

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects

Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Note: 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 2022

Project reference	28-018
Project title	Sanctuaries for threatened species and communities in Northeast Luzon, Philippines
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Philippines
Lead partner	Mabuwaya Foundation
Partner(s)	Municipal Government of San Mariano and Baggao, Department of Environment and Natural Resources (CENRO Naguilian and CENRO Alcala), Isabela State University (College of Development Communication, Arts and Sciences and College of Forestry and Environmental Management) Tanggol Kalikasan , National Commission on Indigenous Peoples
Project leader	Merlijn van Weerd / Marites Gatan-Balbas
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	26 October 2022: HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	www.mabuwaya.org Facebook/Mabuwaya

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

Output 1: *Increased knowledge, awareness and appreciation of the importance of environmental conservation and environmental laws in 8 focal communities.*

Activity:

1.3 Annual community meetings in 8 target communities: 3 meetings with women were conducted in Baggao and San Mariano to discuss the establishment of home gardens and the establishment of agroforestry farms. In Baggao, women established nurseries for seedling propagation while San Marino opted for individual direct seed planting in their home gardens.

1.7 Knowledge, awareness and attitude surveys. The conduct of Knowledge, Awareness and Attitude on Agroforestry survey has been conducted by five Development Communication students. The thesis won First Place on the Campus Search for Best Thesis and Second Place for the University Level search for best thesis. The results of the survey were discussed during the conduct of the Agroforestry and Agroforestry Farm Planning Workshop in Baggao.

Output 2: *Eight participatory biodiversity & land use change monitoring and environmental law enforcement teams are monitoring focal species and enforcing environmental laws in 10 sanctuaries, reducing threats to focal species and their habitat and yielding data on species' populations and tree cover.*

Activity:

2.1. Environmental law enforcement training: Two Environmental Law Enforcement Trainings were conducted in Baggao and San Mariano. Forty four participants attended in Baggao (35 Male and 9 female) and 38 participants attended in San Mariano (29 male and 9 female). Aside from the Law enforcement training, management plans for all sanctuaries in Baggao and San Mariano were drafted.

2.3. Biodiversity / land use & forest cover change / threat monitoring and on the ground training: One Philippine crocodile monitoring survey was conducted with a total count of 67 individuals (18 adults, 17 juveniles and 32 hatchlings. No monitoring was conducted in Baggao yet for the Isabela Oriole and Flying foxes as the rivers were too high to cross during the monitoring schedule.

Output 3: *10 community sanctuary management councils are taking decisions about interventions in response to sanctuary guard patrol reports, and about law enforcement, reforestation of denuded areas and land use appropriations*

Activity 3.1: Establishment of sanctuary councils and sanctuary management workshops to develop sanctuary management plans: Sanctuary management workshops were held in Baggao and San Mariano in tandem with the environmental law enforcement workshops (Activity 2.1). Inputs to the management plans were collected from the participants and the management plans are currently being drafted. These will be presented, discussed and refined with the management councils once complete.

3.2 On the job training in sanctuary management and adjustment of sanctuary management plans: this will be done once the management plans have been adopted.

4.1 Development of specific agroforestry development plans for 8 communities

During and following the Agroforestry training and Agroforestry Development Planning workshop in Baggao (Activity 4.2), 48 farmers were able to develop their agroforestry farm plans. The training and development planning for San Mariano is scheduled this November 2022.

4.2 Agroforestry training and product development / marketing for 8 communities

Together with the faculty and staff of the College of Forestry and Environmental Management and College of Development Communication Arts and Sciences, the Agroforestry training and Agroforestry Development Planning workshop has been conducted in Baggao. Forty eight farmers participated, were trained and were able to develop their agroforestry farm plans. The training for San Mariano is scheduled this November.

4.3 Establishment of 4 communal nurseries and seed production farms:

Three nurseries for vegetable gardens and forest tree seedlings were established in Baggao. In San Mariano, we are maintaining one nursery for fruit and forest trees.

4.4 Establishment of 80 ha of agroforestry farms and 338 vegetable home gardens

Forty-eight farmers in Baggao developed their agroforestry farm plans. A total of 46 hectares will be developed for Agroforestry in 2022. Suitable forest and tree species were identified. Canvassing of fruit tree seedlings has been completed. The schedule of seedling delivery and planting in Baggao is in November 2022. Once the agroforestry training and farm development planning has been concluded in San Mariano in November 2022, the remaining 34 hectares can be planted. This is scheduled for early 2023.

Vegetable seeds were provided to women in Baggao and San Mariano. Prior to the provision of seedlings, meetings were conducted. At present, 99 households were able to develop their home gardens. The remaining home gardens will be developed end 2022 and early 2023.

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 planned monitoring of Isabela Oriole and Flying foxes did not push through because of the frequent bad weather and high level of rivers during the scheduled monitoring activity. 2022 is a La Niña year with unusual high rainfall and flooding. The monitoring is now scheduled for November, and again in February 2023. There is no need to change the timeframe or budget as this is a relatively minor activity. If monitoring is impossible in November as a result of the weather, in February there is usually much less rain so these population data, important for M&E, can be gathered then.

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

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

Change request reference if known: NA

4a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

4b. If yes, then you need to 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 if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No. We are on track to implement all planned activities and spend all budget for Project Year 2.

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. Please DO NOT send these in the same email.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to BCF-Reports@niras.com. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**