

## 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: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

<b>Project reference</b>	<a href="#">29-016</a>
<b>Project title</b>	Livelihoods enhancement through community-based conservation of Bornean orangutan and habitat
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Indonesia
<b>Lead partner</b>	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Riak Bumi Indonesia Foundation
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Dr. Elizabeth Linda Yuliani</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	<i>31 October 2023, HYR2</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.cifor-icraf.org/orangutans/">https://www.cifor-icraf.org/orangutans/</a> (on finalization stage)

**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).**

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your M&E systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

Between 1 April and 30 September 2023, the project undertook the following activities (listed under each Output and referring to SMART indicators of the project logframe):

Output 1 (Improved access to electricity and clean water by targeted local communities):

- Development of micro-hydropower (MH), consisted of the following steps:
- June 2023: detailed technical studies in Kedungkang and Pelaik hamlets by the MH consultant team and representatives of local communities; preparation of technical design of the turbine and civil components; preparation of required materials.
- Sept. 2023: development of MH in Kedungkang hamlet. The maximum capacity of the MH was 5 KVA, distributed to two long-houses. DI-A06: improved access of 104 people (46 women, 58 men)<sup>1</sup> to electricity from 50 watt/apartment available 3-4 hours/day, to 200-250 watt/apartment available 24 hours/day.
- Development of MH in Pelaik hamlet was postponed (see explanation in Section 2 below).
- Trained 9 members of Kedungkang hamlet on operational/maintenance and safety procedures. The plan was to train at least 2 members per household, however training 80 participants at once would not be too effective. After discussion with leaders of Kedungkang hamlet, we agreed to train 9 members, who would train the rest of the community members (training of trainers). DI-A01: 9 members of Kedungkang hamlet were trained as trainers (ToT).
- Led by local leaders, Kedungkang people drafted common rules and established an operational and maintenance group (divided into several sub-groups to work alternately) to

<sup>1</sup> Data collected by our team in September 2023.

maintain the MH and water installations and power lines. For maintenance, they are proposing village funds from the government.

Output 2 (Marketing mechanisms and capacity to produce marketable non-timber forest products (NTFP) are established). We expect to achieve this output by the end of the project. Within this reporting period we conducted the following activities:

- The NTFP training is planned for January 2024 in accordance with fruiting season and communities' activity calendar. In preparation, we selected candidates for trainers, and found [Sekolah Seniman Pangan](#) to be the most suitable. We are now discussing the training methods, costs, schedule etc. Relevant Standard Indicators: DI-A01 and DI-A03 (will be reported in the Y2 Annual Report, after the training is done). Planting plants that support the NTFP production is postponed until after the training in order that the types of plant match the type of the marketable products.
- Facilitated two members (one respectively) of Kedungkang and Pelaik hamlets (Remang and Angen) to participate in two national events in Jakarta, i.e. Sunday Farmers Market in Parara Indonesian Ethical Store, and National Festival on Social Forestry in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Remang demonstrated traditional dance and rites usually performed prior to wild bee honey harvesting; and Angen demonstrated the making of the Iban traditional fabric. They also exhibited local products from respective hamlets and directly interacted with the Minister of Environment and Forestry, and with visitors/ consumers.

Output 3 (Findings from participatory monitoring of forest conditions and orangutan population is available to inform multiple level decision making):

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> monitoring of the orangutan population was conducted along 10 transects (the same locations as the 1<sup>st</sup> monitoring), and participatory forest patrol was conducted in 4 hamlets. Key findings were shared in the workshops of Danau Sentarum Catchment Areas, 4 and 6-7 Sept. 2023, and used as reference to develop principles, criteria and indicators for collaborative monitoring of the catchment. The Danau Sentarum Catchment Areas management plan is now being finalised, and will be registered by end of 2023 for legalisation by the Head of District. DI-C14: 2 events. Provincial workshop (4 Sept. 2023): 18 participants (6 women, 12 men); district workshop (6-7 Sept. 2023): 9 participants (4 women, 5 men).
- The proposal on customary forest legislation in Kedungkang has been verified and approved. The process was facilitated by a group of institutions including the project partner (Riak Bumi). DI-B06: 104 people (50 women, 54 men, 39 HH)<sup>2</sup>. Typology of tenure: ownership rights over the indigenous territory. Extent: 12,184 Ha.

Output 4 (Degraded forests and areas are rehabilitated to extend usable orangutan habitat):

- In April 2023, 1600 durian and 420 cempedak seedlings were planted in Kedungkang and Pelaik (800 durian and 210 cempedak seedlings in each hamlet). In June, approximately 90% of the seedlings indicated good growth, and the communities had replaced the 10% with new seedlings.
- In mid May 2023, Kedungkang and Pelaik people collected more seedlings of other orangutan's dietary plants from the forests (in total 1025 and 1104 seedlings respectively). The seedlings are now grown in nurseries, to be planted at the beginning of the rainy season. These activities will contribute to DI-D12. Estimation of the extent of the rehabilitated area will be done in Year3.

Output 5 (New data, knowledge, research and policy recommendations about the link between poverty alleviation and conservation are produced and shared at multiple levels):

<sup>2</sup> Data registered at <https://brwa.or.id/wa/view/S05WdENDZ29FYzA> in early 2023.

- The project was represented at a conference panel in the XIX IASC Biennial Conference, Nairobi, 19-24 June 2023. The panel topic was adaptive collaborative management of forest and its resources, aimed to explain integrated landscape governance to balance conservation of species and ecosystems with economic development. Lessons from work in other national parks in Indonesia using Adaptive Collaborative Management (ACM) approach were shared and discussed by Dr. Wiratno (former Director General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation of MoEF). DI-C01: 1 knowledge product was presented and endorsed.
- Wrote an article on how the Iban swidden agriculture system has allowed recovery of old fallow and becoming suitable habitat for the orangutans. The article will be submitted to The Conversation Indonesia. Status in October 2023: under review.
- Prepared project website to be hosted under CIFOR-ICRAF website. By the time this report is written, the project website is in the finalisation stage, therefore it still uses password to open (password: orangutans). The website will be launched by the end of 2023.
- Prepared 5-minute videos on: (a) the importance of traditional knowledge systems; (b) how the project addresses poverty and conservation issues through development of micro-hydropower. Within the reporting period, we took footage, did interviews and prepared storylines. The videos will be uploaded in CIFOR and Riak Bumi youtube channels by the end of March 2024.

**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 6 months, we encountered the following events:

**Long drought associated with El Niño.** The dry season in the project location is normally from June until August, however this year the dry season is much longer and more severe than in normal years. By the end of September, the lakebeds are still dry and Pelaik is therefore only accessible by motorcycle and small boat. Consequently, transporting MH equipment and development of the MH are postponed until the hamlet is accessible by larger boat, possibly around December or January. As well, transportation costs for the MH consultant team will be higher as they had to go home to West Java and return to the project location when Pelaik hamlet becomes accessible.

**Longer fieldwork.** For the orangutan population monitoring in 10 locations, the team had to change plans several times and stayed much longer in the field due to (a) a death in the hamlet whereby the team was prohibited (by customary rules) from entering the hamlet for one week; (b) communities were busy with rice cultivation and the team had to wait until some community members were able to participate in the monitoring; and (c) helped translate/bridge communication between MH team with the local communities and helped find some small equipment in the nearest town.

Consequently, travel and subsistence costs for the field team were much higher than estimated. We are attempting to cover the overspent from other budget categories, and will submit a request for budget change across categories and fiscal year by end of December 2023.

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

Discussed with NIRAS: Yes/No,

