



**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	DARNV001
Project title	Incentivising responsible fisheries in Central America: testing novel intermediary models
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Honduras, Nicaragua
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
Partner(s)	La Asociación Pro Comunidades Turísticas de Honduras (LARECOTURH) Centro de Estudios Marinos (CEM) Fundación Cuero y Salado (FUCSA) Fundación Cayos Cochinos (FCC) Fundación Islas de la Bahía (FIB)
Project leader	Hazel Akester
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	30/10/2024 HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	N/A

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).

Output 1

Activity 1.1 Completed in Y1. Seven business models created with partners and communities.

Activity 1.2 Completed in Y1. Five business models reviewed in-depth and evaluated against key criteria with technical advisors and partners. Three models selected for pilot funding.

Activity 1.3 Completed in Y2. One existing community collection centre, one existing private social enterprise collection centre and one new community collection centre received investment.

Activity 1.4 Ongoing as needed, but largely undertaken in Y1 and Y2. Fauna & Flora's People & Nature and Marine teams have continued to share technical expertise, lessons and coaching to partners.

Activity 1.5 Ongoing as needed, but largely completed in Y2 when equipment was being procured and needs were being identified. Specialist support in financial projects was provided during a site visit at the end of Y2.

Output 2

Activity 2.1 Revisions were recommended to all three models based on their scores against criteria previously shared. Written commitments were developed between the partners and each intermediary to ensure a clear focus on positive environmental and social impact; these have all been signed by the collection centres. The partners have continued to ensure that intermediary models are able to fulfil these commitments, as well as evidence them with landing site monitoring.

Cayitos de Utila collection centre, Flying Fish, has replaced their previous illegal sale of lobster during closure season and conch (the enterprise was unaware of the illegality, as previously reported) with lionfish, which the collection centre sells to a buyer in neighbouring Roatan. Lionfish is now the highest-paid product that the collection centre sells.

With parallel funding, this collection centre has also bought itself an ice machine and are in the process of procuring the necessary solar panels and desalination equipment to run this machine effectively. In the meantime, costs of ice have reduced significantly through this project's support in replacing the collection centre's old freezers, which no longer worked and were used purely for cooler storage.

Activity 2.2 Baseline model surveys were also run by all partners in project Q2 Y2, prior to investment in legal advice, equipment and working capital. A summary of all responses was shared in our Y2 annual report. Project-end surveys for comparison are currently underway, and will be presented in our final project report.

Activity 2.3 Completed in Y2. Additional funds provided to all three collection centres.

Activity 2.4 Ongoing, but largely completed in Y2. Final support currently being provided to Balfate collection centre for their legal incorporation and to Dantillo collection centre in expediting their sanitary registration.

In addition, all three collection centres have been connected to Banadesa and Chorotega, two community loan providers. Associated interest payments are half of those charged by regular banks, and the opportunities for individual fishers and community enterprises are significant (e.g. targeted opportunities for women to access boat motors).

Output 3

Activity 3.1 Completed in Y2. Case studies and learning from across Fauna & Flora's portfolio of fisheries market interventions are being pulled together into a short, accessible learning document for use internally and externally. This will be shared alongside our final report.

Activity 3.2 In July 2024, the President of the Seascope Fisher's Roundtable, Don German Hernandez, who was also President of Dantillo fish collection centre and fisher association during the first two years of this project, travelled to FAO headquarters in Rome with parallel funding to take part in the second FAO-organised Small-Scale Fisheries Summit and biennial Committee on Fisheries. This set of meetings offered Don German the opportunity to connect, learn and exchange experiences with fishers from all over world, including Nicaragua and Guatemala. Connections made with Guatemalan fishers prompted new ideas on how to better market and process white fish that is traditionally viewed as poor quality in Honduras, but that sells very well in Guatemala.

Activity 3.3 Knowledge product in development, and will be shared alongside our final project report.

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.

N/A

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
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/ No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes/ No
Change Request reference if known: None since last report.	

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024) Actual spend:
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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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend:
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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.
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5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?
N/A

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.
Two points of feedback are to be answered in our next annual report, and we will therefore address them in our end of project report to be submitted in February 2025. One point of feedback is to be discussed with BCF: “It is paramount to discuss the issues mentioned in section 8 of the AR with BCF (Sensitive Information)”, which relates to the following: Please advise when it would be appropriate to discuss.

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.	
If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	
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.	Y
For All Projects	
Include your project reference in the subject line of submission email.	Y
Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com .	Y
Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	Y
Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ?	Y
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	Y