

## Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

*Note: If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.*

**Submission Deadline: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Project reference</b>           | DIR29CC\1089  |
| <b>Project title</b>               | Enhancing technical skills and capacity for orangutan conservation in Sumatra |
| <b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b> | Indonesia   |
| <b>Lead partner</b>                | Sumatran Orangutan Society (SOS)  |
| <b>Partner(s)</b>                  | Tanggung Hutan Katulistiwa (TaHuKah), Orangutan Information Centre (OIC)      |
| <b>Project leader</b>              | Helen Buckland  |
| <b>Report date and number</b>      | 31/10/23 HYR1   |
| <b>Project website</b>             | www.orangutans-sos.org  |

### Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable

Q1 and Q2 (April-September) of the project's first year has seen the completion of 6 trainings, and continued ad-hoc support to TaHuKah and OIC, by SOS.

Under **output 1**, 2 training workshops have taken place thus far in the project (Activity 1.1).

- **Activity 1.1:** workshop for OIC and TaHuKah to assess current operations and management strengths and weaknesses, identify strategy and roadmap for change management process. The Project Board made the decision to hold sessions separately for OIC and for TaHuKah, as their organisational needs are quite different (with separate objectives for this activity, as below), and require tailored advice and support.

|                                 | OIC   | TaHuKah  |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Objectives</b>               | Conduct 'fact-finding' to Identify change needed, participatory SWOT analysis, and develop change-management roadmap in organisational strategy.  |  |
| <b>Days</b>                     | 3 (18 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> September 2023)   | 2 (28 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2023)   |
| <b>Participants</b>             | 7   | 2  |
| <b>Led by</b>                   | Rahma Akbari (consultant)   |  |
| <b>Output</b>                   | An 8-step change management roadmap for both organisations has been created   |  |
| <b>Reflections and Feedback</b> | Improvement within the Admin & Finance Department is pivotal to boost OIC's performance. OIC has a very strong organisational culture, and full support from their board is imperative, so change is sustainable. | TaHuKah would benefit from support in writing and implementing HR and operational policies. As they are a relatively new organisation, there is lots of opportunity to embed these new policies. |

- **Activity 1.2:** workshop to aid in formulation of OIC's strategic plan, and support writing up the plan. **Objectives:** Identify the vision, mission and values of the organisation; Analysis of opportunities and challenges; Formulate clear and measurable strategic goals; Develop tactical plans and concrete actions to achieve strategic goals; Increase understanding and involvement of OIC staff in strategic planning.

**Days:** 4 (12-15<sup>th</sup> June 2023) **Participants:** 29

**Led by:** SOS Conservation Director, Koen Meyers, and Suer Suryadi (consultant).

**Output:** The presentations and discussions during the workshop supported the drafting of OIC's 5-year strategy document. The document details the strategic plan 2024-2029, and targets for 2024. Significant progress to **indicator 1.2** has been achieved, and in the next quarter will be fully achieved, as we continue to provide support to OIC in completing their strategy plan and 12-month workplan

**Reflections and feedback:** The leadership team at OIC reflected that it was a very productive session and the output of the draft strategy document is a great achievement. Further support to finalise the document was requested, and this support will be integrated into upcoming relevant workshops, namely activities 1.3 (workshop in development of HR and Ops manual) and 3.1 (workshop in development of a MEL framework).

Under **output 2**, 4 training workshops have taken place thus far in the project

- **Activity 2.1:** training in GIS data collection, input, sharing and analysis, plus remote sensing, conducted in collaboration with the World Resources Institute. The training consisted of two days setting up specific team communication channels on the subject to support continued peer-to-peer learning, and discussing GIS maps of the project landscapes, and two days learning about the Global Forest Watch (GFW) platform and app Forest, and practising using the tool in the field.

**Objectives:** increase staff capacity to use GIS and GIS outputs, and the GFW platform, for Landscape Patrolling and Monitoring.

**Days:** 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> August    **Participants:** 12

**Reflections and feedback:** Out of the 12 participants, 9 completed both pre and post surveys designed to monitor the efficacy of the training (in future this will be compulsory for all participants). After the training, 6 people described the session as 'very helpful', while 3 described it as 'helpful, but still not totally clear'. We will continue to provide ad-hoc support on this where needed.

- **Activity 2.3:** intensive training plus on-the-job learning/mentoring in anthropological, ethnographic and participant-observation methods.

**Objectives:** To provide TaHuKah and OIC field teams with understanding of what ethnography is and why it is important for biodiversity conservation in Batang Toru and West Toba landscapes, as well as analytical skills for applying ethnography, and understanding the effects, successes, failures and other aspects of biodiversity conservation schemes on the ground, with a particular focus on local experiences and perceptions.

**Days:** meetings and on-the-job training (49.5 hrs/6.2 days) spread over 3 weeks (21<sup>st</sup> July-31<sup>st</sup> August).

**Participants:** 15 (incl. 2 OIC staff)    **Led by:** SOS's Senior Environmental Anthropologist (Darmanto Simaepa).

**Reflections and feedback:** Over the course of this intensive training teams learnt the advantages and limits of the conservation initiatives that they have conducted, critically reflecting and self-assessing certain interventions (like agroforestry, tree nurseries, and village planning) and why the communities are willing to participate in certain activities and not in others. The team critically examined how conservationists may misread local expectations, and learnt how ethnography can help them to rework their approach and question their own ideas and practices to better suit local relations, structures, ideas and concerns.

- **Activity 2.5:** the first of 3 intensive trainings on Social Forestry

**Objectives:** Participants understand the process of determining a Social Forestry and are able to contribute to Social Forestry road maps in both program landscapes (West Toba and Batang Toru)

**Days:** 4 (21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> August 2023 - 2 days workshop plus 2 days roadmap development)    **Participants:** 12

**Led by:** SOS's Social Forestry Expert (Umi Purnamasari).

**Output:** the workshop resulted in a Social Forestry Road Map for the West Toba Landscape, which lays out in detail the Social Forestry process. This is highly useful to TaHuKah's work, and will contribute to the protection of a vital wildlife corridor between the Sikulaping Protection forest and Siranggas Wildlife Reserve, which will safeguard an at risk population of around 340 Sumatran orangutans.

**Reflections and feedback:** The majority of trainees (83%) reported that after the training they have an understanding of Social Forestry, but would like to continue learning about the topic. Under this activity there will be 2 more trainings in Social Forestry.

- **Activity 2.7:** The first of 2 sessions teaching TaHuKah staff about sustainable village development, and integrating sustainable management activities into village planning documents.

**Objectives:** Participants understand interactions between village planning, forest protection, and partnership with the MoEF (Ministry of Environment and Forestry); participants understand the process of the technical preparation of the village planning documents.

**Days:** 4 (19<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023).

**Participants:** 9

**Led by:** The training was led by TaHuKah's Village Planning Expert (Idham Edo) and supported by SOS's Social Forestry Expert (Umi Purnamasari).

**Reflections and feedback:** It is important for all TaHuKah staff to be well versed in this topic area so they can provide support and an overview of sustainable village development in community interactions. The efficacy of this training was measured by distributing pre and post training surveys to participants. They were asked to rate their own understanding and confidence in different knowledge areas before and after the training. Each step in understanding and confidence was scored +1 or -1, depending on the direction of change. All 9 participants reported an increase in understanding, ranging from 1 to 11, with an average of 4.4. On average, the participants self assessed at 56% understanding before the training, and at 74% understanding after the training (19% average increase in understanding).

Up to the end of Q2, **indicator 2.1** stands as follows:

|                                     | As of end of Q2 Y1 | % to target |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>Participants of TaHuKah team</b> | 13                 | 101         |
| <b>Days training</b>                | 18.2               | 35          |

The table below shows the Darwin standard indicators which this project contributes to:

| Project Indicator  | Darwin Indicator | Achieved (to end Q2 Y1) |
|--------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| 0.1a, 2.1          | DPLUSA01         | 42                      |
| 0.1b               | DPLUSA04         | N/A                     |
| 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.2 | DPLUSA03         | 2                       |
| 2.2                | DPLUSC01         | 0                       |

**2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

We have seen that timing of trainings is important in that we expect it to be more impactful if training can coincide with a parallel action on the ground. In the first 6 months of the project, trainings have supported the simultaneous running of programmes in both partner organisations (for example activity 1.2 happened when a new Director of OIC had begun in the role-the workshop and support to develop a 5-year organisational strategy, which was well-timed with his establishment as a leader). We have also been approved for an activity change request for Q3 (upcoming) to change a training timing to coincide with the completion of a system being developed, in order to facilitate its immediate and effective use and therefore maximise the impact of this capacity-building project.

The MEL for the project has been smooth, but efforts to streamline the measurements of progress and impact further will be made as soon as possible. This will focus particularly on:

1. Pre and post training survey distribution and standardisation. While efforts have been made to standardise data collection, different types of data collected resulted in variation in the ability to comment on efficacy of each training. In upcoming activities, data collected will allow for clearer analysis.
2. Collecting data for indicator 0.2 to date has been done by SOS team members adding the number of help requests they receive from field teams and the time spent providing support to a log. While this has given data indicative of the volume of support requested/given, the regularity of the many forms of informal and formal support that multiple team members give to SOS's partners is often difficult to capture in the simple log used, and therefore some complexity may be lost. The means of verification for this indicator is currently being reviewed, and a more suited format will be implemented as soon as possible.

**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

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

Change request reference if known:

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

Actual spend: £ [REDACTED]

**4b. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this financial year (ending 31 March 2024)?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

4c N/A

**5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

No

**If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response, or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.**

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

**Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also** be raised with NIRAS through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to [BCF-Reports@niras.com](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com). The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**