

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	29-016
Project title	Livelihoods enhancement through community-based conservation of Bornean orangutan and habitat
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead Organisation	Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR)
Partner(s)	Riak Bumi Indonesia Foundation
Project leader	<i>Dr. Elizabeth Linda Yuliani</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	31 October 2024, HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.cifor-icraf.org/orangutans/

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.

Between 1 April and 30 September 2024, the project undertook the following activities:

Output 1 (Improved access to electricity and clean water by targeted local communities)

Electricity. Micro-hydropower (MH) installations in the last 2 of 4 targeted hamlets, i.e., Entebuluh and Sungai Iring, were developed in August 2024. As in the first two hamlets, we began with preparatory activities to ensure sustainability of the outcomes, i.e.,:

- July 2024: A series of community meetings, knowledge sharing by one representative of the Pelaik MH maintenance group, and participatory decision making and planning for next steps. These were followed by technical studies by the MH consultant team, Riak Bumi NGO and community representatives, preparation of technical design of the turbine and civil structure components, and the required materials. During these activities, the communities came with an idea to form an MH network to share experiences and knowledge, and to make MHs in their hamlets as a learning place for other communities and stakeholder groups.

- Development of MH in Entebuluh hamlet (9-17 August 2024), providing a maximum of 7,500 KVA, distributed to all 10 *biliks* ('apartments') of the long-house. DI-D04: improved access of 25 HHs (44 women, 40 men) to electricity, from 0 to 400-500 watt/*bilik* available 24 hours/day. Development of MH in Sungai Iring hamlet (22-31 Aug 2024), producing 10,000 KVA, distributed to all 11 *biliks* of the long house. DI-D04: improved access of 21 HHs (32 women, 37 men) to electricity from 10-20 watt/*bilik* available 3-4 hours/day, to 600-900 watt/*bilik*, 24 hours/day.
- During and after development of MH in both hamlets, the MH consultant team trained 6 members of Entebuluh and Sungai Iring (3 members respectively) as trainers (DI-A05: 6, all men). These 6 members then trained the rest of the community members. Led by local leaders, the people drafted common rules and established an operational and maintenance group. For maintenance, they propose to use village funds from the government.

Clean water. In August 2024, clean water pipes to each house in Pelaik hamlet were installed, improving access of 23 HHs (DI-D04c total 72 people, i.e., 30 women, 42 men) to clean water. Total costs for pipes purchase, delivery costs and installation were IDR 47 million (IDR 7 million from the project, and IDR 40 million was matching funds from Women of Wildlife organisation). The clean water pipes installation in another 3 hamlets (Sungai Ajung, Entebuluh and Sungai Iring) will be done in Year3 Q3-4.

Output 2 (Marketing mechanisms and capacity to produce marketable non-timber forest products (NTFP) are established):

- The project team facilitated the women to apply for food product distribution permit from the District Health Service, including participation of four women¹ in the Health Service's training in August 2024. The Health Service will visit and check the food production activities, scheduled in Year3 Q3. In parallel, Riak Bumi met with potential buyers (hotels and souvenir shops in Pontianak), and with the district government on the procedure to apply for *halal* certificate. The potential buyers expressed interest in specific products but would wait until the permit and halal certificate are granted.
- Training on natural-dye making and yarn-dyeing on 27-28 August 2024, participated by 18 women (14 from Keluin, 2 from Entebuluh and 2 from Kelawik hamlets). DI-A01: 4 women of Entebuluh and Kelawik². Trainers were women from Pelaik hamlet, the first hamlet receiving MH and training from this project. Further training on pricing, handling orders, preparing capitals and managing small enterprise will be provided in Year3 Q4.

Output 3 (Findings from participatory monitoring of forest conditions and orangutan population is available to inform multiple level decision making):

- The 4th monitoring of the orangutan population along 10 transects (the same locations as in the 1st-3rd monitoring), and participatory forest patrol in Pelaik, Kedungkang, Sungai Ajung and Keluin hamlets in July 2024.
- Additional (scaled out) the orangutan population monitoring in 7 locations inside Danau Sentarum National Park (DSNP), conducted jointly with the DSNP staff and local community representatives with funding from the USAID. This activity provided complementary data on the orangutan populations in the region.
- Training for communities along Labian-Leboyan watersheds on drafting village regulation (matching funds from the IKI-BMUB COLANDS project). In September 2024, four villages (Mensiau, Labian, Labian Iraang dan Sungai Ajung) submitted new village regulations to the District Legal Bureau, including chapters to strengthen customary rules that protect the orangutans and their habitat, and sanctions for violators. The new regulations are now being reviewed by the Legal Bureau. DI-B03: 1 country (Indonesia), 4 villages' new regulations.
- Assisted the Pelaik people to finalise customary forest proposal and prepare supporting documents to get legal recognition of their customary territory. The supporting documents are still in progress. The process was also assisted by AMAN and Lanting Borneo. DI-B06: 72 people (30 women, 42 men). Typology of tenure: ownership rights over the indigenous territory. Verified extent of the customary forest: 4,318 Ha.

Output 4 (Degraded forests and areas are rehabilitated to extend usable orangutan habitat):

¹ These four women were part of the 15 participants of Training on Local Food Production and Marketing in March 2024 reported in the Year2 Annual Report, Table 1, DI-A01.

² The 14 women from Keluin participated in the Training on Handweaving in January 2024 and were part of the DI-A01 reported in the Year2 Annual Report.

- In July 2024, the rehabilitation monitoring in the first two hamlets (Pelaik and Kedungkang) showed approximately 80% of the planted seedlings grew well. Replacement of the poor growth seedlings will be done in Year3 Q3.
- In the last two hamlets (Entebuluh and Sungai Iring), collection of seedlings will also start in Year3 Q3, and planting is planned in Year3 Q4.

Output 5 (New data, knowledge, research and policy recommendations about the link between poverty alleviation and conservation are produced and shared at multiple levels):

- The project activities, approach and outcomes are known by various stakeholder groups. In July 2024, the Head of West Kalimantan Anti Drugs Agency visited one of the project's sites to see the handweaving activities and other Non Timber Forest Products, featured in their social media channel https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pK_m-0ACmb4. The Head recommended to contact the person at the Bank Indonesia who managed programs for small and medium enterprises, and to potential buyers in Pontianak.
- Our participatory approaches were appreciated by the DSNP Authority who recommended that we participate in a workshop of the Lore Lindu National Park (LLNP) Authority in Central Sulawesi in August 2024, aimed to look for potential partners to support LLNP management.
- Finalised video on Keeping Traditional Knowledge Alive for Future Generations, uploaded to CIFOR Youtube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SucEi5CM1ZY>. DI-C01: 1 video.
- Made a short video featuring touching stories and experiences of the local communities on orangutans to generate public awareness and care on orangutans, in collaboration with Riak Bumi, the Betung Kerihun-Danau Sentarum National Park Authority and IMPRO Visual StoryTeller (matching funds from USAID). Interviewed and footage were taken in July 2024, and currently being edited. The video will be published in March 2025.
- The project team wrote an article on women empowerment through capacity building on traditional handweaving, and an article on key recommendations to ensure sustainability of micro-hydropower. The articles are now being edited, and will be published in March 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.

Procedures to get distribution permit and halal certificate for the food products are longer than expected and consist of many steps. This has caused delays in selling the products to big buyers, and will affect the timetable. Although the project team continue assist the women, the processes within the authorities are beyond our control. We will prepare strategies/scenarios jointly with the women in anticipation of the permit/certificate is not yet granted by end of project.

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 (we will submit Formal Change Request by 31 Dec. 2024)
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 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?

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) by CIFOR-ICRAF Quality for Impact (Q4I) team is ideally done after all project activities are completed. Therefore, we are planning to request for an extension, so that the Q4I team can fully evaluate the outcomes. We will submit Formal Change Request by 31 December 2024.

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.

There were 2 comments in the Year 2 Annual Report review that were suggested to be discussed with the BCFs admin. We would like to respond to these comments as follows:

- Comment #3: 'Kedungkang hamlet is not required anymore and therefore the budget reallocation will be proposed for other more required items'. The reviewer is unclear if this reduces the overall number of hamlets from 4 to 3? If so the project needs to adjust its logframe in multiple places, please advise?

Our response: The Kedungkang people received funds from the government for clean water pipes, therefore, a small portion of the budget for clean water pipes was reallocated for buying another dynamo as a backup, and the larger portion was reallocated for the other 3 hamlets. The overall number of hamlets receiving clean water pipes will remain 4 (Pelaik, Sungai Ajung, Entebuluh and Sungai Iring) because the price of the dynamo was lower than pipes, and one of four hamlets (Pelaik) received contribution for purchasing the pipes from another institution as outlined in Section 1.

- Comment #8: Financial justification highlights that activities have been rescheduled until Y3Q1, and that items were not purchased, but the project has spent the variance generated here across other areas. Is this project still going to be able to purchase the equipment? Any variance of 10% or more should be discussed with Darwin.

Our response: The project and the Pelaik people were able to secure additional matching funds to substitute the variance, therefore, we will be able to purchase the equipment. We apologise for not discussing the use of variance over 10% in advance with Darwin. We were conducting field work intensively and were not aware that the variance was over 10% until financial reports of Year 2 Q4 were consolidated at the end of Year2.

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.	
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If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ?	
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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.	✓