

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: October 31, 2022st

Project reference	<i>This should be the project reference provided in your offer paperwork and not your application number.</i> 29-002
Project title	Conserving and restoring orangutan habitats and ecosystems, Gunung Palung, Indonesia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead partner	Fauna & Flora International's Indonesia Programme (FFI's IP)
Partner(s)	Yayasan Palung (YP), Gunung Palung National Park (GPNP) Agency
Project leader	<i>Arief Hamidi</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>31 October 2022, HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	

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).

Since the project started on July 1 2022, we had received consent from 4 targeted villages namely Rantau Panjang, Penjajaan, Sempurna and Riam Berasap Jaya to proceed the project. Besides, agreement between villages with GPNP have been obtained for 3 villages, i.e., Rantau Panjang, Penjajaan and Sempurna relating to PMU (Protection and Monitoring Unit) establishment.

Output 1:

Three PMUs have been established through an agreement between the village institutions and GPNP accompanied by FFI and YP. The three PMUs have been trained in a SMART patrol through a 2-day class session and 5 days of field practice in accordance to conduct threat assessment. One more village, namely Riam Berasap Jaya, is still constrained by the election process of the new Head of village. Patrols have been conducted in 3 villages, Rantau Panjang Village has conducted 2 patrols, Penjajaan Village has conducted 2 patrols and Sempurna Village has conducted 1 patrol.

Biodiversity baseline assessment were conducted for Penjajaan and Rantau Panjang village forest area through existing data collection and field survey on August 2022. From the assessment results, the PMU team of Rantau Panjang Village, Penjajaan Village, and GPNP have determined the target species for monitoring, i.e., Sunda Pangolin (*Manis Javanica*) in Rantau Panjang, and Penjajaan Bornean White-bearded Gibbon (*Hylobates albibarbis*) in Penjajaan along with Bornean Orangutan. The survey recorded 8 orangutan nests in Penjajaan and 17 orangutan nests in Rantau Panjang forest areas. Biodiversity assessment for Sempurna will be completed on November 2022, and expecting completed for Riam Berasap on early December prior to Christmas eve.

Output 2:

Discussions with Peat Expert (Prof. Dr. Dwi Astiani) from Tanjungpura University have been held and the Prof. has agreed to undertake peat-hydrological study in Rantau Panjang and Penjataan Villages prior to develop a piloting peat-restoration through rewetting and planting. In parallel with the study, PMU of Rantau panjang and Penjataan will be train about water table monitoring and preparing infrastructure development such as monitoring post and nursery, which expected to established by the end of Year 1.

Output 3:

The project is targeted to improve at least 4 community business groups from 4 targeted villages, in order to support wellbeing and PMU operation in the future. Along 4 months of the project implementation, agreement with 3 villages have been obtained, i.e., Rantau Panjang Village under Social Forestry Business Group (KUPS) (18 HH members, 14M:4W, engaging stingless Honeybee business); Penjataan Village with KUPS of Coffee (15 HH member, all women); Sampurna Village has a group that cooperates with GPNP for Sustainable Paddy production with a total of 76 members (76M:8W).

KUPS Coffee of Penjataan had been trained for coffee agroforestry through field-school program of which organized by our partner, Yayasan Palung (YP) on July 2022. This activity was attended by 35 participants (25M:10W) from Village Forest Management and Forest Management Unit (FMU). Participants also made a coffee cultivation business plan, SWOT analysis, business model canvas (BMC) and financial analysis. From this activity, an action plan was produced, namely the development of *excelsa* and *liberica* coffee types, strengthening groups engaged in the coffee business, signing an integrity fact for coffee cultivation covering an area of 30 hectares in the Penjataan Village Forest Area (utilization zone) and outside the Village Forest (community land).

On September 3-5, 2022, sharing and lesson-learning about community and conservation based coffee production had been held invited Swara Owa, NGO based on Gibbon Conservation through community assistance to develop coffee businesses in Central Java, of which has been succeed in exporting community-coffee to Europe market by incorporating conservation values and local traditions into the product. The sharing was conducted during field visit to Penjataan and Rantau Panjang coffee-agroforestry, to do reviewing and learning of coffee management and to assess the potential market of coffee (as well as stingless-bee honey (of Rantau panjang village)).

Output 4:

The project will provide sustainable financing through Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) scheme under Government's Social Forestry Program, which has been tested in Laman Satong Village Forest since 2015, as well as Sebadak Raya and Sepakat Jaya since 2022, of which has succeed obtained 10-years payment for protecting forest following RSPO's RaCP mechanism. The similar scheme will be implemented for Rantau Panjang and Penjataan Village Forest under this project. The financing then will be spent to support PMU's operational as well as community-based forest management in both Village Forest. Upon this first year project, we have preparing the profile of both Village Forest to approach potential market, of which private companies across the Province.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learned 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 location of Village Forest or PMU's operational forest areas of Penjataan and Rantau Panjang are quite distant, but accessing the river are then be more efficient yet need additional cost for patrol operational. Considering the intense activities in the forest including monthly patrols, we decide to spent some patrol budget to build a small-boat fit for PMU team member.
- The election process for new Head of Village in Riam Berasap has delayed the establishment of PMU agreement. While waiting for consent from Village government, we approach community group that have an agreement with GPNP under Conservation

<p>Partnership scheme to involve in the project. PMU team for this village is expected to be established by November 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In line with point above, GPNP has been partnered with the Conservation Partnership (CP) group in Riam Berasap village, but some community group who manage CP forest are came from neighbouring village, namely Laman Satong, so to avoid internal conflict among the village, specific agreement needs to be developed by facilitating both village communities that has consent to be involved in the project. Fortunately, FFI has long investment in Laman Satong Village in assisting their Village Forest, making this process more cooperatively possible.
<p>3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS-LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p>
<p>Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: No</p>
<p>Formal Change Request submitted: No</p>
<p>Received confirmation of change acceptance No</p>
<p>Change request reference if known:</p>

<p>4a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: </p>
<p>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.</p> <p>We believe there are no significant underspend upon our budget in this first year, yet we still recalculating any possibilities change following update situations. We will submit Change Request including re-budgeting (if assessed necessary) as soon as possible, or before 1 December 2022 at the latest. Some changes come from restructure of staffs in charge to the project.</p> <p>If you anticipate a significant underspend due to justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree to 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.</p>
<p>5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p>
<p>No objection during this half-year reporting period</p>

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**