

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: 31st October 2024

Please note all projects that were active before 1 October 2024 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

Submit to: BCF-Reports@niras.com including your project ref in the subject line.

Project reference	31-020
Project title	Sustainable management of palm swamp peatlands by local communities
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Peru
Lead Organisation	Center for International Forestry Research
Partner(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instituto del Bien Común (IBC) • Instituto de Investigaciones de la Amazonia Peruana (IIAP) • Sociedad peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA)
Project leader	<i>Kristell Hergoualc'h</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>31 October 2024 – HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	<i>n/a</i>

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).

The first Project Management Team (PMT) meeting of the project took place on 6th September 2024 to discuss progress on Letter of Agreements (LoA) between CIFOR and partners, research planning and research permits application.

Up to date, LoAs have been finalized, and signed by parties. These LoAs will allow transfer of funds to the partners.

A detailed research plan was developed by IIAP (Output 2) for starting field activities mid-October. However, the regions of Amazonas, San Martín and Ucayali were placed under state of emergency mid-September, following forest fires seriously affecting them. Therefore, a decision was made to postpone field work to the third week of November. Thereafter, given that funds have not been transferred yet to IIAP, and that the rainy season will start beginnings of December until June-May, field work for this Output may be postponed to mid-year 2025.

Application for research permits in the study areas were submitted to SERNANP and SERFOR in September. These are being processed by the corresponding authorities.

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.

As agreed between CIFOR and IIAP, a total amount of GBP [REDACTED] was reallocated from the IIAP budget to the CIFOR budget to hire a consultant that will deliver project outputs that are part of IIAP deliverables.

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: N/A

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)

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 2025)?

Yes No Estimated underspend: [REDACTED]

4c. If you expect and 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. 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 BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

The LoAs took longer than expected to be finalized. We are closely monitoring the progress with partners in our regular meetings.

Due to unexpected condition as explained in No. 1 and 2 above, adjustment of the workplan and budget will be discussed with NIRAS, in the separate email.

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report. If your project was subject to an

Overseas Security and Justice Assistance assessment please use this space to comment on any changes to international human rights risks, and to address any additional mitigations outlined in your offer letters. Please provide the comment and then your response. If you have already provided a response, please confirm when.
N/A

Checklist for submission

For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1st April 2024)	
Have you responded to any additional feedback (other than caveats) received in the letter you received to say your application was successful which requested response at HYR (including safeguarding points)? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	No
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	Yes
For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1st April 2024)	
Have you responded to feedback from your latest Annual Report Review ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	