

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	<i>This should be the project reference provided in your offer paperwork and not your application number</i> 29-016
Project title	Livelihoods enhancement through community-based conservation of Bornean orangutan and habitat
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead partner	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Partner(s)	Riak Bumi Indonesia Foundation
Project leader	Elizabeth Linda Yuliani
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 October 2022, HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	Under development. We are preparing a project website which will be located in the CIFOR-ICRAF website.

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).

The project started on 1 June 2022. In accordance with the agreed project timetable, between 1 June and 30 September 2022 we had undertaken baseline studies on livelihoods and estimates of forest cover in three of four targeted hamlets, and orangutan population surveys in five of ten locations. Prior to those activities, we developed agreement with partner and contracts with consultants; and conducted meetings with communities in project locations, with internal team members, and with the government at multiple levels.

Baseline studies on livelihoods. These activities were conducted in Pelaik, Kedungkang and Keluin hamlets. Summary of results of these studies is provided in Appendix 1.

Estimates of forest cover and the orangutan population. We had conducted the orangutan nest surveys in 5 transect locations, namely Pelaik, Kedungkang, Sungai Ajung, Sepan and Keluin. We performed GIS data analysis of the vegetation class in Pelaik, Kedungkang and Keluin. The number of nests encountered during the surveys and local populations estimates are summarised in Appendix 1. By the time we are writing this report, our field team continue the nest surveys in the rest 5 locations, i.e. Keladan, Libung, Sumpak, Senunuk and Tekalong.

Development of agreement with the partner. We had developed and signed the Letter of Agreement (LoA) with our partner Riak Bumi Indonesia Foundation.

Contracts with consultants. We had developed and signed a contract with the newly recruited Research Assistant. Her CV is attached (Appendix 2). Contracts with Prof. Anne Russon and Dr. Agus Salim are in progress.

Community meetings. Prior to conducting our baseline studies, we had a series of community meetings to communicate the objectives of the project and build mutual trust and shared

understanding between the project team and the community, and also among community members.

Internal coordination meetings. We conducted a series of meetings to develop common ground and understanding of the project, roles of each project member, and future plan. The meetings were with: (a) Riak Bumi members, also to discuss detailed methods and schedule for fieldwork in accordance with local communities' activity calendar and weather and geographical conditions, and to develop criteria to select the two hamlets; (b) with CIFOR project members to discuss respective roles; (c) with the financial department and project management unit, focused on management and reporting.

External coordination meeting. We met with Dr. Wiratno, the former Director General for Conservation of Biodiversity, Ecosystem and Natural Resources of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to update the progress of this project and discuss the plan to collaborate with the provincial conservation agency in the orangutan population monitoring, forest patrol and awareness programme. Further meeting with Dr. Wiratno and the regional conservation agency to discuss technical details of the cooperation agreement is planned on 25 October 2022.

Policy processes. As part of COLANDS project which provides the matching funds, we facilitated a series of multi-stakeholder workshops to develop collaborative management plan and monitoring of Danau Sentarum catchment areas. In these workshops, participants developed plan including strategies to better protect the orangutans (and the Bornean Banded Langur *Presbytis chrysomelas cruciger*) and their habitat outside national parks, and criteria and indicators for collaborative monitoring. The results of these workshops are now being written into the management plan document, to be legalised by the Head of the District.

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.

Over the last 4 months, we encountered the following most notable developments:

A significant decline in the GBP rate. The approved budget was calculated in local currency (IDR) and converted to GBP using the rate applicable at that time (1 GBP = IDR 19,600). By the time the project started, the rate dropped to IDR 15,600 – 18,400, subsequently the Q1+Q2 budget in IDR dropped by approximately 9.23%. To respond to this situation, we did the following actions to reduce the impact (see also Risk Assessment Report): combined travel and fieldwork with COLANDS project activities so that some travel expenses were co-financed; reduced the length of transects (which is also as a response to the extreme weather, detailed below) to reduce the length of survey-time and fieldwork expenses; and covered the shortage of staff time costs in Q1-Q2 from other projects. To mitigate further impacts, we continuously monitor the exchange rate fluctuations while also analysing the effectiveness of the strategies we had applied so far. We will submit the request for changes in November or December 2022, after completion of baseline studies, so that the request can also cover required changes that may emerge/identified during the baseline studies.

Extreme weather. June until August were normally the driest months of the year, and we planned to conduct the orangutan surveys in July-August to capture their distribution in dry season (we expected to complete the surveys at the end of August). However, there was no dry season this year, and heavy rain has occurred almost every day since June. When the rain was too heavy, we postponed the surveys until the weather was permitting for the safety and health of the survey team. This situation has caused significant delays of the orangutan population surveys; until the end of September we just surveyed 5 locations. We also shortened the transect length from 6 km to 2 km, as the wet weather has made the locations more difficult to pass and took longer time to survey. Minimum transect length recommended in the Technical Guidance for Orangutan Surveys is 1 km, therefore 2 km is methodologically valid.

The government plan to provide electricity for hamlets along the main road of the country border. We got this information from the local communities and the government

officials during the baseline studies, and we see this as an opportunity. We explained this in the attached Risk Register.

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

We will discuss these issues with NIRAS-LTS International in November-December 2022 after the completion of the baseline studies. We are also still analysing the effectiveness of the strategies we had applied so far.

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: ~~Yes~~/No

Formal Change Request submitted: ~~Yes~~/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance ~~Yes~~/No

Change request reference if known:

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: £

We do not know yet, depending on the weather conditions in Q3-Q4. In Q1-Q2, the weather anomaly (heavy rain instead of dry season) has significantly delayed our fieldwork. In Q3-Q4 we plan to conduct forest patrol, nursery building, the 2nd six-monthly orangutan monitoring, awareness programmes and technical studies for micro-hydropower. If heavy rain continues in Q3-Q4, those activities may be delayed and there is a possibility of more than [REDACTED] underspend. But if the weather is good, the activities and budget will be as planned.

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?

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.

We submit the Risk Register in the same email sending this report.

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.**