



**BIODIVERSITY  
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



## **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: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**

**Please note all projects that were active before 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 are required to complete a Half Year Report.**

**Submit to: [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com) including your project ref in the subject line.**

<b>Project reference</b>	<i>This should be the project reference provided in your offer paperwork and <u>not</u> your application number</i>
<b>Project title</b>	Securing Spermonde's seascape through community-based coral reef fisheries management
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Indonesia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	Fauna & Flora Indonesia Programme
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Regional Natural Resources Conservation Agency of South Sulawesi (BBKSDA), Maros Pangkep Geopark Management Body, National Marine Protected Areas Agency (BKKPN)
<b>Project Leader</b>	<i>Subhan Usman</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	<i>31 October 2025, HYR1</i>
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	

**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).**

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) 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.

**Output 1:** By EOP, the Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management (EAFM) is being implemented by two fishing communities with support from MPA/Geopark managers

*Activity 1.1 Conduct baseline EAFM assessment (including fish resources, habitats and ecosystems, fishing techniques, and economic, social, institutional factors) (completed in year 1)*

*Activity 1.2 Conduct gaps assessment to identify gaps and priority interventions for sustainable fisheries management (fishing practices, market measures and MPA management actions) in 2 fishing communities (completed in year 1)*

*Activity 1.3 Conduct training needs assessment for both women and men in two communities (completed in year 1)*

*Activity 1.4 Develop action plan for sustainable fisheries management practices in two fishing communities (completed in year 1 and 2)*

*Activity 1.5 Conduct a series of workshops/meetings to strengthen inter-stakeholder dialogue and improve MPA/Geopark management*

Building on the activities implemented during the first and second years, we conducted another series of meetings to strengthen dialogue among stakeholders and improve the geopark management. During this reporting period, discussions focused on two main topics: (1) the existing Marine Protected Area in the Spermonde archipelago, and (2) fishing zone arrangements based on vessel size, in reference to national regulations. The second topic is closely linked to issues of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) fishing and equity in the utilization of fisheries resources.

A series of meetings on the first topic was held on 24–27 April 2025, attended by institutional partners such as Provincial Marine Affairs Branch Office (CDK Pangkep), the Maros Pangkep Geopark Management Body, and community representatives from Kapoposang and Podang-podang Islands ([Awareness session on Marine Protected Area management](#)). Meanwhile, the meeting discussing fishing zone arrangements based on vessel size took place on 8 August 2025, involving government partners and fisher representatives from three islands: Podang-podang, Pala, and Lamputang. This activity not only aimed to raise awareness of fishing zone delineation regulations but also sought to resolve ongoing fishing ground conflicts between fishers from Podang-podang and the two neighboring islands ([Awareness session on fishing zone regulation](#)).

**Output 2:** By EOP, two communities are actively co-managing their fisheries resources through monitoring and surveillance patrols

*Activity 2.1 Facilitate the establishment and strengthening of fisher groups (completed in year 1 and 2)*

*Activity 2.2 Share results from the EAFM assessment (per Output 1) and collect and incorporate feedback from community consultations (completed in year 1 and 2)*

*Activity 2.3 Facilitate action plan development for fisheries improvements in 2 community fisher group*

During this reporting period, three action plan activities for fisheries groups were implemented, engaging fishers, fisher groups, and women-led business groups. The activities included a basic skills training for fishers, a product quality improvement training combined with a market link-up session for fisher groups, and a product quality enhancement training followed by a trial marketing activity for fish processors and sellers, who are also women-led business groups. Activities two and three represented a continuation of the action plans that had been jointly developed with stakeholders during the fourth quarter of Year 2.

The basic skills training for fishers was conducted on 24–27 July 2025 in close collaboration with the Provincial Marine and Fisheries Office (DKP) and was attended by 120 fishers from Kapoposang and Podang-podang Islands ([Fisher Competency Certification Report](#)). The second activity took place on 16–17 June 2025. In addition to the training, the event facilitated a fresh fish transaction between 16 members of the fisher group and a new buyer, CV. Reski Abadi. The third activity, a training on product quality improvement and trial fishery product transactions for women-led business groups, was held on 3–4 September 2025. The trial involved 15 group members and two new buyers beyond the existing traditional buyers, including Diamond retail company and a modern market in Makassar City ([Participatory Market System Development Capacity Building Report](#)).

*Activity 2.4 By end of Y2, project information materials are co-created and utilised by two communities*  
(completed in year 2)

*Activity 2.5 Facilitate a series of training sessions for community-based fisheries management in monitoring surveillance standard/protocols, fisheries management, fish landing monitoring, SMART patrol*

Two activities under this workstream were implemented during the reporting period. The first was the continuation of fish landing monitoring, and the second was the continuation of training and implementation of joint patrols using the SMART Patrol system.

For the first activity, building on the monitoring conducted in Years 1 and 2, fish landing monitoring was carried out on both islands of Kapoposang and Podang-podang from May to October 2025, using the same sampling design as previous years, covering 40 fishing vessels across both sites. The monitoring involved four enumerators, three of whom were women. Cumulatively since the first year, the total number of monitoring days has now reached 360. The fish landing data are still being analysed. Over 24 fish species were recorded, with CPUE and LBSPR analyses focused on snapper and grouper. Monitoring involved 40 fishers using various gears, including bag seine, gillnet, trawl net, fish trap, and handline. Data collected covered fish length and weight, fishing location, operational costs, and production transactions ([Fish Landing Report - Kapoposang and Podang-podang](#)).

For the second activity, training and implementation of patrols using the SMART Patrol system were conducted on both islands from May to October 2025 and will continue in the next reporting period. A total of seven patrols were conducted, covering 326 km and involving 21 participants from community surveillance groups of “Mattiro Ujung” and “Podang Lestari”, the Pangkep Marine and Fisheries Office (CDK), BBKSDA, the Marine and Fisheries Resources Surveillance Agency and Fauna & Flora. One violation was recorded within the Kapoposang Marine Park’s core zone, for which a warning letter was issued to prohibit fishing activities in the area. Other findings mainly related to vessels lacking proper legal documentation, most of which originated from outside Kapoposang and Podang-podang Islands ([Smart Patrol](#)).

**Output 3:** Fisheries livelihoods in two coastal communities are more secure and sustainable through implementation of Participatory Market Systems Development

*Activity 3.1 Conduct market linkages and gaps assessment using Participatory Market System Development (PMSD) market mapping approach*

Market mapping using the PMSD approach has been carried out since the first and second years of the project. As described in Section 2.3, we followed up on the market mapping results by facilitating a meeting between the fisher group from Kapoposang Island and the private company CV. Reski Abadi to initiate a direct fish trading partnership, which is scheduled to begin in November 2025. ([PMSD - Transaction Trial Report](#)).

*Activity 3.2 Facilitating the development of action plans by priority stakeholder groups to improve commodity/product quality and meet market standards from two communities, including gender-disaggregated measures - (completed in Y2)*

This activity was completed in Q4 of Year 2. The implementation of the action plans resulting from this workstream has been reported under Activities 2.3 and 3.1 above. However, following the discussion with the Head of the Fisheries Office during the PMSD workshop held in Q4 of Year 2, and in order to create broader enabling conditions, we plan to present the results of the fish landing monitoring—integrated with the PMSD analysis findings—as recommendations for fisheries business development in the Spermonde area to the Regent of Pangkep. This presentation is scheduled for the final quarter of the program.

*Activity 3.3 Facilitate monitoring and evaluation of stakeholder action plan implementation - This activity is scheduled to take place from 10 to 14 November 2025.*

*Activity 3.4 Facilitate Participatory Impact Assessment to identify project impacts and attribution - This activity is scheduled to take place from 10 to 14 November 2025.*

*Activity 3.5 Facilitate training to strengthen markets and livelihoods*

Two trainings were conducted: (1) Institutional Development, Competitiveness, and Work Motivation; and (2) Business Improvement. The first training was held in August 2025, covering topics such as group dynamics, business diagnosis, and key industry cluster development. The second training took place in September 2025 and focused on strategies for sustaining fisheries enterprises and improving sales transactions ([PMSD Report 2025](#)).

**Output 4:** By 2026, the management and zoning plan of the Geopark for the Spermonde Karst island include actions to mitigate land-based impacts on marine ecosystems

*Activity 4.1 Facilitate stakeholder workshops and scientific computer-based modelling to develop models of land-based impacts on marine environment.*

During this period, we conducted another survey to assess the environmental load generated from land-based activities within the Maros-Pangkep Geopark area, representing the dry season (the previous survey was conducted during the rainy season). The survey included water quality assessments at 20 sampling points across river basins and coastal areas, a social survey on fertilizer and pesticide use among fish and shrimp farmers, and an assessment of the impacts of land-based activities on nearby islands at river estuaries. The water quality survey was completed on 9–14 October 2025, and the samples are currently being analysed, with the report expected to be ready by December 2025. The social survey is scheduled for November 2025, followed by a workshop to present and discuss the land-based survey results with partners in December 2025.

*Activity 4.2 Develop a policy brief document to recommend improved management and reduce land-based impacts to the Geopark and MPA - It will be conducted in January 2025.*

*Activity 4.3 Develop recommendations for land-based impact mitigation and incorporate into revised MPA zoning plan and relevant areas of the Geopark management plans - It will be conducted in January 2025.*

**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.**

No notable problems or unexpected developments were encountered during this reporting period. All planned activities have been implemented as scheduled, and the project remains on track in terms of both budget and timeline.

**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
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Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/ No
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Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes/ No
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Change Request reference if known: *If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome*

**Guidance for Section 4:** The information you provide in this section will be used by Defra to review the financial status of projects. This review will identify projects at random for spot checks on financial management and will include requests for evidence of the actual spend information provided below. Please ensure the figures you provide are as accurate as possible and that you have the evidence to support it. You do not need to provide it now.

**4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)**

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 2026)?**

No ☐ Estimated underspend: £0

**4c. If you expect an underspend, then you should 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, and not later than 31<sup>st</sup> December. 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 BCFs management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

Suspensions or allegations related to fraud and error concerns should be reported to [fraudanderror@Defra.gov.uk](mailto:fraudanderror@Defra.gov.uk)

No issues to raise at this stage.

## **6. Project risk management**

**6a. If your project has an Overseas Security and Justice assessment, please provide an update on any related risks, and any special conditions in your award paperwork if relevant for your project.**

No new developments to report. All risk conditions remain unchanged from the previous reporting period.

**7. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent Annual Report. As a reminder, all projects that were scored as 'Not Yet Sensitive' in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment of their latest Annual Report should demonstrate how they are meeting the minimum GESI-Sensitive standard.**

Three key points were raised in the previous annual report review: (1) progress on the computer-based modelling of land-based impacts, (2) stronger engagement with MPA and Geopark agencies to integrate project recommendations into management plans, and (3) improvements to the MEL system.

For the first point, we have completed the water quality survey and have been discussing the development of computer-based modelling to reduce land-based impacts on the MPA and Geopark. The model, along with a policy brief and management recommendations, is expected to be completed and disseminated in January 2026. The dissemination will not only target the geopark management body but also relevant Pangkep District Government offices overseeing related activities. As in previous years, we have continued to hold a series of meetings with partners to follow up on the survey results and refine action plans accordingly.

Regarding the second point, collaboration continues with partners such as the Pangkep Marine and Fisheries Branch Office (CDK), Maros-Pangkep Geopark Management Body, BBKSDA, and BKKPN Kupang in supporting area management. This is closely aligned with the upcoming Maros-Pangkep Geopark revalidation process scheduled for January 2026. Project-supported

activities and reports contribute as reference materials for the revalidation process. Based on our recommendations, there is potential for the geopark management to expand its intervention sites on island areas. Currently, most core zones are land-based, but the Geopark plans to include more island sites in the future, possibly aligning with existing zonation in the Kapoposang Marine Park and Liukang Tupabbiring MPA, or identifying new sites with high biodiversity value.

For the third point, concerning the MEL system, the initial MEL matrix developed at the start of the project is no longer in use. We found several technical challenges that made it less practical, such as the requirement to estimate percentages for each activity, which proved time-consuming for field staff who also have ongoing operational responsibilities. This served as a key lesson learned for us. During the transition, we needed support from a staff member who was already familiar with the system but had since left the organisation. As a result, throughout this year, we have adopted a simpler and more efficient monitoring approach through regular coordination meetings and progress reviews. Achievements and outputs are now recorded in a streamlined spreadsheet system that can be easily updated and used by field teams.

We acknowledge the reviewer's note regarding the project's GESI sensitivity level. While the project was previously assessed as "not yet sensitive," we recognise that several elements align with the six core principles of GESI-sensitive programming.

The project does not exacerbate inequality; rather, it has begun to identify and support women who take initiative in fisheries-related activities. Both men and women are engaged in consultations, and data are disaggregated by gender to help track differential impacts. We continue to assess the effects of project interventions on both women and men.

We have access to GESI expertise through Fauna & Flora's Asia-Pacific gender specialist and recently received in-house training on GESI, safeguarding, and social safeguards. Safeguarding risks are identified and discussed regularly. While some local partners have yet to establish robust safeguarding systems, the Geopark Management Body has a dedicated women's empowerment division, which we actively involve helping mainstream gender issues in community engagement. We also continue to remind and guide partners on Fauna & Flora's safeguarding principles during joint activities.

Overall, we believe the project now reflects several aspects of a GESI-sensitive approach and will continue to strengthen these measures through partner engagement and ongoing capacity building.

