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 2025

Please note all projects that were active before 1ˢᵗ October 2025 are required to complete a Half Year Report.

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

Project reference	DARNV023
Project title	Applying a rights-based approach to human-wildlife conflict
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	India, Indonesia
Lead Organisation	International Institute for Environment and Development
Partner(s)	Nature Conservation Foundation, WALHI North Sumatra, Zoological Society of London
Project Leader	Ruth Pinto
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	12ᵗʰ November 2025, HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	*https://www.iied.org/applying-human-rights-based-approach-conflicts-over-wildlife*

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 monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) 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.

During the last 6 months, the project team focused on Outputs 1 and 3. Under Output 1, in May 2025, we received feedback on the draft guidance from 10 experts in human rights law and practice, conservation practice and human-wildlife conflict. This expert feedback encouraged us to consider restructuring the guidance, which required us to do more research resulting in delays to its publication (activity 1.5; indicator 1.2). This also shortens the timeframe for it to be endorsed by relevant stakeholders (indicator 1.3). To address this, we will share final drafts with stakeholders and request written statements to include in the final publication as a form of endorsement.

Under Output 3, the first three elements of tool testing were completed at a second site in India (activity 3.1) with an action plan produced by key stakeholders (indicator 3.2). While tool testing for a second site in Indonesia was initiated, it has not been completed as fieldwork was interrupted by country-wide protests that impacted staff at WALHI North Sumatra as well as key stakeholders whose participation in the tool testing was essential. This delay impacts the timeline for testing the six-month progress monitoring element of the tool (activity 3.3) and completion of tool testing at all four sites by December 2025 (indicator 3.1). However, the project team has been trialling different approaches to monitoring progress of the action plans at intervals of one and three months. It should therefore be feasible to adapt and complete activity 3.3 for all four sites before the end of the project. Learnings from testing the tool were shared among the project team during a virtual workshop held in June 2025 (activity 3.2).

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.
Political conflict and unrest in India and Indonesia impacted the timeline for activity 3.1. While in India this delayed tool testing by slightly over one month, in Indonesia, tool testing is yet to be completed at a second site. The project team has developed a more detailed plan to ensure this activity will be completed by December 2025. Activity 1.5 included time for incorporating feedback from relevant experts, however the team underestimated the time needed to make the recommended revisions. Both these activities have faced delays of six months, and we will submit a formal change request to reflect their impacts on the project. These changes will not impact the project end date.

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
Formal Change Request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	N/A
Change Request reference if known: N/A	

Guidance for Section 4: The information you provide in this section will be used by Defra to review the financial status of projects. This review will identify projects at random for spot checks on financial management and will include requests for evidence of the actual spend information provided below. Please ensure the figures you provide are as accurate as possible and that you have the evidence to support it. You do not need to provide it now.

4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)   **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 2026)?   **No** ☐   Estimated underspend: £
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, and not later than 31st December. 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 BCFs management, monitoring, or financial procedures?   Suspicions or allegations related to fraud and error concerns should be reported to fraudanderror@Defra.gov.uk
No
6. Project risk management   **6a. If your project has an Overseas Security and Justice assessment, please provide an update on any related risks, and any special conditions in your award paperwork if relevant for your project.**

The project does not have an Overseas Security and Justice assessment.

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7. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent Annual Report. As a reminder, all projects that were scored as 'Not Yet Sensitive' in the Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) assessment of their latest Annual Report should demonstrate how they are meeting the minimum GESI-Sensitive standard.

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2. Baselines for Outcome indicators 0.2, 0.3 and 0.4: For Outcome indicator 0.2, a systematic capacity needs assessment was not conducted during the action planning workshops. The project team will assess improvements to capacities and capabilities of local and national organisations using a self-assessment survey when testing the progress monitoring element of the tool (activity 3.3). For Outcome indicator 0.3 and 0.4, an adapted outcome harvesting method will be used. An outcome harvesting approach does not require establishment of a baseline in the traditional sense but instead assesses project contributions to reported outcomes.

Checklist for submission

Have you responded to **feedback from your latest Annual Report Review?** You should respond in section 6, and annexe other requested materials as appropriate.	X
Have you reported against the most **up to date information for your project?**	X
Have you **clearly highlighted any confidential information** within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	
Include your **project reference** in the subject line of submission email.	
Submit to **BCF-Reports@niras.com**	
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	