



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 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 including your project ref in the subject line.

Project reference	29-002
Project title	Conserving and restoring orangutan habitat and ecosystems, Gunung Palung, Indonesia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Partner(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gunung Palung National Park AgencyYayasan Palung
Project leader	Arief Hamidi
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 October 2024, HYR
Project website/blog/social media	

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 overall Y3 activities during April – September 2024 have been working in line with the project timeline contribute to the long-term outcome. The final measurement of outcome indicators will be measured by EoP. However, we will also describe the general picture of outcome within each output as below:

Output 1: Reduced direct threats to forest habitat and rare - threatened species, through effectively operating joint Protection & Monitoring Units (PMU)

Most of indicators on output 1 has been achieved by Y1 and Y2. This Y3, our activities are focused to achieve indicators 1.4 and 1.5, i.e. continuing SMART patrols and species target monitoring on each Village, as well as supporting one joint patrol. During March - September 2024, four (4) PMUs (20 men) conducted 18 forest patrols (90 Days) covered 205.25 Ha or 59.5% and recorded 39 threats including zero fires (Activity 1.7). This progress is recorded 9% threats reduction incl. 100% reduction of fires compared to baseline (outcome indicator 0.2). In July 2024, the patrol team (13 people) monitored orangutans and target species in the Rantau Panjang Village Forest using camera traps and in the GPNP area (Riam Berasap). Orangutan density was recorded 0.32 ind./Km2 in Rantau Panjang and 3.5 ind./Km2 in Riam Berasap. The camera trap also recorded 1 ind. of Sunda pangolin in Rantau Panjang. The remaining patrol will remains continue until EoP, including the joint patrol that is planned to deploy by January 2025.

<p><u>Output 2: 11,223 people in four communities around Gunung Palung have improved resilience to climate change through improved prevention and management of fires, water table management, and peat swamp forest rehabilitation.</u></p> <p>This Y3 activities are focused targeting on indicator 2.1 and continuing indicator 2.3, which is still in line with our project timeline. During March to October 2024, hotspot monitoring using NOAA analysis identified 9 hotspots in the GPNP area, a reduction of 1.6% from the Baseline (indicator 2.1) contribute to reduce 98% of fire hotspots (outcome indicator 0.3). Besides, after the construction of 7 canal blocks in Y2 (Activity 2.3), water level measurement was monitored in wet season (June) and dry (August) season (9 points). The average water level in June was 27.3 cm (flooded), while in August (dry season) was 21 cm (flooded). This result demonstrates that canal blocking is effective in rewetting the peat ecosystem. Rehabilitation is on progress through continues planting in the restoration area in August 2024 (Activity 2.7), totalling 8,733 seedlings (7,665 forest trees and 1,068 MPTS). The planted monitoring in September 2024 recorded the seedling survival rate of 63.47%. The factor that causing the dead seedlings are still investigated but most likely due to the flooded. We learned also that the effective of canal blocking in rewetting ecosystem may led to selective seedling species for planting. We will adjust to select the flood-resistant seedling species on the next planting by November 2024, of which will completing output indicator 2.3.</p>	
<p><u>Output 3. Capacity of at least four community groups representing 500 households (>3,000 people) is increased to diversify livelihood opportunities based on biodiversity-friendly products</u></p> <p>This 3rd year are focusing on indicator 3.5 to improve values chains leading to increase income of community groups, while also conducted assistant to monitor the overall output 3 indicators incl. 3.1, 3.3 and 3.4. During March - September, monitoring of financial management, monitoring of productivity improvement in 9 business groups of 184 households (99 M: 85 F), the next period there will be 5 business groups to be monitored (Indicator 3.1). The monitoring results showing income increase compared to last year of each group, such as 79% for wicker groups, 77% for horticulture, and 13% for coffee, while the chips and stingless-bee honey groups have just produced products in this year (Indicator 3.5). In May 2024, assistance to increase the productivity of business groups was provided to make organic fertilizer in 3 business groups and provide support for horticultural seeds in 7 business groups (Indicator 3.3). Until September 2024, the total HH who has new access for sustainable financing from improved value chain was 320 HH (outcome indicator 0.4), with increased income mostly more than 20% than last year monitoring (outcome indicator 0.6).</p>	
<p><u>Output 4. Two village forest institutions have secured long-term funding (at least 10 years) for PMU operations to protect village forests and contribute to community wellbeing</u></p> <p>The Y3 activity in output 4 are focused on preparing the documentary to assess domestic carbon market following the new regulation, that enabling the mechanism of domestic carbon market and carbon offset. The draft mitigation action plan document (DRAM) as the requirement to register domestic carbon market has been prepared by August 2024. The DRAM will be socialized to stakeholders for input and revision prior to submission by LPHD, which is expected prior to EoP.</p>	
<p><i>Monitoring of assumptions</i></p> <p>We have identified the assumptions in each output, and we believe the overall assumptions are still valid.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The construction of 7 canal blocks greatly affected the expected water level to reduce the threat of forest and peat fires. This effort, using the simple blocking method has effective for rewetting of peat ecosystem and prior to restoration planting. Since the rewetting of peat are effective, planting seedlings then become our challenge to restore the forest by selecting appropriate species resistant to flood. 	
<p>3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</p>	
Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes/No
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes/ No

Change Request reference if known: [N/A](#)

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)

Actuals 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)?

☐ **No** ☐ Estimated underspend:

4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully.

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?

N/A

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report.

Regarding the reviewer comments on last Annual Report which must be responded by this half-year report, questioning about the MoU Process between the Ministry of Environmental and Forestry (MoEF) and Fauna & Flora, here is our answer. The MoU approval for the technical agreement between MoEF and Fauna & Flora are still in final assessment by MoEF. In principle, as Foreign NGO, we had a committed principal agreement from Ministry of Foreign Affair dated 10th October 2024. This permit allows Fauna & Flora to continue operating in Indonesia until the new technical agreement being signed for the next 3 years period.

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1st April 2024)

Have you **responded to any additional feedback** (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.

If not already submitted, have you attached your **risk register**?

For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1st April 2024)

Have you responded to **feedback from your latest Annual Report Review**? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.

Y

For All Projects

Include your **project reference** in the subject line of submission email.

Y

Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com.

Y

Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	Y
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project?	Y
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	Y