

## Darwin Initiative Main & Extra Annual Report

To be completed with reference to the "Project Reporting Information Note":

(<https://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/resources/information-notes/>)

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 20 pages** in length, excluding annexes)

**Submission Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

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### Darwin Initiative Project Information

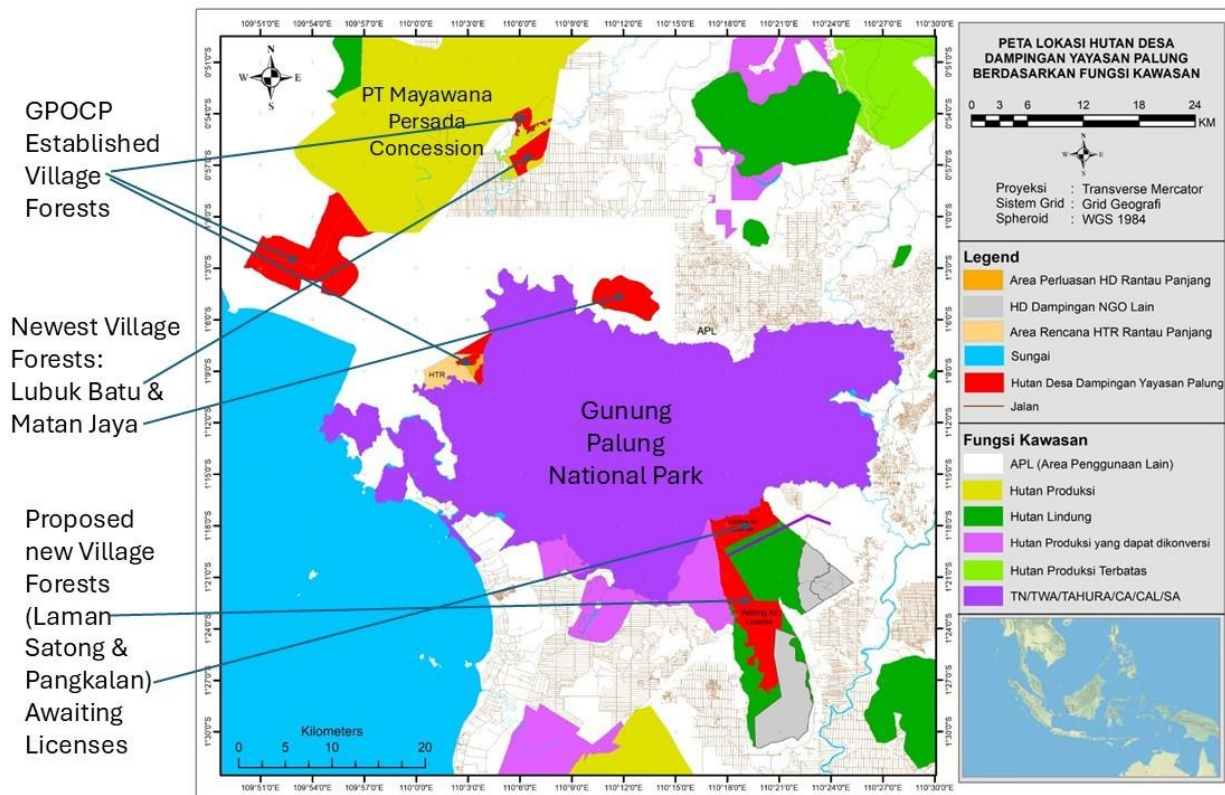
Scheme (Main or Extra)	Main
Project reference	31-015
Project title	<b>Community-based Orangutan Conservation through Science, Land Rights, and Livelihoods</b>
Country/ies	Indonesia
Lead Organisation	Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program
Project partner(s)	
Darwin Initiative grant value	£235,086
Start/end dates of project	April 1, 2024-March 31, 2027
Reporting period (e.g. Apr 2024 – Mar 2025) and number (e.g. Annual Report 1, 2, 3)	April 2024-Mar 2025; Annual Report 1
Project Leader name	Cheryl Knott
Project website/blog/social media	SaveWildOrangutans.org
Report author(s) and date	Caitlin O'Connell, April 29, 2025

### 1. Project summary

Gunung Palung National Park (GPNP) and the surrounding landscape represent one of the most important blocks of orangutan habitat in the world, containing one of the last viable populations of critically endangered Bornean orangutans. The region is home to numerous other vulnerable and endangered species, including sun bears, proboscis monkeys, hornbills, and clouded leopards. Despite the Park's conservation designation, seven main threats continue to affect biodiversity here: logging-related forest loss, forest conversion for agriculture, forest fires, hunting, illegal pet trade, and weak law enforcement (Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, 2009). Human populations surrounding GPNP face multidimensional poverty. Indonesia has one of the highest populations living in poverty, is one of the biggest emitters of carbon, and is one of the most biodiverse places on the planet. In the GPNP region, many adults are undereducated, having completed only elementary or junior high school. West Kalimantan is less developed than other part of Indonesia, with little infrastructure and limited economic opportunities. This leaves people with few livelihood options aside from farming, working for oil palm companies, or participating in other environmentally destructive activities. There is thus a clash between the protection of the region's biodiversity and a need to increase local livelihoods. Short-term economic interests are unsustainably exploiting natural resources, and timber, palm oil and minerals are exported at an alarming rate, debilitating ecosystems, destroying biodiversity and leaving local people with no long-term economic options. In turn, local communities surrounding

GPNP clear remaining forest areas for farmland and are forced to encroach into GPNP for additional livelihood needs (Knott et al., 2021).

The Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program (GPOCP) has been conducting scientific research in GPNP since 1994 and since 2000 has worked to empower local communities to protect wild orangutans and their habitat. Since 2012 we have led the effort to help local communities obtain legal title to their land through the Hutan Desa, or Village Forest, program. We work with these communities to teach them how to manage their land sustainably, conduct patrols, and establish alternative livelihoods. For this project, we are increasing the area of protected forests, increasing the capacity of communities to sustainably manage Village Forests, increasing participation and income from Sustainable Livelihoods, assessing how Village Forests impact biodiversity and habitat quality, and assess the impact of our work on human communities through participatory impact assessments.



## 2. Project stakeholders/ partners

While we do not have partners that are contributing to this project financially, we are partnered with all of the Village Forest Management Boards (LPHD) of each Village Forest that we work with in order to facilitate meeting their objectives and produce the intended outcomes of this project. During initial contact meetings between our staff and village leaders, we explained how Indonesia's social forestry initiative works, the benefits of the program to the community – including how plants and wildlife will be protected while also enhancing community wellbeing through social forestry business groups - and answer all questions and concerns from community members. It is only once a community is informed and expresses their explicit interest in initiating the process that we then help them through the application stages with the government. Once a Village Forest is established, we work with the Village Forest Management Board (LPHD), which is made up of members of that village, to craft Standard Operating Procedures (See Annex A for a sample SOP) and their Social Forestry Plan, which serves to outline the communities' goals and the benefits of the initiative, as well as their Annual Work Plan which outlines the expectations for what will occur each year for managing their forest.

As part of our Darwin funded project, we have recently completed third party Participatory Impact Assessments to formally assess how Village Forest communities and Sustainable Livelihood group participants perceive the benefits of the program, and the strengths and weaknesses of the support they receive from our organization. For these PIAs, we contracted Rahmawati (Ema)

from another local NGO (Flora & Fauna International, see Annex B for contract), and she is still completing her formal reports, which we expect in May 2025.

### **3. Project progress**

#### **3.1 Progress in carrying out project Activities**

**Output 1: By the end of the project period three new village forests (~3900 ha) outside of the boundaries of Gunung Palung National Park will be legally protected, resulting in a total of 9 village forests that are sustainably managed and monitored.**

We successfully finalized the establishment of Matan Jaya Village Forest (VF) (See Annex C for the permit) and created the management board (LPHD) after receiving official federal government decree. The LPHD Matan Jaya has 25 people, consisting of 18 men and 7 women. (1.1, Annex C). We identified two candidate areas for potential new Village Forests to the south of GPNP, mapped protected and utilization zones, and held socialization meetings and focus groups with the communities to address all their questions and determine the goals of the community (1.2-1.4). With enthusiastic community interest in the program, we have submitted proposal applications to the government for official verification of Pangkalan Jihing (1,861 hectares) and Nek Doyan (4,263 hectares) Village Forests ahead of schedule (1.5; Annex D, E). The Nek Doyan Village Forest received Technical Verification from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia in November 2024. This came with approval for 21 men and 9 women in the Nek Doyan Village Forest Management Board (Annex D).

**Output 2. Increased capacity and independence of Village Forest Management Boards (LPHD).**

We have completed 3 of the 7 planned patrol camps in Village Forests, two of which were funded by Darwin Initiative funds (2.1). We have constructed them in Penjataan, Padu Banjar, and Rantau Panjang Village Forests. Pemangkat and Nipah Kuning are currently being constructed. We have paused progress on the others due to a pause in our funding from US Fish & Wildlife Service. We successfully trained the LPHD in the newest Village Forests, Lubuk Batu and Matan Jaya, to conduct monthly SMART patrols, and carried out SMART patrols in 6 other established Village Forests every month of the project (2.2; See Annex G for SMART patrol database). In May, we provided First Aid Training in Accidents (P3K) to the Village Forest Patrol Team which was attended by 22 members from 6 village forests.

In February, we provided capacity building to the patrol teams with training on orangutan nest identification, tree identification, forest and land fire monitoring using the Si-Pongi application and the Making of Patrol Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) which was attended by 29 people (LPHD and Patrol Team) from 8 Village Forests. In May 2024, we held First Aid training for patrol team members from 6 Village Forests (Annex F, 2.2). We made Village Forest communities more fire resistant with fire prevention campaigns that included banner and billboard installation in Padu Banjar Village (Annex F. 2.3). In November, we held Firefighting Training and Fire Brigade formation involving Nipah Kuning Village and Pemangkat Village with a total of 20 participants consisting of patrol teams, Fire Care Communities (MPA), Indonesian National Army and Police (Annex F. 2.3). We also provided 1 fire extinguisher unit to LPHD Rantau Panjang and 1 unit to LPHD Lubuk Batu. In addition, we provided additional fire hoses for 7 village forests (100 meters per LPHD) and firefighting personal equipment (clothes, shoes, goggles, helmets, etc.) (Annex F. 2.3).

We built forestry plant nurseries to rehabilitate the burned village forest areas starting in April 2024 with a total of 2,000 seedlings in Padu Banjar Village and 2,000 seedlings in Pemangkat Village. The seedlings consisted of *Melicope latifolia* (Melaning Wood), *Macaranga* sp (Mahang), *Alstonia* (Island Wood), *Archidendron clypearia* (Forest Jengkol), *Ficus* sp (Fig). In November 2024, 2,000 forestry plants were planted in the former burned area of the Padu Banjar Village Forest. We also worked with LPHD Penjataan and Padu Banjar to nursery and plant Multi-Purpose Tree Species in areas outside the village forest intended for Non-timber Forest Products (See Annex F. 2.4 for a table of what was planted).

Joint Patrols were carried out when the patrol team found illegal activities in the Village Forest areas. These joint patrols involved the Gunung Palung National Park Forestry Police, the Kayong

Forest Management Unit (KPH), the Indonesian National Army (TNI), the Police, LPHD, and our staff. The Joint Patrol in the Pemangkat Village Forest was carried out on August 23-25, 2024 and resulted in action against 1 illegal logging perpetrator. The Joint Patrol in the Nipah Kuning Village Forest was carried out on September 14-15, 2024, apprehending 2 illegal loggers (see photo evidence of Joint Patrols, Annex F. 2.5). The perpetrators of illegal logging were warned and signed an agreement not to continue illegal activity in the village forest area. In addition, the actors were also invited by GPOCP to get involved in our organic farming program. Since the joint patrol was carried out, no more illegal logging activities have been found in these two Village Forests.

The implementation of Activity 2.6 LPHD Study Exchange will take place during Year 2 of the project.

We hosted 4 training workshops (June, August, October, December) on land clearing without burning and organic fertilizer making with a total of 80 participants involved from 7 villages, consisting of 58 men and 22 women (Annex F. 2.7)

**Output 3. Expand participation from 447 to 500 people in sustainable livelihoods (both through KUPS and our non-affiliated group Village Forest) by communities around GPNP, benefiting ~2400 people with a 20% increase in market sales.**

We established two new Sustainable Livelihoods groups in Lubuk Batu and two in Matan Jaya. In Lubuk Batu (Activity 3.1), one with 19 men and 2 women (Subur Makmur Forest Farmers) and one with 22 women (Srikandi Lubuk NTFP group) (see Annex H1 and H2 for the permit letters). In Matan Jaya, a Clean Water Business Group with 17 men and 3 women; and a NTFP and Aquaculture group with 10 men and 10 women (see Annex I1 and I2 for the permit letters). With these new groups, we have exceeded our original goal of 500 people and now have 516 people (314 men and 202 women) in the sustainable livelihoods groups (see Annex J for list of all groups and the membership).

We made a horticultural demonstration plots in Rantau Panjang Village (KUPS Rapa Karya Mandiri), Penjataan Village (KUPS Tani Makmur and KUPS Mutiara Agro Lestari), Pulau Kumbang Village (Pulau Kumbang Farmers Group) and Padu Banjar Village (KUPS Padi Lestari and KUPS Medan Sepakat Jaya) (see Annex F. 2.8) We hosted organic fertilizer training for farmer groups in Rantau Panjang Village, Penjataan Village, Pulau Kumbang Village, Padu Banjar Village. The training was carried out in conjunction with Land Clearing Without Burning training (Annex F 2.7).

We provided training to livelihood groups based on the potential that exists in the village forest areas with a total of 70 participants (32 men and 38 women) (see Annex F, 3.3). In May we did training on the development of Chili Raw Products involving 6 villages (Rantau Panjang, Penjataan, Nipah Kuning, Pemangkat, Kumbang Island, Padu Banjar) which was attended by 17 people (8 men and 9 women). In February, we gave training on Processing Technology for Herbal Beverage Products, Herbs, and Food Spices Made from Family Medicinal Plants (TOGA involving 4 village forests (Rantau Panjang, Penjataan, Nipah Kuning, Padu Banjar) which was attended by 29 people (all women). In February we also did Forest Honey Bee Cultivation (Apis Dorsata) and Sustainable Harvesting which was attended by 4 villages (Padu Banjar, Rantau Panjang, Lubuk Batu, Matan Jaya) which was attended by 18 people (all men). In December, we provided a comparative study opportunity to LPHD Matan Jaya and Lubuk Batu to learn about Liberica Coffee cultivation in Seponti Jaya District which was attended by 6 people (6 men). We also provided 6,000 liberica coffee beans (3,000 coffee beans for Matan Jaya Village and 3,000 coffee beans for Lubuk Batu Village) to be cultivated in each village. We also provided equipment and materials for making plant seedlings for liberica coffee.

We helped several groups extend their product certificates, namely Halal Certification from the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), Household Industrial Food Permit (PIRT) and Business Identification Number (NIB). We did this for the "Madu Lestari" KUPS in Padu Banjar Village, the Simpang Keramat Chips KUPS in Penjataan Village, the Sinar Selatan KUPS in Penjataan Village, the Pemangkat Village People's Business Cup, and the Ashoka KUPS (3.5b)

Every month we monitored the products and income of 14 livelihood groups (Annex F. 3.5c). In total, KUPS groups brought in Rp. 361,936,700 over the reporting period (Annex F. 3.5c).

In late June and early July, we hosted an exhibition of our sustainable livelihood groups' products as part of a larger GPOCP anniversary celebration (Annex F. 3.5d). We also sold products at a

monthly mobile market at a tourist attraction in Sukadana (Annex F. 3.5e), as well as selling through our roadside gallery and social media.

**Output 4. Conservation research methodologies involving new technologies and active and passive monitoring are developed, tested, and reported to stakeholders as scalable tools for measuring conservation success.**

We successfully conducted annual biodiversity surveys in 6 Village Forests (4.1), encompassing the Sungai Paduan region and the Sungai Purang region (see Annex K for summary of results from the surveys in 2024). The report on the results of the surveys are being translated and will soon be submitted to our partner institutions/agencies (Kalimantan Provincial Environment and Forestry Service, BPSKL Kalimantan Region, KPH Kayong).

We provided training on camera trap installation and data collection, orangutan nests and identification of feeding trees for orangutan population surveys for 29 people from 8 Village Forests in February 2025 (4.2). In June 2024, we held a multi-day training event specifically for our newest Village Forests, Lubuk Batu and Matan Jaya, to be trained on surveys and passive monitoring with the experienced LPHD of Padu Banjar.

We checked the passive monitoring stations and downloaded the data every 2 months, and the LPHD of 6 Village Forests are currently able to check and collect passive monitoring data independently without being accompanied by our staff (see Annex L for Passive Monitoring tool check database).

Several analyses have been performed on passive monitoring data and reported at scientific conferences, making progress toward publications that will come to fruition by the project's end (4.2; see Annex M for 6 conference abstracts from Year 1). There are currently 17 passive monitoring stations across the three forest types, with more planned for the coming year in new Village Forests. The methodologies and best practices for camera traps and bioacoustics monitoring are being updated regularly (4.3; see Annex N & O for the working protocol documents). Analysis of various measures of habitat quality among primary, secondary, and village forests have been conducted and presented at conferences so far (4.4; see Annex M for conference abstract, Annex F 4.4 for a figure).

**Output 5: Community wellbeing at the start, midway, and at the end of the project period is documented through systematic assessments**

We contracted with Ema from FFI to conduct Participatory Impact Assessments with our Village Forest communities and Sustainable Livelihood groups (5.1). She completed her assessments and we are awaiting her formal written reports expected in May 2025 (see contract in Annex B). She had 159 respondents from 8 village forests, 100 men and 59 women. SAGE Assessments are planned for Year 2 (5.2).

**Progress towards project Outputs**

We have made great progress toward Output 1, having finalized the verification of Matan Jaya Village Forest (2,200 ha; see Annex A), and have already submitted the applications for two new Village Forests, Pangkalan Jihing (1,861 hectares; Annex E) and Nek Doyan (4,263 hectares; Annex D). The area approved for Matan Jaya was 300 hectares larger than we originally anticipated, and the proposed new Village Forests are also larger than we thought at our proposal stage. Thus, by the end of the project we anticipate far exceeding our goal of adding 3,900 hectares of protected forest and expect it instead to be 8,324 hectares of legally protected forest.

For Output 2, we have successfully increased the capacity of Village Forest Management Boards (LPHD), increasing the number of days of patrols from typical 5 days per month to at least 7 days per month (Annex G). There are now 25 new LPHD members, consisting of 18 men and 7 women in Matan Jaya, exceeding the goal of 10% women (Annex C). This brings us to a total of 197 LPHD members across 9 Village Forests, with 54 SMART patrolmen (2.2). To increase the capacity of LPHD Matan Jaya and Lubuk Batu, we sent representatives of each LPHD to learn directly from LPHD of Padu Banjar about SMART patrol protocols, reporting, and passive monitoring (camera traps, bioacoustics recorders, rain gauges, and temperature recorders), and both these new LPHD are now conducting monthly patrols of their own forests as of August 2024 (2.2; Annex G). 80 people attended Fire Prevention and Land Clearing Without Burning Training. The 2023-2024 fire season was worse than previous years, owing to El Nino droughts (see Annex

M. Kasianus et al. abstract for IPS) though all were successfully put out with minimal damage (2.3).

For Output 3, we expanded participation in sustainable livelihoods to 516 people by forming two new social forestry business groups in Matan Jaya and Lubuk Batu, with 46 men and 37 women (3.1; Annex J). 51 more people are involved in organic farming, with a total of 65 (44 men and 21 women) (3.2; Annex J). 331 seedlings of multi-purpose trees were planted in 1 village, while another 1,100 seedlings are still in nursery in a second village in Year 1 (3.3; Annex F 3.3). We have increased participation by women in sustainable livelihoods from 26% to 39% so far (3.4; Annex J). In 2023, our sustainable livelihoods groups cumulatively brought in Rp.109,086,000. In 2024, that increased to Rp. 361,936,700 (3.5; Annex F. 3.5).

For Output 4, we have successfully collected a wealth of new data to refine methodologies for measuring conservation success. All planned annual biodiversity surveys were carried out over the year in 6 Village Forests (we expect two new village forests to be surveyed by the end of the project period) (4.1; See Annex K for summary of results). We have 14 passive monitoring stations and expect to add 3 more in new Village Forests by the end of the project period. Data analysis of passive monitoring stations is ongoing and has been used in five presentations at scientific conferences this year (4.2; see Annex M for abstracts).

Preliminary analysis of data on habitat quality from biodiversity and phenology surveys indicate higher quality inside the national park in terms of canopy cover, but food availability varies and orangutan density is highest in the degraded forest inside the park, followed by primary forest, and then village forests (Annex K, M). Our preliminary results so far show that the Village Forests have more canopy gaps than the national park (see Abstract for AABA conference presentation by O'Connell et al. in Annex M).

For Outcome 5, we have just recently completed the Participatory Impact Assessments of 8 Village Forests with a total of 159 respondents (100 male respondents and 59 female respondents). The report on these as well as those for our Sustainable Livelihoods groups will be available in Q1 of Year 2. These assessments will give us good baseline data for understanding how the community perceives their wellbeing and the benefits of our programs so that we can compare it to the end of the project.

### **Progress towards the project Outcome**

Based on our progress so far, the outcome is likely to be achieved by the end of the project. We are well on our way to protecting substantially more forest area (Annex C, D, E), patrols are detecting decreased illegal activity over time (Annex M, Kasianus et al. abstract for IPS), and our preliminary data shows that active management of the Village Forest areas results in an average of 65% reduction in forest loss (Annex M, O'Connell et al. abstract for ZACC). Biodiversity survey results also indicate an increase in orangutan density from 2023 to 2024 (Annex K; Annex M O'Connell et al. abstract for AABA), indicating that these Village Forests are important forest refuges for orangutans. Our passive monitoring stations are also revealing many other species inhabit these forests, highlighting their capacity to harbor many species. We have made the minor adjustment to our Outcome Indicator 0.3 to indicate that "results will show steady or improved biodiversity in Village Forests" over the project period. And we have adjusted the target number of LPHD trained in SMART patrols to be "54 people." The original number, 140, was the target number of LPHD members, but only 6 members of each LPHD go out on patrols. This distinction was not clear in the original indicator but has been made clear in the logframe using tracked changes. We have added the target number of LPHD members to Indicator 1.3, and its 240 because we now know that a very large number of LPHD members are in the newest Village Forest, Matan Jaya, and there is robust interest in LPHD membership in the two proposed Village Forests, allowing us to increase our target compared to what we knew at the application stage.

### **3.2 Monitoring of assumptions**

**Assumptions 1-5 (Outcome):** Village Forest official verification is completed within the project timeframe

Community members continue to be willing to engage in SMART patrolling and firefighting activities.



Participants from Village Forest communities are willing to participate in social surveys

Appropriate expertise is available for design and analysis of patrolling data.

Appropriate expertise is available for continued development and testing of technology used for monitoring.

Comments: All of the Outcome level assumptions hold true at the end of Year 1. We have hired a Conservation Research Director that is helping to coordinate the wealth of data collection and helping to analyse it all.

**Output 1 Assumptions:** Expected/standard timeline of Village Forest establishment remains the same; Community members in proposed Village Forests continue to support the process; Community members in existing Village Forest continue to support LPHD activities and welcome GPOCP presence

Comments: All of Outcome 1 assumptions continue to hold true. Community members continue to be enthusiastic about the Village Forest program and participating in all LPHD activities with our staff, as evidenced by successful Village Forest application submissions (Annex D & E) and monthly patrols activities (Annex G).

**Output 2 Assumptions:** The trainings we offer are well-attended; There are some women in each village that have interest in participating in LPHD activities; Other LPHD will be interested and able to participate in the 'study banding' exchanges with our LPHD

Comments: Output 2 assumptions hold true. Community members and LPHD are eager to attend our events. Women continue to show limited interest in joining LPHD and they remain minority members, but there are always some that want to get involved. Currently there are 23/147 LPHD members that are women (16%). For the proposed new Village Forests, 12/45 proposed members are women (27%), which is a promising upward trend (Annex J).

**Output 3 Assumptions:** Community members want to participate in Sustainable Livelihoods groups with a sufficient number of women interested; Seedlings provided to LPHD survive and produce crop; environmental conditions allow for successful farming; people remain interested in purchasing sustainable livelihood products; farming yield are beyond needs of the household

Comments: These assumptions generally hold true. Seedlings and crops have been impacted by both drought and floods in Year 1, but participants have still been able to make money from organic farming (Annex F, 3.5).

**Output 4 Assumptions:** Forests remain safe and accessible to enter; proper research permits and cooperation with the national park is maintained; passive monitoring equipment is not disturbed by people outside the project and does not break

Comments: These assumptions generally hold true. We have had no issues with the national park or with maintaining access to any of the forest areas where we work. Monitoring equipment has succumbed to the elements occasionally, but we are improving our system by rotating them out and allowing camera traps and bioacoustics recorders to dry out regularly which is helping.

**Output 5 Assumptions:** Communities continue to welcome our staff and programs and participation continues.

Comments: We are well embedded within the landscape, with longstanding relationships with the communities we work with. They have continued to welcome our staff and engage with our

programs and we were able to exceed the number of participants in the first round of Participatory Impact Assessments.

### **3.3 Impact: achievement of positive impact on biodiversity and multidimensional poverty reduction**

The impact in our original application form was: Reduction in multidimensional poverty and illegal and destructive activities throughout the Gunung Palung landscape resulting in protected, biodiverse forests that can support healthy orangutan populations.

GPOCP's multifaceted approach—integrating habitat protection, community engagement, sustainable livelihoods, legal empowerment, scientific research, and wildlife protection—effectively contributes to the conservation of biodiversity in the Gunung Palung region. By focusing on orangutans as an umbrella species and protecting their forest habitat, we are effectively protecting numerous other species that we know exist in those same forests from our extensive biodiversity monitoring via surveys, camera traps, and bioacoustics monitoring. The reduction in forest loss we see as a result of Village Forest management (Annex M, O'Connell et al. abstract for ZACC), ensures that the forest home of countless plant and animal species is preserved.

Our project addresses multidimensional poverty by offering skills training and resource access via land rights empowerment. Our sustainable livelihoods programming delivers knowledge, skills, and income thereby directly addressing poverty (See Annex F for income table, and results of Participatory Impact Assessments expected shortly should tell us more). We also work to increase the number of women involved in conservation activities (1.4, 3.4; Annex J for group composition), which serves to increase equity and strengthen community cohesion.

## **4. Project support to the Conventions, Treaties or Agreements**

In late January and early February 2025, we contributed to the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry's Orangutan Strategic Plan 2025-2030 by meeting with National Park and Forestry officials and sharing our data and findings regarding orangutan density throughout different regions of Gunung Palung. We highlighted that there has been a decline in orangutan density in the north and east parts of GPNP over the last 20 years, and these are areas that lack a consistent presence of researchers and patrols. We recommended increased patrolling in those areas, more frequent population surveys to monitor changes, and to continue researching how orangutans cope with disturbed and regenerating forest – which we are currently doing. This, along with our sharing biodiversity survey results with BKSDA (Natural Resources Conservation Center) contributes to Indonesia's Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) targets.

We also contributed to the Social Forestry Program, which the Indonesian government implemented in 2008. The program aims to protect forests throughout the country, with a goal of legally protecting 12.7 million ha of land, including 1,330,431 ha in West Kalimantan. We added 2,200 hectares to that goal during this period (Annex C), and are working toward adding over 6,000 ha more in the coming year (Annex D & E).

## **5. Project support for multidimensional poverty reduction**

Our project is reducing multi-dimensional poverty in a number of ways. The local rural communities surrounding Gunung Palung National Park have few economic opportunities that are not environmentally destructive (see Section 1). We improve people's access to basic and material needs by offering training and support in sustainable livelihoods which bring income to households (Output 3, Annex F 3.5). 516 people have received training in livelihood methods. We have seen a 200% increase in sales from sustainable livelihoods products (3.5; Annex F. 3.5). We are working to improve the climate resilience of those livelihoods (see Section 8 Lessons Learnt) which leads to improved security and stability over time.

We also are contributing to poverty reduction in other ways. By actively recruiting and involving women in conservation activities, they use their central household and community social roles to



influence the behavior and choices of others and elevate their standing by contributing to household income. We have increased participation by women in sustainable livelihoods from 26% to 39% so far (3.4; Annex J). (3.1, 3.4). Supporting communities to utilize Indonesia's social forestry initiative, this project improves freedom of choice and action by securing land rights for rural populations, which we have done for 9 Villages, with one secured during this reporting period and another two set to be established in the coming year (Annex C & D). This program empowers community members to protect what is theirs, choose livelihoods that will work best for them, and govern their land in a systematic and democratic way. There are now a total of 197 people involved in governance structures of Village Forests (Annex J).

## 6. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)

<b>GESI Scale</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Put X where you think your project is on the scale</b>
<b>Not yet sensitive</b>	The GESI context may have been considered but the project isn't quite meeting the requirements of a 'sensitive' approach	
<b>Sensitive</b>	The GESI context has been considered and project activities take this into account in their design and implementation. The project addresses basic needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalised groups and the project will not contribute to or create further inequalities.	
<b>Empowering</b>	The project has all the characteristics of a 'sensitive' approach whilst also increasing equal access to assets, resources and capabilities for women and marginalised groups	X
<b>Transformative</b>	The project has all the characteristics of an 'empowering' approach whilst also addressing unequal power relationships and seeking institutional and societal change	

Our project falls on the Empowering level of the GESI scale. We disaggregate our data on participation in our programming by gender, ethnicity, and religion. This helps us to understand the communities we work with and the ways that different identities might impact how our programming is received and provides us with baselines by which to compare changes over time. We aim to be as inclusive as possible, all while appreciating the sociocultural reasons that some groups may or may not be as interested or even allowed to participate in various aspects of our programming.

Indonesia is a Muslim-majority country with traditional gender roles permeating the culture. Our conservation and research staff, of 29 men and 13 women, come from diverse ethnic groups: Melayu, Javanese, Bugis, Chinese, Dayak and Batak. Staff and program participants identify as Muslim, Catholic, Christian (Protestant), Buddhist and Confucian. As per Indonesian law, we ensure at least 30% participation from women among staff and aim for the same in our programs, exceeding that wherever possible.

Our almost entirely local staff bring with them an understanding of how gender and cultural dynamics may constrain participation. These concerns are discussed and incorporated into all of our program planning. During Year 1, we have seen an increase in participation by women in Sustainable Livelihoods and Village Forest Management Boards (LPHD) (see 3.4 and Annex J) by more actively recruiting them while taking into consideration the sorts of roles and tasks that

will be desirable for women in this region. Our women staff members have been especially good at recognizing the specific needs of women in the communities we work with and finding ways to engage them and improve their wellbeing. Our Sustainable Livelihoods Manager also organized an anti-violence against women campaign (see Annex P, a newsletter article about it), recognizing that it is an underacknowledged but widespread problem in the region. During this last year in Rantau Panjang, one of the Village Forest communities, we started the Kembang Desa group. This group consists of women whose formal education ended prematurely due to financial or social circumstances, typically early marriage and/or pregnancy. Women hold unique roles in society and often serve as a bridge between older generations that have wisdom and power and the young generation which is technologically savvy. This group provides educational opportunities, skill building activities, and social support for women who will become better prepared to cope with the economic and ecological challenges posed by forest loss and climate change (see Annex Q for Newsletter article about a Kembang Desa event in March 2025).

## **7. Monitoring and evaluation**

The goal of our project is ultimately to protect forests and orangutans and many of our project activities serve to assess how well forests are protected. We have a variety of ways to assess forest quality and canopy cover to determine whether our efforts are actually serving to protect forests. Similarly, we have a number of methods to assess biodiversity in Village Forests (biodiversity surveys, passive monitoring). The challenge with these is that it requires a lot of data collection and data analysis to see the results (compiling satellite imagery over time, calculating canopy cover annually, handling the incredible volume of data produced at passive monitoring stations, etc). We have a solid team of people working to collect and analyze this data and expect that by project's end we will have some robust results to share, compiling the information from each year.

As for our impact on human communities that we work with, we monitor participation in groups and events and monitor income. These quantitative assessments can give an objective picture of whether we are improving human wellbeing, but hearing from community members about how they perceive changes in their quality of life and their thoughts on our programming will give us invaluable qualitative information. We will have results from our Participatory Impact Assessments (PIA) in the next month or so, and we expect this to allow us to understand our impact better and find ways to improve that otherwise would not be apparent through quantitative assessments alone. It will provide better insight into whether and how community members attribute our activities to changes they experience or observe. We hired an outside contractor (someone who works with FFI in a nearby region) to conduct the PIAs to avoid bias in community members response, as they may not be as forthright with our own staff if they have negative feedback to give.

## **8. Lessons learnt**

Overall we had a very successful first year. None of the challenges we faced was catastrophic, and all our activities have been able to take place. We did experience some difficulties along the way and are adapting to avoid similar challenges in the future.

For Indicator 2.2, we have made an adjustment to the target number of individuals trained to conduct SMART patrols, from 140 to 54. The original number conflated the total number of LPHD members with the number of LPHD that are trained to conduct SMART patrols. While we aim to get 10% participation by women in LPHD, it is not realistic to aim for 10% involvement by women in SMART patrols, as camping in a remote location with a group of men is not culturally appropriate for women. We will communicate with the BCF team about whether this requires a Change Request.

We are seeing floods and droughts increase over time, and some of our farmers experienced crop loss as a result of these climatic phenomena. We are exploring new ways to increase the climate resilience of our Sustainable Livelihoods moving forward to ensure that crops are more resilient and income streams are not lost due to unpredictable ecological conditions. We are applying for new grants to support some of this work and have already begun testing some new income streams for community members, such as stuffed toy making and herbal products.

We also found that scheduling the Participatory Impact Assessments was difficult due to scheduling challenges with a qualified third party to conduct the PIAs. We were able to get them done within the first year, but it was a challenge. In the future, we will work to get these scheduled further in advance of our target dates.

#### **Actions taken in response to previous reviews (if applicable)**

We responded to all feedback in our acceptance of the award and in our Half Year Report.

### **9. Risk Management**

No new types of risks have arisen in the last year that we had not previously accounted for. While the potential for financial shortfall is a risk we included in our original risk template, we did not expect to have an already-awarded grant be frozen. US Fish & Wildlife Service is a major funder of ours and shares the cost of some aspects of this project. As all foreign aid is being reevaluated by the current US administration, our USFWS funds are frozen. We are avoiding unnecessary spending and pausing progress on some projects as we await further news. This has not impacted this project in major ways, and we have been able to carry out all activities that Darwin Initiative funded. We have been seeking new sources of grant funding and are seeking donations to help make up for the potential loss of the USFWS funds.

### **10. Scalability and durability**

Our Village Forest Program leverages the existing Indonesian federal Social Forestry policy which aims to protect forests using land rights. People in rural Borneo are sometimes vaguely familiar with the policy, but do not know whether or how they qualify or how to go about navigating the complex and bureaucratic legal process of gaining these rights. Our staff bring this knowledge and expertise to them, and we direct communities to government resources that they are entitled to before, during, and after the Village Forest verification process. Occasionally, a community has learned about their eligibility, gained some deeper information from us, and ultimately decided that they would not pursue Village Forest verification due to the potential for conflict with neighbouring communities over boundaries. Such social conflict could be very damaging, so it is understandable if a community has tension with its neighbours, that the Village Forest program might be less successful there. Most communities that qualify for the Village Forest designation have indeed been interested and chosen to pursue it.

We have found that other key organizations also appreciate the benefits of the Village Forest and Sustainable Livelihoods programs because protecting forest is in their interest as well. The National Park, Ministry of Forestry, Natural Resources Department, and Department of Agriculture all cooperate with us and the Village Forest Management Boards for special events, joint patrols, and other stakeholder meetings. Our long-term investment in this region and the relationships we have built over decades allow these collaborations and partnerships to be productive and mutually beneficial.

Many of our project activities and outcomes are centered on capacity building of local Village Forest Management Boards and local communities. Thus, it is the objective of this project and incorporated into its design that our program participants will be well-positioned to maintain the activities after the end of the project. Many of the LPHD are capable of running SMART patrols and checking passive monitoring stations without the direct assistance of our staff. In addition to the built capacity of appropriate skills, the sense of ownership and responsibility that people feel over their Village Forests due to the legal rights that this program grants also seems to be a driver of its durability. We expect to gain more systematic insight into this from the results of our Participatory Impact Assessments, expected shortly.

We have been active and invested in this region for decades, and will continue to offer support for the outcome and impact of this project, while also adapting to emerging needs in these communities as they arise over time. The methods and knowledge gained from our project activities will be shared with government agencies and villages by sharing reports and raw data directly. Our scientific publications will also detail out methodologies and outcomes, allowing others to replicate our strategies elsewhere.

## **11. Darwin Initiative identity**

We have included the logo on our recent presentations to acknowledge the UK government & Darwin Initiative in funding our work. We have also 'tagged' BCF in social media posts on Facebook and Instagram about our relevant work and will strive to do more of this in the coming year. In our region in Indonesia, other NGOs are likely to be familiar with Darwin Initiative. Village leadership in communities we work with are likely to be aware of Darwin Initiative, while your average villager might be less familiar.

## 12. Safeguarding

## 13. Project expenditure

\*The figures here are draft, though the final figures will be very close. We await upload of the receipts from Indonesia for March

**Table 1: Project expenditure during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)**

Project spend (indicative) since last Annual Report	2024/25 Grant (£)	2024/25 Total Darwin Costs (£)	Variance %	Comments (please explain significant variances)
Staff costs (see below)				
Edi Rahman				
Ranti Naruri				
Erik Sulidra				
Hendri Gunawan				
Gunawan Wibisono				
Other Project Staff				
Consultancy costs (draft)				The final bill was less than anticipated (we were able to contract a local person instead of a foreigner) and only came at the very end of Year 1 so has not been discussed. But we await the final receipts as well.
Overhead Costs				
Travel and subsistence				
Operating Costs				
Capital items (see below)				
GPS handheld unit				
Laptop computer (draft)				
Motorbike x3				
Camera				
Binoculars				
ipads				
Firefighting equipment				
Others (Consumables, see below)				
Bioacoustics monitors				

Camera traps				
Backpacks				
Camping equipment				
Patrolling equipment				
Construction of village forest camps				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>93844.7</b>			

**Table 2: Project mobilised or matched funding during the reporting period (1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025)**

	Secured to date	Expected by end of project	Sources
Matched funding leveraged by the partners to deliver the project (£)			Binnacle Fund USFWS Arcus Foundation Woodland Park Zoo Conservation Food and Health
Total additional finance mobilised for new activities occurring outside of the project, building on evidence, best practices and the project (£)			Holloman Price Foundation Arcus Foundation Conservation, Food, and Health Woodland Park Zoo Norad

**14. Other comments on progress not covered elsewhere**

**15. OPTIONAL: Outstanding achievements or progress of your project so far (300-400 words maximum). This section may be used for publicity purposes.**

I agree for the Biodiversity Challenge Funds to edit and use the following for various promotional purposes (please leave this line in to indicate your agreement to use any material you provide here).

We continue to strengthen our commitment to community empowerment by supporting the “Kembang Desa” (Village Flower) group, a women’s organization in Rantau Panjang Village, one of the Village Forest areas that we support. We started this group over the last year in recognition of the many women in the region who had to end their formal education prematurely due to early marriage or financial circumstances. The group provides social support, skills training, and educational opportunities.

In March 2025 we organized an Ecoprint Training Workshop for 18 participants in the Kembang Desa group. Ecoprinting is an eco-friendly art technique that uses natural plant materials to create unique, nature-inspired prints on fabric. This training aimed to foster creativity and camaraderie while promoting sustainability.



Participants were guided through the process of ecoprinting, to create beautiful, one-of-a-kind fabrics created using locally available materials from their own environment. This initiative goes beyond skill-building—it aligns with the broader conservation effort. Beyond fostering artistic skills, this training also holds economic potential. With their newfound expertise, participants can create and sell ecoprint products, offering them a sustainable source of income while promoting environmentally friendly craftsmanship.

We held another capacity building program with Kembag Desa to commemorate International Forest Day and World Water Day. Our Environmental Education Assistant Field Officer led an engaging discussion on the importance of forest conservation and its direct impact on water resources. Participants learned how forests regulate the water cycle, prevent floods and droughts, and sustain biodiversity—all essential for maintaining ecological balance and human well-being.

The participants also took part in practical plant training led by a member of the Kembang Desa group. They learned how to convert cow manure into high-quality organic fertilizer and create optimal planting media to support healthy plant growth. Following the training, the group put their knowledge into action by planting a tree, reinforcing their commitment to environmental conservation.

The event concluded with an exhibition of local products made by members of the Kembang Desa group. Participants showcased coconut and anchovy shredded fish-based products (known in Indonesia as 'abon'), highlighting the potential of local resources in creating sustainable business opportunities.

Through these initiatives, we hope to inspire greater environmental awareness, promote creative sustainability, and empower communities to develop eco-friendly economic opportunities. By combining education, conservation, and entrepreneurship, these programs are helping build a greener, more self-sufficient future for the people of Rantau Panjang Village.

<b>File Type (Image / Video / Graphic)</b>	<b>File Name or File Location</b>	<b>Caption including description, country and credit</b>	<b>Social media accounts and websites to be tagged (leave blank if none)</b>	<b>Consent of subjects received (delete as necessary)</b>
Image		Kembang Desa group displays the results of the Ecoprint making workshop	FB: @Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program (Yayasan Palung) IG: @SaveWildOrangutans	Yes / No
Image		The Kembang Desa group poses with the tree seedling they planted in March 2025		Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No
				Yes / No

## Annex 1: Report of progress and achievements against logframe for Financial Year 2024-2025

Project summary	Progress and Achievements April 2024 - March 2025	Actions required/planned for next period
<p><b>Impact</b></p> <p>Reduction in multidimensional poverty and illegal and destructive activities throughout the Gunung Palung landscape resulting in protected, biodiverse forests that can support healthy orangutan populations</p>	<p>We have increased the area of forests that are legally protected, increased land rights and local governance over traditional forest land, decreased forest loss and illegal forest activity, increased participation in sustainable livelihoods, and are seeing signs of an increase in orangutan population density in Village Forests</p>	
<p><b>Outcome:</b> Increased protection of orangutans, forests and biodiversity through certified Village forests, linked to sustainable livelihoods, community wellbeing and equitable benefits, documented by technology that measures environmental impacts using scalable approaches</p>		
<p>Outcome indicator 0.1</p> <p>3900 additional hectares of rainforest are protected as Village Forest via official decree from Ministry of Environment and Forestry bringing total VFs protected to 12,800</p>	<p>2,200 additional hectares of forest legally protected as Village Forest in Matan Jaya. Evidence provided in section 3.1 of report and Annex C, D, E).</p>	<p>Awaiting final verification of Nek Doyan and technical verification of Pangkalan</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.2</p> <p>Village Forests are monitored and protected through monthly SMART patrols and yearly firefighting trainings of the 9 Village Forest Management Boards (LPHD) that we have established (2 during project period and 7 previously established). We see reduced forest loss and reduced destructive activity in Village Forests.</p>	<p>Monthly SMART patrols took place in each of 6 established Village Forests and began in the 2 newest Village Forests starting in August 2024 (evidence in section 3.1 and Annex G). Evidence that illegal activity is declining in Village Forests in Annex M, abstract by Kasianus)</p>	<p>Continue monthly patrols in 8 village forests, analyze data for ongoing patterns of illegal activity and forest loss</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.3 600 women and girls and 600 men and boys from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds benefit from the establishment of the Village Forests and the services it provides (cumulative count)</p>	<p>We completed Participatory Impact Assessments of Village Forests with 159 people across 8 Village Forests. Results to be delivered shortly.</p>	<p>Continue supporting sustainable livelihood groups; Receive PIA results, adjust plans based on results and feedback;</p>
<p>Outcome indicator 0.4</p> <p>Technological methods using passive monitoring and thermal drones are developed and tested, with results and methodology disseminated to stakeholders via publications to scale-up this approach</p>	<p>Two working protocols edited and enhanced, two conference presentation given on methods (Annex M, Short from AABA; O'Connell from ZACC) and one on applications of camera trap methods (Annex M. Sibal from AABA)</p>	<p>Continue monthly drone flights in Village Forests; check passive monitoring stations monthly</p>

<b>Output 1</b> By the end of the project period three new village forests (~3900 ha) of forest outside of the boundaries of Gunung Palung National Park will be legally protected, resulting in a total of 9 village forests that are sustainably managed and monitored		
Output indicator 1.1 1900 ha of forest are protected through the completion of 1 new official Village Forest decree in Matan Jaya village	Target exceeded, with 2,200 hectares officially verified in Matan Jaya Village Forest (section 3.1 and Annex C).	Completed
Output indicator 1.2 Two more Village Forest proposals are started to secure >2000 ha protected forest by end of year 1	Two new proposals have been submitted to the government for verification covering a total of 6,124 ha (section 3.1 and Annex D, E).	Await verification from government, train new LPHD
Output indicator 1.3 Two new LPHD formed by March 2026, for a total of 240 people involved in governance	Proposed LPHD members included in the submitted proposals, 45 people total (33 men, 12 women), which will bring us to 242 people involved in governance of Village Forests once approved	Train new LPHD, develop Work Plans, SOPs
<b>Output 2.</b> Increased capacity and independence of Village Forest Management Boards (LPHD)		
Output indicator 2.1. Village Forest Management Boards (LPHD) have increased capacity to carry out multi-day patrols from 5 days to 7 days having a dedicated place to camp overnight by September 2025	Monthly patrols have increased to minimum of 7 days across all Village Forests (Annex G), 4 camps have been built (Annex F, 2.1)	Build remaining LPHD camps
Output Indicator 2.2 >140 people people are trained to carry out SMART patrols each month of the project period in each of 6 pre-established Village Forests and the one currently pending verification, Matan Jaya	54 people are trained to conduct SMART patrols (12 trained in Year 1 – see Section 3.1 about adjusting the target value in the indicator)	Once new village forests are approved, train 6 more LPHD per Village Forest
Output Indicator 2.3 >140 people are trained in fire prevention and fire fighting over the project period, leaving >20,000 people better protected from risk of wildfire destroying their property, forest, and livelihoods	120 people are now trained in firefighting/prevention, and only one fire had to be fought during project period	Continue Land Clearing without burning training in conjunction with organic fertilizer production training, firefighting equipment to Matan Jaya and new Village Forests
Output Indicator 2.4 A minimum of 30 LPHD members have an expanded professional network and access to new ideas and methods to apply to their	We provided a comparative study opportunity to LPHD Matan Jaya and Lubuk Batu to learn about Liberica Coffee cultivation in Seponti Jaya District which was attended by 6 people (6 men).	Additional, larger LPHD Study Exchange

own Village Forest through exchange placement with LPHD in other regions of Indonesia by end of Year 2		
<b>Output 3.</b> Expanded participation from 447 to 500 people in sustainable livelihoods (both through KUPS and our groups that are unaffiliated with Village Forests) by communities around GPNP, benefiting ~2400 people with 20% increase in market sales		
Output indicator 3.1 Two new Social Forestry Business Groups (KUPS) in Lubuk Batu, Matan Jaya, with a minimum of 5 male and 5 female members per group) are formed by end of project period	Two new social forestry business groups were formed in Matan Jaya and Lubuk Batu each. In Lubuk Batu, there are 19 men and 2 women in one group, and 22 women and no men in the other; in Matan Jaya 3 women and 17 men in one group and 10 men and 10 women in the other	Continue to recruit women to join business groups
Output Indicator 3.2 >30 new members of Village Forest villages participate in organic farming, with 10% participation by women by end of project period	Organic farming has grown in popularity tremendously, with 65 people now involved (44 men, 21 women), up from 14 people before the project started.	Offer support in form of hand tractors, build climate resilience by researching drought and flood resistant plants
Output indicator 3.3 500 seedlings of MPTs (Multipurpose Tree Species) distributed based on village needs and potential in 7 established Village Forests (~20,000 people in total among those villages) to provide sustenance, income and land rehabilitation	331 seedlings of MPTs were planted in 1 village, while another 1,100 seedlings are still in nursery in a second village in Year 1 (3.3; Annex F 3.3).	Plant in at least 2 more villages
Output Indicator 3.4 480 people are trained in alternative livelihood methods for implementation, production and sales by end of project period, raising participation by women from 26% to 35% across KUPS and other Sustainable Livelihoods groups	516 people have received training in livelihood methods. We have increased participation by women in sustainable livelihoods from 26% to 39% so far (3.4; Annex J).	Offer additional training on additional income streams
Output indicator 3.5 Available markets for organic produce and handicrafts are increased resulting in 20% increase in profits by end of project period	We have seen a 200% increase in sales from sustainable livelihoods products (3.5; Annex F. 3.5).	Offer additional training on business and marketing
<b>Output 4.</b> Conservation research methodologies involving new technologies and active and passive monitoring are developed, tested, and reported to stakeholders as scalable tools for measuring conservation success		
Output indicator 4.1 Results from annual biodiversity surveys are compiled in a report each year and sent to 8 village and 1 regional governments, as well as the Gunung Palung National Park Office	2024 biodiversity results have been compiled and a summary English-language report is available (Annex K).	Distribute Indonesian language report to LPHD, KPH, and national park office, compile data from 2025
Output indicator 4.2	Data has been collected across 14 stations (Annex L) and 5 conference presentations have been given using camera trap	Continue data collection

passive monitoring stations (2 camera traps, 1 bioacoustic recorders, 1 temperature logger, and 1 rain gauge) each are monitored monthly or bi-monthly along a gradient of forest degradation, with results published in 1 scientific article by end of project period	and/or bioacoustics data showing wealth of biodiversity in village forests (Annex M)	
Output indicator 4.3 Methodologies for bioacoustic and camera trap analysis developed and distributed by project's end	Two working manuals have been developed and enhanced, one for bioacoustics and one for camera traps (Annex N & O)	Continue adding best practices and troubleshooting to the drafts, continue collecting data and refining methods
Output indicator 4.4 Habitat quality of Village Forest areas (>10,000 hectares total) compared to primary (2100 ha) and secondary forest areas (500 ha) inside GPNP assessed by the end of the project period	Preliminary analysis of habitat quality (canopy cover and food availability) have been conducted and presented at conferences (see 3 relevant abstracts in Annex M), with canopy cover being highest at interior of national park, followed by degraded border forest of national park, and then village forests, but measures of food availability do not follow the same pattern	Continue data collection and analysis, focusing on orangutan food availability
<b>Output 5.</b> Community wellbeing at the start, midway, and at the end of the project period is documented through systematic assessments		
Output indicator 5.1 60 people reporting that the benefits from organic farming, NTFPs, aquaculture, fire training, or Village Forests have increased by the end of the project period	Participatory Impact Assessments have been conducted and the formal report is due May 2025.	Refine our plans and practices based on results of PIA
Output indicator 5.2 Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity reports improvements in weaknesses cited from 2021 assessment, going from 1.25/3 as the lowest score for any principles tested to a minimum score of 2.0	Year 2 activity	SAGE assessment and comparison with previous data

## Annex 2: Project's full current logframe as presented in the application form (unless changes have been agreed)

Project Summary	SMART Indicators	Means of Verification	Important Assumptions
<b>Impact:</b> Reduction in multidimensional poverty and illegal and destructive activities throughout the Gunung Palung landscape resulting in protected, biodiverse forests that can support healthy orangutan populations (Max 30 words)			
<b>Outcome:</b> Increased protection of orangutans, forests and biodiversity through certified Village forests, linked to sustainable livelihoods, community wellbeing and equitable benefits, documented by technology that measures environmental impacts using scalable approaches  (Max 30 words, 30)	0.1 3900 additional hectares of rainforest are protected as Village Forest via official decree from Ministry of Environment and Forestry <b>[DI-B11, DI-B01, DI-D01]</b> , bringing total VFs protected to 12,800  0.2 Village Forests are monitored and protected through monthly SMART patrols and yearly firefighting trainings of the 9 Village Forest Management Boards (LPHD) that we have established (2 during project period and 7 previously established). We see reduced forest loss and reduced destructive activity in Village Forests. <b>[DI-A03]</b>  0.3 600 women and girls and 600 men and boys from diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds benefit from the establishment of the Village Forests and the services it provides <b>[DI-A04, DI-A07, DI-A10, DI-A11, DI-B05, DI-B06]</b> (cumulative count)	0.1 Official decree obtained from Matan Jaya Village Forest.  0.2 Protection verified through SMART patrol data on illegal activities, vegetation, and animal biodiversity.  0.3 Qualitative social surveys on community opinions about Village Forests and self-perceived benefits/enhancements, analysed by gender, ethnicity, income bracket  0.4 Total number of men and women and ethnic group involved in LPHD, KUPS, and Sustainable Livelihood groups recorded by project staff  0.5 Methodology and results from long-term monitoring are published in at least one scientific journal article.	Village Forest official verification is completed within the project timeframe  Community members continue to be willing to engage in SMART patrolling and firefighting activities.  Participants from Village Forest communities are willing to participate in social surveys  Appropriate expertise is available for design and analysis of patrolling data.  Appropriate expertise is available for continued development and testing of technology used for monitoring.  Financial gains from alternative livelihoods are enough incentive to halt destructive livelihoods



	0.4 Technological methods using passive monitoring and thermal drones are developed and tested, with results and methodology disseminated to stakeholders via publications to scale-up this approach. <b>[DI-17, DI-18]</b>		
<b>Outputs:</b> 1. By the end of the project period three new village forests (~3900 ha) of forest outside of the boundaries of Gunung Palung National Park will be legally protected, resulting in a total of 9 village forests that are sustainably managed and monitored	1.1 1900 ha of forest are protected through the completion of 1 new official Village Forest decree in Matan Jaya village <b>[DI-B01, DI-C08, DI-D01]</b>  1.2 Two more Village Forest proposals are started to secure >2000 ha protected forest by end of year 1 <b>[DI-B01, DI-B03]</b>  1.3 Two new LPHD formed by March 2026, for a total of 240 people involved in governance <b>[DI-B05, DI-B06, DI-B11]</b>	1.1 Official Village Forest decree awarded with documentation of total hectares protected  1.2 Village Forest proposals written and submitted; government documentation of  1.3 LPHD formation and number of committed group members	Expected/standard timeline of Village Forest establishment remains the same  Community members in proposed Village Forest continue to support the process  Community members in existing Village Forest continue to support LPHD activities and welcome GPOCP presence
2. Increased capacity and independence of Village Forest Management Boards (LPHD)	2.1 7 Village Forest Management Boards (LPHD) have increased capacity to carry out multi-day patrols from 5 days to 7 days having a dedicated place to camp overnight by September 2025 <b>[DI-A03]</b>  2.2 54 people are trained to carry out SMART patrols each month of the project period in each of 6 pre-established Village Forests and the one currently pending verification, Matan Jaya <b>[DI-A01, DI-A04]</b>	2.1 Documentation of use of Village Forest camp in monthly report photos  2.2 Training/workshop attendance by men and women, pre-and post-training participant assessments, number of days spent in the field per person/per LPHD,  2.3 Number of wildfires occurring, number of LPHD that respond to fires, number of fires extinguished by LPHD in each village per year	The trainings we offer are well-attended  There are some women in each village that have interest in participating in LPHD activities  Other LPHD will be interested and able to participate in the 'study banding' exchanges with our LPHD

	<p>2.3 &gt;140 people are trained in fire prevention and fire fighting over the project period, leaving &gt;20,000 people better protected from risk of wildfire destroying their property, forest, and livelihoods <b>[DI-D02]</b></p> <p>2.4 A minimum of 30 LPHD members have an expanded professional network and access to new ideas and methods to apply to their own Village Forest through exchange placement with LPHD in other regions of Indonesia by end of Year 2 <b>[D1-A02]</b></p>	2.4 Post-exchange survey delivered by Village Forest program staff	
<p><b>3.</b> Expanded participation from 447 to 500 people in sustainable livelihoods (both through KUPS and our groups that are unaffiliated with Village Forests) by communities around GPNP, benefiting ~2400 people with 20% increase in market sales</p>	<p>3.1 Two new Social Forestry Business Groups (KUPS) in Lubuk Batu, Matan Jaya, with a minimum of 5 male and 5 female members per group) are formed by end of project period <b>[DI-A04, DI-A10, DI-A11, DI-B04]</b></p> <p>3.2 &gt;30 new members of Village Forest villages participate in organic farming, with 10% participation by women by end of project period <b>[DI-A06, DI-A10, DI-B10]</b></p> <p>3.3 500 seedlings of MPTs (Multipurpose Tree Species) distributed based on village needs and potential in 7 established Village Forests (~20,000 people in total among those villages) to provide sustenance, income and land rehabilitation <b>[DI-D02]</b></p>	<p>3.1 Government documentation of total KUPS membership and disaggregated by gender</p> <p>3.2. Monthly GPOCP staff monitoring and documentation of farming participants, disaggregated by gender</p> <p>3.3 Village potential assessments completed to determine what will grow well under the conditions of the available land in each village</p> <p>3.4 Training/workshop attendance by gender, festival/market attendance by gender, monthly GPOCP staff monitoring of total production</p> <p>3.5 Monthly GPOCP staff monitoring and documentation of total sales in Indonesian rupiah compared to</p>	<p>Community members want to participate in KUPS groups; sufficient number of women are interested in participating</p> <p>Seedlings provided to LPHD survive and produce crop; environmental conditions allow for successful farming (minimal drought and flooding)</p> <p>Other community members or tourists remain interested in purchasing handicraft products locally and at national expositions</p> <p>The organic farming crop yields are beyond the sustenance needs of the household (weather and other disruptions could alter yields)</p>

	<p>3.4 480 people are trained in alternative livelihood methods for implementation, production and sales by end of project period, raising participation by women from 26% to 35% across KUPS and other Sustainable Livelihoods groups <b>[DI-A06]</b></p> <p>3.5 Available markets for organic produce and handicrafts are increased resulting in 20% increase in profits by end of project period <b>[DI-A12]</b></p>	<p>baseline (~6000 GBP in organic produce sold and ~2600 GBP in NTFP sold in 2022. That is nearly half the average cost of living per household for NTFP)</p>	
<p>4. Conservation research methodologies involving new technologies and active and passive monitoring are developed, tested, and reported to stakeholders as scalable tools for measuring conservation success</p>	<p>4.1 Results from annual biodiversity surveys are compiled in a report each year and sent to 8 village and 1 regional governments, as well as the Gunung Palung National Park Office <b>[DI-A07]</b></p> <p>4.2 Seventeen passive monitoring stations (2 camera traps, 1 bioacoustic recorders, 1 temperature logger, and 1 rain gauge) each are monitored month or bi-monthly along a gradient of forest degradation, with results published in 1 scientific article by end of project period <b>[DI-C02]</b></p> <p>4.3 Methodologies for bioacoustic and camera trap analysis developed and distributed by project's end <b>[DI-C01]</b></p>	<p>4.1 Survey results documented and reported; sent to each village and Kayong Utara Regency governments</p> <p>4.2 Database of longitudinal data collected; online publication of analysis in a scientific journal</p> <p>4.3 Documentation of methods used and database to record all drone flights and results; results sent to local governments in final research reports</p> <p>4.4 Monthly plant phenological assessments in each of the three forest types (Village Forest outside the national park, primary inside the national park, secondary inside national park) analyzed for fruit availability, stem density, and forest</p>	<p>Forests remain safe and accessible to enter</p> <p>Proper research permits are maintained in cooperation with the National Park Bureau</p> <p>Monitoring equipment remains undisturbed by non-researchers and does not break</p>

	4.4 Habitat quality of Village Forest areas (>10,000 hectares total) compared to primary (2100 ha) and secondary forest areas (500 ha) inside GPNP assessed by the end of the project period <b>[DI-C03]</b>	structure with results sent to local governments and Ministry of Forestry	
5. Community wellbeing at the start, midway, and at the end of the project period is documented through systematic assessments	<p>5.1 &gt;60 people reporting that the benefits from organic farming, NTFPs, aquaculture, fire training, or Village Forests have increased by the end of the project period <b>[DI-A04]</b></p> <p>5.2 Site-level Assessment of Governance and Equity reports improvements in weaknesses sited from 2021 assessment, going from 1.25/3 as the lowest score for any principles tested to a minimum score of 2.0 <b>[DI-C01]</b></p>	<p>5.1 Participatory Impact Assessment survey of 100 people assessed, disaggregated by village, gender, ethnicity, and type of program</p> <p>5.2 SAGE conducted by International Institute of Environment and Development indicating steps for improving governance and equity of village forests</p>	Communities continue to welcome our staff and programs and participation continues
<p><b>Activities</b> (each activity is numbered according to the output that it will contribute towards, for example 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 are contributing to Output 1. Each activity should start on a new line and be no more than approximately 25 words.)</p> <p>1.1 Finalize establishment of Matan Jaya Village Forest (VF) and create management board (LPHD) after receiving official federal government decree</p> <p>1.2 Identify potential areas for two new candidate Village Forests to the south of GPNP April 1, 2024-March 30, 2025;</p> <p>1.3 Mark Village Forest Zoning boundaries (protected zones and utilization zones)</p> <p>1.4 Hold focus group discussions on new Village Forest proposal with respective villages and other stakeholders</p> <p>1.5 Submit proposals for two new Village Forests to Ministry of Environment and Forestry by September 2025</p> <p>1.6 Establish LPHD in proposed village forests by March 30, 2026</p> <p>2.1 Construct Village Forest patrol camps in 7 Villages</p> <p>2.2 Train and support LPHD to monitor forests and prevent illegal activities through Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) patrols in new and existing Village Forests</p> <p>2.3 Train and support LPHD to monitor, prevent and fight wildfires in and around new and existing Village Forests</p> <p>2.4 Rehabilitate burned land with 1000 seedlings per village in 7 villages (Nipah Kuning, Pemangkat, Pulau Kumbang, Padu Banjar, Batu Barat, Lubuk Batu, Matan Jaya)</p> <p>2.5 Conduct joint patrols of Village Forests with BTNGP for illegal activity in 7 villages once per year</p> <p>2.6 Facilitate an exchange of LPHD members with LPHD in other regions in Indonesia to network and explore new methods</p>			

2.7 Host training workshops on land clearing without burning in 7 villages once per the project period

3.1 Establish 2 new Sustainable Livelihood groups in each new Village Forest (Lubuk Batu, Matan Jaya)

3.2 Create horticultural plots in 7 villages and host organic fertilizer training workshops

3.3 Host training workshops in 7 villages forest honey cultivation, mangrove crab cultivation, home food industry, aquaculture, and non-timber forest products depending on village potential, actively recruiting participation by women

3.4 Connect organic farmers with local markets, facilitate the transport of produce to the markets, and facilitate the business planning and agreements for the farmers

3.5a Business management training, product packaging, and market share survey for 25 people

3.5c Product certification of social forestry business group (KUPS)

3.5d Product and income monitoring of KUPS groups

3.5e Facilitate participation in local and regional product exhibitions from Sustainable Livelihood groups

3.5g Host a mobile market for products of Sustainable Livelihood groups once per month

4.1 Carry out annual biodiversity surveys in 7 Village Forests, primary rainforest habitat inside GPNP, and secondary logged forest inside GPNP to quantify species diversity, and compare vegetation and forest structure, species composition, orangutan density and food availability

4.2 Provide training in camera trap installation and data retrieval, orangutan nest and feeding tree identification for orangutan population surveys

4.3 Passively monitor anthropogenic disturbance, biotic (with camera traps, bioacoustics recorders) and abiotic (temperature and rain) factors across primary and secondary GPNP forest, and Village Forests

4.4 Develop efficient methodologies and carryout analysis of large datasets generated by passive monitoring technologies

4.5 Analyze changes in abiotic and biotic indicators over time in Village Forests and compare to primary and degraded forests within GPNP. 4.6 Monthly thermal drone surveys of orangutan presence in primary and degraded GPNP forest, and Village Forests.

5.1 Conduct participatory impact assessment surveys (following Dickson et al. 2017) of the communities we work in to determine how program participants view the outcome and impact of project activities at the start of the project period, after year 1 and at the close of the project period.

5.2 Conduct Site-level Assessment of Governance and equity (SAGE) by International Institute for Environment and Development during year 2 of project as a follow-up to 2021 assessment





## Checklist for submission

	Check
Different reporting templates have different questions, and it is important you use the correct one. Have you checked you have used the <b>correct template</b> (checking fund, scheme, type of report (i.e. Annual or Final), and year) and <b>deleted the blue guidance text</b> before submission?	X
<b>Is the report less than 10MB?</b> If so, please email to <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Is your report more than 10MB?</b> If so, please consider the best way to submit. One zipped file, or a download option, is recommended. We can work with most online options and will be in touch if we have a problem accessing material. If unsure, please discuss with <a href="mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com">BCF-Reports@niras.com</a> about the best way to deliver the report, putting the project number in the Subject line.	
<b>Have you included means of verification?</b> You should not submit every project document, but the main outputs and a selection of the others would strengthen the report.	X
<b>Have you provided an updated risk register?</b> If you have an existing risk register you should provide an updated version alongside your report. If your project was funded prior to this being a requirement, you are encouraged to develop a risk register.	X
If you are submitting photos for publicity purposes, do these meet the outlined requirements (see Section 16)?	X
Have you involved your partners in preparation of the report and named the main contributors	X
Have you completed the Project Expenditure table fully?	X
Do not include claim forms or other communications with this report.	