



**BIODIVERSITY
CHALLENGE FUNDS**



Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects **Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus**

Half Year Report

It is expected that this report will be a **maximum of 2-3 pages** in length.

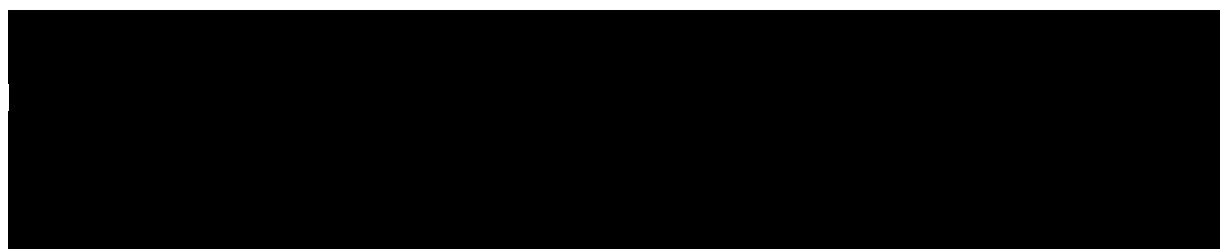
If there is any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website, please ensure you clearly highlight this.

Submission Deadline: 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	DARCC045
Project title	Strengthening Civil Society Expertise to Combat IWT in Sumatra
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead Organisation	Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), UK
Partner(s)	[REDACTED]
Project leader	Vicky Dauncey
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	Year 1, Half-Year Report
Project website/blog/social media	N/a – see note on project sensitivities below.



1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end of September).

Although we are not looking for specific reporting against your indicators, please use this opportunity to consider the appropriateness of your M&E systems (are your indicators still relevant, can you report against any Standard Indicators, do your assumptions still hold true?). The guidance can be found on the resources page of the relevant fund website.

Since beginning in April 2024, the project has got off to an excellent start and all deliverables planned for the April - September 2024 period have been achieved.

The trip to Indonesia was conducted over a 2-week period in July and August in by an EIA Senior Intelligence Analyst (name withheld) and Vicky Dauncey, Project Leader. Incorporated into the first trip were the planned in-depth, in-person secondary needs assessment (activity 1.1) and the training element was foundation- level Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) gathering (activity 1.3). Preceding the first training delivery trip was a phase of project kick off, planning and preparation, further relationship building with partners and further training module development and tailoring to partner contexts.

The secondary, in-person, in-depth needs assessment was held over 2-days with each partner. It was discussion based and topics covered were information gathering, information storage, case/investigative management, analysis and interpretation, technology, collaboration and information sharing, integration with operations and strategic decision making, and training and capacity building (past and future aspirations). Discussions were held with partner staff working on data management, intelligence analysis and overall coordination and management giving a range of views from team members with differing responsibilities. Furthermore, focused discussions took place with investigators to get a full picture of intelligence gathering and subsequent processes.

The foundation-level OSINT training took place with each partner over 2 days following the needs assessments. The training entailed an introduction to OSINT and delivery of OSINT level 1 training, details as follows.

Introduction to OSINT: What is OSINT; OSINT Risks; Collecting and Storing OSINT; OSINT Policy; Guidance on Legislation; Ethical Considerations; Prioritising; Guidance for OSINT research; and an explanation of OSINT Levels.

OSINT Level 1: Staying Updated; VPNs; Web Browsers for OSINT; Key Websites and Tools for OSINT Collection; Staying Focused; OSINT Browser Add-Ons; Media Downloaders; OSINT Browser Tools; Tips for OSINT; Entity Searching; People Searching; Telephone Number Research; Activity Tracking Apps; Web Domain Research; Business Searches; Mapping, Image Searching; and Key Websites for OSINT (with practical exercises throughout).

Learning from the secondary needs assessment was woven into the subsequent delivery (activity 1.2) of the foundation level OSINT training to ensure delivery was pitched at the appropriate level and responsive to context and needs. Learning has also been woven into the planning for the second training trip and will inform all future training too.

Training delivered has not been in isolation and there have been regular check-ins and back and forth between the partners and EIA as the partners begin to the use new skills and knowledge in their work. Excitingly, we are seeing real impacts already following the July/August training with developing their own intelligence register based on principles and advice from EIA. Likewise, have since revised and updated their Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for intelligence gathering.

The second training delivery is just about to take place (end of October - early November) for a period of one week with, delivered by an EIA Senior Intelligence Analyst and an EIA Intelligence Analyst (names withheld). The training will entail Advanced OSINT, Case Management and Tasking, and Structured Analytical Techniques. The same training (third training delivery trip) will be delivered to early in 2025.

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

Following the secondary needs assessment, it became apparent that we will not be able to deliver OSINT training to the originally planned level of 'Train the Trainer' (Outcome Indicator 0.2). This was foreseen as feasible at the time of project development but having learned more about the baseline level of OSINT capability within each partner on which the project is building, it has become apparent that we will not be able to reach train the trainer level within the project lifetime and within the planned number of training delivery trips. It is, however, something we remain committed aiming to achieve in the longer-term. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] we are planning long-term collaboration for counter wildlife trafficking impacts, and as part of this longer-term collaboration it may be feasible to achieve training of OSINT trainers.

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

Discussed with NIRAS:	No – but we will submit a CR soon
Formal Change Request submitted:	No – but we will submit a CR soon
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes/ No

Change Request reference if known: *If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome*

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

Actual spend:

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 ☒

4c. If you expect an underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project, please submit a re-budget Change Request as soon as possible. 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?

Relating to project staff, EIA has not yet recruited a Project Officer (planned at 10%-time allocation on this project). This delay is due to internal EIA workings and not reflective of any changes to project plans. Fortuitously, we have been able to increase the % time allocation of the Project Leader (without any budgetary implications) to fulfil the responsibilities originally intended for the Project Officer and therefore there have been no adverse effects on the project to date. We hope to proceed with Project Officer recruitment in early 2025.

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.

Points from Award Feedback Letter, with our responses in purple.

- A. The main focus is one-off Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) training modules: follow-up and mentoring are proposed online and on repeat visits. Please elaborate on this, as one-off training often has more limited impact than longer-term, in-person shadowing partnerships

This project is not delivering one-off training, it is an 18-month capacity building programme built around 4 training delivery trips but designed to provide continuous mentoring support throughout the duration of the project. As explained in Question 1, outside of the direct training delivery there have been regular check-ins and back and forth between the partners and EIA as the partners begin to use new skills and knowledge in their work. Furthermore, as explained in Question 2, [REDACTED] we are planning long-term collaboration for counter wildlife trafficking impacts and continued capacity building beyond the scope of this project is fully intended.

- B. You explain that you have developed these modules over the last few years, but in the methodology section the modules appear high level and abstract. Please provide more details

The word limit of the methodology section of the application form are restrictive in terms of how much detail can be given. Fuller details of the already delivered OSINT Introduction and Level 1 have been provided in Question 1. We will provide a link to all training materials with the annual report as supporting documents but would also be happy to provide this earlier if requested.

- C. It is not clear how EIA will ensure long term capacity for staff is being built in the tools/ systems you are introducing

See our response to point A.

- D. How will you measure impact of this work?

Project Outcome: "Two leading local organisations focussed on stemming IWT from the Leuser Ecosystem have enhanced expertise and strengthened intelligence systems sustainably embedded and delivering counter IWT impacts for Critically Endangered species". The long-term impact of this work will be the of the partners' enhanced counter wildlife trafficking programming. This will be measured through their achievements and the relative attribution of this project to enabling those achievements as defined and reported by the partners.

- E. Once training is completed, who owns the products?

There are no products produced under this project, the project is developing skills and capacity. The training materials are shared with partners and copies kept for reference and use in ongoing work.

- F. How does this project build into changing livelihoods of local communities? What role do they play, are they participants in the trainings?

Community livelihoods are benefitted through the strengthening of long-term capacity to protect Leuser's biodiversity, and with it, current and potential sustainable livelihoods. Interlinked protection of the wider Leuser landscape also delivers ecosystem service benefits to four million local people and climate impacts globally. Furthermore, combatting IWT delivers reduced security risks, and reduced risks from organised crime and crime convergence. Local community members do not conduct counter wildlife trafficking operations and therefore it would not be appropriate to deliver community training under this specialist NGO capacity building project

- G. For indicator 0.1, there is a need to define what 'improved capability and capacity' looks like.

Within the context of this project, the capability and capacity improvement are not rigidly predefined. Ultimately, this project is aiming for enhanced counter wildlife trafficking impacts (see our response to point D). With this long-term goal in mind, the improved

capacity and capability achieved under this project could look like improved partner intelligence systems and processes (gathering, analysis, dissemination), it could look like enhanced SOPs for on-the ground or OSINT investigations, it could look like more efficient and effective IWT case management, it could look like enhanced analytical ability, it could look like restructured intelligence and/or investigation teams, it could look like more effective UC operations, it could look like more targeted prioritisation of persons of interest and/or more strategic deployment of resources. Indeed, we have already seen some of these achieved (see Question 1). A key element of this project design is that the training delivered is bespoke to each partner, within the broad categorisation of the module topics, content has and will continue to be tailored and tweaked based on partner ability, shifting local IWT contexts, programme goals, aspirations and needs. As the project progresses, we will continue to work with each partner to further define impacts already being realised and identify additional capacity and capability improvements the project can deliver.

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.	Yes
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.	Yes
Submit to BCF-Reports@niras.com .	Yes
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	Yes- text in red
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	Yes
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	Yes