

## 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: 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:BCF-Reports@niras.com) including your project ref in the subject line.**

<b>Project reference</b>	29-020
<b>Project title</b>	Strengthening community capacity for evidence-based restoration in Indonesia
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Indonesia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	UKCEH
<b>Partner(s)</b>	BRIN, Fauna & Flora, KKI Warsi, Plan Vivo & University of Kent
<b>Project leader</b>	<i>Lindsay F Banin</i>
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	31/10/24; HYR3
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/forest-restoration-indonesia">https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/forest-restoration-indonesia</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).**

**Faunal biodiversity monitoring:** Between March and October 2024 PhD student Liam Hughes has worked closely with local organisations and communities to deliver the baseline faunal survey including camera trapping for mammals in both our project landscapes (Bengkulu and Aceh) as well as point count surveys and audio-monitoring for birds in Bengkulu. He is now conducting digital transfer of data and preparing for analysis. These data will allow for comparisons of faunal communities across each landscape with different forest cover contexts and will deliver a robust baseline so that the impacts of future efforts and interventions can be assessed.

**Spatial planning:** The KKI Warsi team have worked closely with the community in Bengkulu to adapt spatial zoning plans in their social forest project area due to the development of a new road (see unexpected developments).

**Native forest and RTE species:** SMART patrols continue to monitor for availability of fruits and seedlings in Aceh. The KKI Warsi have initiated activities on opportunities for RTE species planting in Bengkulu, first by engaging with the local community to identify species of interest. The initial focus will be on the Tenam tree (Dipterocarpaceae) which holds cultural significance for the village.

**Agricultural approaches:** The KKI Warsi team have worked in collaboration with the University of Bengkulu to deliver training on organic composting, to support production using bio-waste and without the requirement for costly and potentially damaging chemical fertilisers. The team have also been engaging women within the communities to support garden-grown food production to enhance access to nutrition in the community.

**MPTS Tree Planting:** Some tree planting activities have been undertaken in both project areas in recent months.

**Plan Vivo Restoration Methodology & Tool:** The project team have been dealing with feedback following the external consultations and reviews on the new restoration tools, which will enable future Plan Vivo project to derive benefits from restoration interventions. This process is close to concluding and the team is canvassing VVBs (Validation and Verification Body) to approve the methodology.

**Plan Vivo Project Idea Notes (PINs):** The PIN for the Bengkulu site has now been approved and is live via the Plan Vivo website. The PIN for Aceh is in the stage of well-developed draft following some internal review and currently in editing for further review. For each organisation, following completion of the PIN, the next step the project development document (PDD) which provides much more detail on the baseline condition and methodological approaches for the site. The project team is planning training for to raise capacity and support the in-country teams in creating the PDDs. KKI Warsi have initiated PDD development.

**Government of Indonesia policy:** Ongoing discussions with the Indonesian government regarding the National registry system (SRN) and mutual recognition for carbon credit projects. No clear route to certifying in Indonesia yet. In September Plan Vivo attended a round table discussion with USAID and the Indonesian Environmental Ministry, which has been recently elected. Their newly incumbent government are deciding how to proceed.

**Planning final year monitoring:**

Project partners have been in discussions to plan final year monitoring for indicators, especially the participatory well-being assessment in each of the communities.

**Updated logframe:** Following submission of our annual report, we have updated our logframe with a particular focus on the specificity of the Outcome indicators and MoV for sustainable land management practices and biodiversity. This was a really useful exercise in readiness for gathering evidence at the end of the project. This will be submitted to Niras separately from this report.

**Monitoring & Evaluation:**

We continue to have monthly whole-team meetings to share our updates across the project. These work really well so that everybody can share progress on project implementation, troubleshoot aspects, share general project management tasks and particularly, share learning amongst team. We also continue to have smaller group meetings on more specific, in-depth topics. We have found this approach effective. In the final 6 months we will be rigorously referring to our logframe and implementation plan to finalise activities, outputs and outcomes.

**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.**

<p>1. As mentioned in our last Annual Report, a new road was formed through the social forestry area at our Bengkulu site. This has affected some of the proposed plans that the community had decided, particularly around intervention zonation within the project site and has also impacted local land-use by changing accessibility. The local team (KKI Warsi) have conducted extra engagement activities with the community to maintain support for the protected zones and to adapt to the new conditions. Protected zones were adjusted and there continues to be strong engagement with community members to generate multiple benefits. We are currently adjusting plans for the baseline vegetation surveys in the protected zone</p> <p>2. Extended dry periods in Aceh have influenced replanting of areas where tree mortality had been high. We have an adjusted timetable of activities to accommodate this.</p>	
<p><b>3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</b></p>	
Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes/ No
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/ No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	Yes/ No
<p>Change Request reference if known: <i>If you submitted a financial Change Request, you can find the reference in the email from NIRAS confirming the outcome</i></p>	

<p><b>4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)</b></p> <p><b>Actual spend:</b></p>
<p><b>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)?</b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend:</p>
<p><b>4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully.</b> Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.</p> <p><b>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.</b></p> <p><b>NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.</b></p>
<p><b>5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</b></p>
<p>We thank BCF for their support and we valued the useful feedback we received after our last annual report.</p>

<p><b>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</b></p>
---

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.

We were delighted to receive the positive review that our project was ‘likely to deliver’ and the reviewer praised the ambition of the project and the likely transformational impact.

The feedback selected that we only needed to respond in our next annual report but in brief, we provide some responses here:

- Integration of more diverse planting schemes, using methods such as the framework species method.  
We do not believe this method is well suited to the socio-ecological circumstances in our social forestry areas and also the status of knowledge and capacity for sourcing and propagating such a diversity of species at one time. Instead, we have focussed on community aspirations and building the foundations for enhancing diversity.
- Species selection, Nursery and Propagation methods  
The reviewer kindly suggested additional sources of knowledge to contribute to propagation and we are currently following up on this.
- Variation in seedling survival  
We believe the drivers behind varying seedling survival rates are mixed and relate to maintenance, incentives and labour challenges, and possibly also environmental challenges. We will elaborate more fully in our next annual (final) report.

## Checklist for submission

<b>For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	
Have you <b>responded to any additional feedback</b> (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 <b>risk register</b> ?	
<b>For Existing Projects (i.e. started before 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	
Have you responded to <b>feedback from your latest Annual Report Review</b> ? You should respond in section 6, annexes other requested materials as appropriate.	Y
<b>For All Projects</b>	
Include your <b>project reference</b> in the subject line of submission email.	Y
Submit to <a href="mailto:BCFs-Report@niras.com">BCFs-Report@niras.com</a> .	
Have you <b>clearly highlighted any confidential information</b> within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	NA
Have you reported against the most <b>up to date information for your project</b> ?	Y
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	Y