

## 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>	30-008
<b>Project title</b>	Incentive-based approaches for biodiversity and well-being outcomes in small-scale fisheries
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Indonesia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	University of Oxford
<b>Partner(s)</b>	IPB University Yayasan Impak Laut Biru Yayasan Teman Laut Indonesia, Yayasan Konservasi dan Penelitian Pari Mobula
<b>Project leader</b>	Hollie Booth
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	31/10/2024 HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://mcem.web.ox.ac.uk/incentive-based-marine-conservation">https://mcem.web.ox.ac.uk/incentive-based-marine-conservation</a> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/kebersamaan_untuk_lautan">https://www.instagram.com/kebersamaan_untuk_lautan</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).**

During April – September 2023, the following progress has been made against our implementation timetable:

- 1. Output 1. Understand and design:** research outputs estimating how incentives could change fisher behaviour and impact biodiversity and human wellbeing compiled for 6 project sites (covering >300 households) by March 2024

The four PhD students at IPB University and NGO project partners continued to conduct field work across 11 project sites: Lunyuk, East Lombok (West Nusa Tenggara); Muncar, Tuban, Lomongan, Karimunjawa, Rembang (Java); Alor Island (East Nusa Tenggara), Banda (Maluku), Aceh Jaya and Aceh Barat Daya (Aceh), with additional scoping research for potential new project sites commencing in Bali and Sumba. To date we have collectively

covered >500 households (1.1), and these data have been used to inform initial recommendations for interventions in these 11 sites (1.2).

Based on this baseline data, 2 x papers were accepted for publication (in Conservation Science and Practice and Oryx) in the past 6-months, 1 x paper is in review at Science Advances and a further 4 papers are in draft (one led by each of the IPB PhD students), building on 1 x paper already published in Year 1. An MSc student at Imperial College London also submitted their thesis titled “validating the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) for Explaining Observed By-Catch Relevant Behaviours in Small Scale Fisheries”, which analysed TPB data from ~400 fishers across 6 sites. The thesis will be written up for peer-reviewed publication in the next half year (1.3).

**2. Output 2. Implement:** incentive-based interventions are implemented in 4 coastal communities, with >200 participating fisher households, by March 2025.

The initial recommendations for new incentive schemes have advanced to full detailed intervention plans for 4 sites (Banda, Aceh Barat Daya, Kariumujawa, Muncar) building on a baseline of existing intervention plans for 3 sites (Aceh Jaya, East Lombok, Alor Island), with a total of 7 plans. We also adapted the intervention plans in Aceh Jaya and East Lombok based on our end of Year 1 evaluation. We paused the incentive scheme in East Lombok, due to a lack of uptake, and we have adapted the intervention in Aceh Jaya in several ways, including: a) modifying compensation prices as per the sizes of releases individuals, to better reflect market conditions, b) putting a cap on the number of live releases any one vessel can be compensated for in a given week, to prevent perverse incentives, c) developing a new gear swap scheme to prevent catches of Critically Endangered species, including hammerheads, before they occur (2.1). Detailed intervention plans are still in development for other sites, and pilot interventions for Kariuminjawa and Muncar will be launched in the next half.

We continued to implement, adapt and expand incentive schemes in Aceh Jaya and Alor Island, and launched new interventions in Banda, Aceh Barat Daya and Muncar, with regular distribution of incentives based on evidence of (by)catch mitigation. To date, we have engaged a total of 163 fisher households in pilot interventions across 6 coastal communities (2.2).

**3. Output 3. Evaluate:** research outputs compiled detailing the impact and cost-effectiveness of the interventions - on marine biodiversity and human well-being - by August 2025.

Monitoring of fisher behaviour and well-being (using interview-administered questionnaires) and megafauna bycatch (vessel landings surveys) continued across a total of 11 sites (as detailed under Output 1) (3.1).

The new interventions in Aceh Barat Daya and Karimunjava were registered as field experiments, building on the existing pre-registration for Aceh Jaya and East Lombok (3.2).

In Aceh Jaya and Aceh Barat Daya the incentive-based interventions are being implemented as randomised controlled trials (RCT) to enable causal inference and attribution regarding the impact of the incentives. In Alor Island and Banda a conventional monitoring approach is being adopted, since RCTs were not feasible. In all sites we collected data on fisher attitudes and behaviour; marine megafauna catches; project costs and live releases and disbursement of incentives (3.3, 3.4).

Our impact evaluation based on the first 14-months of data for East Lombok and Aceh Jaya remains in review at Science Advances, and we used information from this analysis to adapt our approach in Aceh Jaya and East Lombok. We paused the incentive scheme in East Lombok due to a lack of uptake, and we modified the rules of the incentive scheme in Aceh Jaya. We have begun to analyse the RCT data for Aceh Jaya under the new design, with the intention to use the data for further adaptive management as well as publish a second manuscript within the lifetime of the project (3.5).

**4. Output 4. Scale and legacy:** institutions, capacity, long-term partnerships, and financing mechanisms are established, to maintain on-going investments in project sites, and share methods and lessons learned for scaling up to other sites, by March 2026.

The four PhD students at IPB University continued to conduct research in collaboration with the partner NGOs (4.1) and attended a 2-week exchange visit to the UK in June 2024 during which they received structured training on impact assessment methods, social sciences, demographic modelling, and presenting and writing skills (4.6).

Eight stakeholder engagement, consultation, and capacity building workshops were conducted for fishers and local governments, with a focus on gaining community agreement and buy-in for the interventions, bycatch mitigation training, and financial and business management training.

Results and lessons learned from the project were presented at 6 international and domestic conferences/events, including: the SCB North American Congress for Conservation Biology (NACCB) 2024 in Vancouver; a fisheries workshop at the University of Michigan; the 4th Maritime Continent Fulcrum International Conference (MaCiFIC) 2024 at Universitas Maritim Raja Ali Haji (UMRAH); the Oxford Biodiversity Network; the Nature-based Solutions conference 2024; and a lightning talk for Seattle Aquarium. Additional conferences will be attended in the next half year, including the SCB 7<sup>th</sup> International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC7) and the SCB Conservation Social Science Conference.

**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.**

We experienced further delays in disbursing funds to our project partners (this time, to IPB University) due to payments being continually rejected and returned by the recipient bank in Indonesia. This has meant that funding for the PhD students' field work was not available as expected and has led to some further delays in data collection. As a result of these challenges, coupled with previous delays disbursing funds to NGO partners last year, some interventions have been slower to start than expected. As such, we anticipate that we are likely to have an underspend in project costs, and will likely seek a budget change request before the end of Q3.

**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 – last year
Formal Change Request submitted:	No – not yet for this year
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	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?**

NA

**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 no comments and queries that needed to be addressed in this HY report. We will make sure all files with links are provided in the next annual report (Comment 1), and we have already revised the approach for hammerhead sharks, as explained under Output 2 (Comment 3). We have not discussed the fund transfers with BCF's admin, as we have managed to resolve them for now, however if the problems reappear or persist in the next 6 months then we will reach out.

We will also reach out separately regarding re-budget change request before December 2024.

## 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> .	Y
Have you <b>clearly highlighted any confidential information</b> within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website?	Y (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