included engaging in conversations with local residents. As of July 2023, we have identified 19 archaeological sites. During this period, we also expanded the designated area for the Manelito and Rio Novo sites, which were initially identified in 2017 (refer to map 1 in annex 1).

Upon our return from the May fieldwork, we made arrangements for archaeological excavations scheduled for July in the Manelito (Rio Iriri) and Morro do Anfrísio (Riozinho do Anfrísio) communities. In July, we conducted a second archaeological fieldwork, which took place simultaneously with the Management Course at Resex Rio do Anfrísio and Resex Rio Iriri. The goal was to integrate the content covered in the course with the practical aspect of archaeological work. In the communities of Manelito and Morro do Anfrísio, we conducted delimitation work using subsurface excavations known as "tradagens," which involve excavations with an articulated digging tool. We mapped the landfills of rubber plantation houses and old roads. The mapping of these different types of occupation revealed a consistent pattern.

Additionally, we excavated five 1m<sup>2</sup> units, which enabled us to collect a substantial quantity of ceramic and lithic artifacts, along with charcoal samples for radiocarbon dating. These samples will allow us to establish a preliminary chronology of the site's occupation. During the excavation at Morro do Anfrísio, we observed that the indigenous pottery from the pre-rubber plantation period was highly fragmented. We attribute this high fragmentation to the intensive use of the site by beiradeiro workers during the rubber tapping period. The introduction of metal tools during that era led to the extensive fragmentation of the ceramics discarded there, highlighting a strong connection between indigenous residential sites and beiradeiro communities (refer to map 2 in annex 1 and photo 1 in annex 1).

**3- Recognition of the Traditional Agroforestry System:** The central theme of the management course was the Traditional Agroforestry System of the "Beiradeiros." We captured footage of this system, which will be included in the dossier. We also engaged in negotiations with IPHAN to advance the process (please refer to the response in assessment, question 2, in annex 1, and the information provided above).

**4- Monitoring food and daily activities:** Workshops for monitoring were conducted in the management course, along with the planned monitor visits. To date, we have collected 2,010 meal records and 1,233 records of daily activities.

**5- Monitoring of fauna and biodiversity:** Data on Biodiversity were collected between June and August 2023, totaling 15 transect trails and 28 beiradeiro trails. The transect points were the same as defined by ICMBio in 2022 and are intended to be permanent following the established protocol, in the Terra do Meio Ecological Station and the Rio Iriri Extractive Reserve. During this period, we had the participation of seven beiradeiros, aged between 20 and 60 years, from the Rio Novo, Boa Esperança, and São Francisco communities.

Between June and July, we collaborated with the ICMBio team in executing the Biodiversity Monitoring Program - MONITORA by installing 60 camera traps in the two Conservation Units. Simultaneously, we conducted data collection with the assistance of the beiradeiro monitors. In August, we returned with the ICMBio team to continue data collection while assisting in the removal of the camera traps.

To accomplish the planned number of trails for residents and researcher trails, we will conduct a third campaign in November. During this period, we plan to train two monitors in the use of data collection applications for a testing phase of its accessibility.

We consider the use of local ecological knowledge of the beiradeiros in fauna monitoring to be essential for biodiversity conservation and the empowerment of local stakeholders. Data

*obtained through signs and traces can be used to infer population indices for threatened species or those of interest for the subsistence of these communities, such as relative abundance, occupancy rates, and density. It is observed that some species rarely spotted using traditional methods for monitoring medium and large vertebrates, such as visual censuses, are detected through their traces.*

**2. Provide details of any notable issues or unexpected developments/lessons learned that the project has encountered in the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and calendar of project activities.**

*Despite discussions and a visit to IPHAN's office in Belém, IPHAN did not actively engage in the recognition of the Traditional Agroforestry System (TAS) as anticipated. IPHAN cited a shortage of staff as the primary obstacle. We are maintaining ongoing communication with their team and actively exploring alternative pathways for the recognition of TAS. Additionally, we are in contact with FAO representatives in Brazil regarding the recognition of the Beiradeiro system as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System (GIAHS). Another unexpected development is the involvement of government institutions in Payment for Environmental Services (PES) schemes. We have made more progress in this area with governments than with companies. Given this, we are evaluating changes to our indicator 0.2 to include government institutions alongside companies.*

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

Discussed with NIRAS: Yes/No(X)

Formal change request sent: Yes/No(X)

Received confirmation of acceptance of the change Yes/No

Change the request reference if known:

**4a. Confirm your actual spending this financial year to date (i.e. from April 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023)**

Actual spend: ██████████

**4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant underspends (e.g. more than £5,000) in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2024)?**

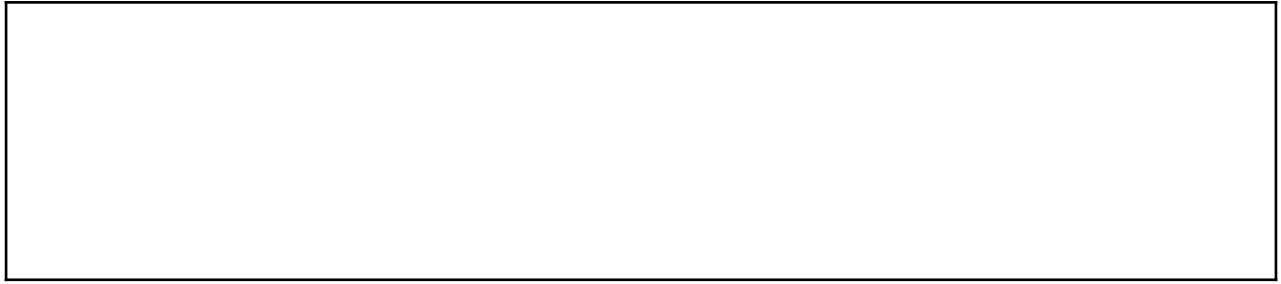
Yes  No  Estimated underspend:      £

**4c. If so, then you need to carefully consider your project's budget needs.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year will only be available for the project this financial year.

**If you anticipate significant underutilization due to justifiable design changes, submit a new budget change request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree to a rebudget, so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary. **DO NOT send them in the same email as your report.****

**NB: If you expect a lower spend, do not claim anything more than what you expect to spend this financial year.**

**5. Are there any other issues you would like to raise regarding the project or BCF's management, monitoring or financial procedures?**



**If you are a new project and received comments that requested a response, or if the Annual Report Review requested that you provide a response with the next semester's report, please attach your response to this document.**

**All new projects (excluding Darwin Plus Fellowships and IWT Challenge Fund Evidence projects) must submit their Risk Register with this report if they have not already done so.**

**Note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/work plan can be discussed in this report, but **must also** be raised with NIRAS via a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send them in the same email.****

Please send your **completed inform by email** to [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com). The report must be a maximum of 2 to 3 pages. **Please indicate your project reference number followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message, e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Semi-Annual Report**