

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 2023

Project reference	DIR29S2\1038
Project title	Establishing Incentive-based mechanisms for biodiversity and well-being in small- scale fisheries
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead partner	University of Oxford
Partner(s)	IPB University Yayasan Impak Laut Biru Yayasan Teman Laut Indonesia, Yayasan Konservasi dan Penelitian Pari Mobula
Project leader	Hollie Booth
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31/10/2023 HYR1
Project website/blog/social media	https://mcem.web.ox.ac.uk/incentive-based-marine-conservation

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).

During April – September 2023, the following progress has been made against our implementation timetable:

- 1. Output 1. Understand and design:** research outputs estimating how incentives could change fisher behaviour and impact biodiversity and human wellbeing compiled for 6 project sites (covering >300 households) by March 2024
Four PhD students were recruited at IPB University. They officially enrolled in August 2023, and have begun their training and research planning. Research instruments have been developed for data collection across all project sites, including shared interview and fisheries data collection templates. New scoping and baseline research has started in seven small-scale fishery sites: Tanjung Luar (Lombok), Lunyuk (Sumbawa), Banda (Maluku), Karimunjawa (Java), Muncar (Java), Aceh Barat Daya (Aceh) and Sumba (East Nusa Tenggara), which builds on existing data in five villages in Aceh Jaya (Aceh) and East Lombok (West Nusa Tenggara). Initial data analysis has already begun, with two papers in draft based on baseline data (expected submission: March 2024) and one paper accepted for publication in Marine and Freshwater Research.
- 2. Output 2. Implement:** incentive-based interventions are implemented in 4 coastal communities, with >200 participating fisher households, by March 2025.
Implementation of two incentive-based interventions continued in East Lombok (2 villages) and Aceh Jaya (3 villages), wherein fishers are offered monetary compensation for releasing Critically Endangered sharks that become entangled in their nets and lines (N.B. planning and an initial pilot started in 2022 before the BCF funding, BCF has allowed continued

implementation and evaluation of these schemes). The compensatory payments are conditional on fishers submitting video proof of live releases, and so far the interventions have reached a total of 87 households. We now have >12 months of data for these villages, and in June 2023 (for East Lombok) and August 2023 (for Aceh Jaya) we conducted workshops with participating fishers and other key stakeholders (e.g., local government) to obtain feedback on the results and agree on next steps. During the workshops, we obtained FPIC to adapt and continue the incentive-based interventions in both sites. To date, 860 Critically Endangered hammerhead sharks and wedgefish have been safely released through our interventions in East Lombok and Aceh Jaya, with >IDR 75 million disbursed in compensatory payments (~GBP 4,000) for participating fishers.

3. Output 3. Evaluate: research outputs compiled detailing the impact and cost-effectiveness of the interventions - on marine biodiversity and human well-being - by August 2025. Monitoring of fisher behaviour and well-being (using interview-administered questionnaires) and megafauna bycatch (vessel landings surveys) has started in seven new small-scale fishery sites (as outlined Output 1), which will act as baseline data for future impact evaluations.

The same methods and evaluation metrics are also being used in East Lombok and Aceh Jaya, where implementation is on-going. In East Lombok and Aceh Jaya, we are also collected data on live releases and disbursement of incentives, and the incentive-based interventions are being implemented as a randomised control trial (RCT) to enable causal inference and attribution regarding the impact of the incentives. Post-intervention interviews have also been conducted with participating fishers and female heads of household in East Lombok and Aceh Jaya. A mixed-methods impact assessment is currently being conducted based on 14-months of data for these sites, and a manuscript based on the results is in draft, which should be submitted for publication in the next quarter.

4. Output 4. Scale and legacy: institutions, capacity, long-term partnerships, and financing mechanisms are established, to maintain on-going investments in project sites, and share methods and lessons learned for scaling up to other sites, by March 2026.

Four PhD students were enrolled at IPB University in August 2023 and have begun their research training, with regular training and mentoring for the students and other early career researchers (ECRs) from the partner institutions.

Structured training for the students and ECRs included four seminars/workshops on: 1) interdisciplinary research for behaviour change; 2) impact assessment methods; 3) conventional and electronic tagging (in partnership with the UK Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science); 4) human dimensions of shark research and conservation and conservation leadership (in partnership with James Cook University).

Stakeholder engagement, consultation, and capacity building workshops have also been conducted for other stakeholders across target fishing communities, including fishers and local governments. This included an end of pilot workshop with fishers and local government in East Lombok (June 2023), an end of pilot workshop plus training in safe handling and tagging for fishers and local government in Aceh Jaya (August 2023), and initial consultative workshops in Banda, Karimunjawa and Aceh Barat Daya. Policy briefings have also been disseminated to local government partners in Aceh.

Results and lessons learned from the project were presented at one seminar at Bangor University (April 2023), the International Congress for Conservation Biology in Rwanda (July 2023) and a webinar on valuing marine wildlife in small-scale fisheries facilitated by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) (September 2023). The project leader was also invited to present at a WorldFish workshop, which will take place in October 2023, to offer lessons learned for the incentive-based coastal fisheries management work package under the FCDO-funded Asia-Africa BlueTech superhighway project.

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.

We experienced some delays in receiving funding relative to the anticipated project kick off date. We have also experienced delays in disbursing funds to our project partners because the internal due diligence and set-up processes took longer than anticipated, and we had some payments that were unexpectedly rejected by Oxford's bank. This has meant that some activities and spending started later than originally planned, however we currently anticipate that we will still be on track to deliver against the original budget and timetable of project activities by the end of year 1.

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

Discussed with NIRAS: No

Formal Change Request submitted: No

Received confirmation of change acceptance No

Change request reference if known:

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e., from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)

Actual spend: £ [REDACTED]

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 2024)?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

4c. 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.**

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?

NA

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response, 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.

All new projects (excluding Darwin Plus Fellowships and IWT Challenge Fund Evidence projects) should submit their Risk Register with this report if they have not already done so.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with NIRAS 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**