

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	30-010
Project title	Securing Spermonde's seascape through community-based coral reef fisheries management
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead Organisation	Fauna & Flora Indonesia Programme
Partner(s)	Regional Natural Resources Conservation Agency of South Sulawesi (BBKSDA of South Sulawesi), Maros Pangkep Geopark Management Body, National Marine Protected Areas Agency (BKKPN) Kupang
Project leader	<i>Subhan Usman</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>31 October 2024, HYR2</i>
Project website/blog/social media	-

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).

The following reported activities are based on the schedule changes resulting from the change request on Y1 (CR23-135).

Output 1: By EOP, the Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries Management (EAFM) is being implemented by two fishing communities with support from MPA/Geopark managers

By Y2, we are focusing on activity 1.4 and 1.5. We initiated relationships with stakeholders to engage on the action plan for sustainable fisheries management in Podang-podang and Kapoposang villages. The activity 1.4 (*Develop action plan for sustainable fisheries management practices in two fishing communities*) will be implemented in Q4 to have more time to assess more appropriate and feasible issues as an action plan for the fishing community. We plan to follow-up the Participatory Market System Development (PMSD) assessment and discuss the arrangement of fishing zones based on existing regulations with different stakeholders and parties.

Activity 1.5 Conduct a series of workshops/meetings to strengthen inter-stakeholder dialogue and improve MPA/Geopark management.

Scheduled in Q1 and implemented as scheduled. Throughout September this year, a series of consultations took place with several key stakeholders: the Regional Natural Resources Conservation Agency of South Sulawesi (*Balai Besar Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam*; BKSDA), the South Sulawesi's Department of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (*Dinas Kelautan dan Perikanan*; DKP), the Maros Pangkep Geopark Management Body (BP Geopark Maros Pangkep), and the National Marine Protected Areas Agency (*Balai Kawasan Konservasi Perairan Nasional*; BKKPN) at the Kapoposang Work Unit. Among the primary topics discussed was a study plan assessing the impact of land-based activities on marine ecosystems, which will be central to the agenda of the upcoming workshop. In early August 2024, an additional meeting was held with the Pangkep District Government, primarily focusing on exploring business development opportunities to support fisheries in the Spermonde Islands. The proposal for establishing a regency-owned enterprise in the fisheries sector received a positive response from the regent. However, with the regional election approaching, further discussions will continue with the incoming regent, aiming for alignment and sustained support from the district government.

Output 2: By EOP, two communities are actively co-managing their fisheries resources through monitoring and surveillance patrols

Activity 2.1 Facilitate the establishment and strengthening of fisher groups

Originally scheduled for Q3-Q4 but implemented ahead of schedule in Q1, preparatory action plans were developed for various groups to streamline implementation. Following the formation of groups in Podang-Podang Island in the first year, two new groups were established in Kapoposang Island: a fisher's group with 15 members and a women's business group with 12 members. In addition, a community monitoring group was organized on Podang-Podang Island, mirroring the one already present in Kapoposang. The group formation was followed by training activities focusing on sustainable marine resource use, which included participation from the wider community. Training on marketing connectivity was also conducted as part of the PMSD initiative. For the community surveillance groups on both islands, patrol training was provided using the SMART method (SMART Patrol).

Activity 2.2 Share results from the EAFM assessment (per Output 1) and collect and incorporate feedback from community consultations.

Scheduled in Q4 Y1 (change request result) and implemented in Q1 Y2. The implementation was postponed as an adjustment to the availability of time for the assessment implementing consultant, EAFM Learning Center Hasanuddin University. Dissemination meeting was held in June 2024 and was attended by the BKSDA of South Sulawesi, BKKPN, BP Geopark Maros Pangkep, village governments of the project locations (Mattiro Dolangeng Village and Mattiro Ujung Village), and community representatives. Also present was the Coastal and Marine Resources Management Center (*Balai Pengelolaan Sumber daya Pesisir dan Laut*; BPSPL) of Makassar, an institution under the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF). During the meeting, feedback from stakeholders was gathered and integrated with recommendations derived from the assessment results.

Activity 2.3 Facilitate action plan development for fisheries improvements in 2 community fisher group.

Scheduled for Q2 (following a change request; previously set for Q4) and implemented as planned, group formation and action plans development were completed for fisher's and women's groups on Kapoposang Island, building on similar activities conducted in Year 1 on Podang-Podang Island. The action plan for the fisher's groups on Kapoposang Island includes ongoing fish-landing monitoring and securing legal status for fishing vessels. For the women's business group, the focus is on establishing the legal status of processed fishery products, enhancing fisheries management skills, expanding marketing capabilities for fishery products, and improving product packaging techniques.

Activity 2.4 By end of Y2, project information materials are co-created and utilised by two communities.

Currently in progress, consultations have been conducted with the BBKSDA of South Sulawesi, BKKPN, and the BP Geopark Maros Pangkep as part of the co-creation process for project materials. Four types of project materials have been identified and designed, with a target for completion and dissemination in October 2024.

Activity 2.5 Facilitate a series of training sessions for community-based fisheries management in monitoring surveillance standard/protocols, fisheries management, fish landing monitoring, SMART patrol

The SMART Patrol training has been conducted, and fish-landing monitoring is currently ongoing. The SMART Patrol training took place in August 2024, with participation from the BBKSDA of South Sulawesi, BKKPN, Fisheries Extension Officers of the MMAF, the Pangkep District's Department of Marine and Fisheries, BPSPL Makassar, Surveillance Body of Marine and Fisheries Resources of Makassar (*Pengawasan Sumber Daya Kelautan dan Perikanan-PSDKP Makassar*), the Web Spider Conservation Movement Group (Kompak), the Mattiro Ujung's Community Surveillance Group (*Kelompok Masyarakat Pengawas-Pokmaswas*), and the Podang Lestari Pokmaswas. Fish Landing Monitoring, which continues from Year 1, commenced again in August 2024 on both islands, utilizing the same respondents as in the previous monitoring period.

Output 3: Fisheries livelihoods in two coastal communities are more secure and sustainable through implementation of Participatory Market Systems Development

Activity 3.1 Conduct market linkages and gaps assessment using Participatory Market System Development (PMSD) market mapping approach.

Scheduled for Q4, the implementation of activities was conducted earlier to allow for greater time for subsequent PMSD implementation, as well as for monitoring and evaluation. This year, a meeting was facilitated between representatives of fishers and a fish processing company to discuss the quality standards and post-harvest handling methods required for fish catches. This initiative is a follow-up to the market mapping conducted in Y1. As a result, in August, a trial marketing of 300 kg of fishery products from Kapoposang fishers was carried out with the company PT. Wahyu Tirta in the Makassar Industrial Area, with expectations for ongoing collaboration.

Activity 3.2 Facilitating the development of action plans by priority stakeholder groups to improve commodity/product quality and meet market standards from two communities, including gender-disaggregated measures

Scheduled for Q4 and implemented ahead of schedule to facilitate acceleration and allow for additional time for monitoring and evaluation, training sessions have been conducted to enhance skills in processing fishery products, product packaging, and managing the registration, certification and legality of fishery products. These efforts are part of the action plan for the fisher's and women's groups involved in fishery product processing. Support for marketing fishery products has also been provided, including the development of potential products beyond fish from the two islands. As a result, available products now include dried fish, skipjack tuna chili sauce, coconut oil, and virgin coconut oil (VCO).

Activity 3.3 Facilitate monitoring and evaluation of stakeholder action plan implementation

Scheduled for Q3 and will be implemented as scheduled, i.e. end of Q3/December 2024.

Activity 3.5 Facilitate training to strengthen markets and livelihoods

Institutional training and group-based financial management were conducted in July and August 2024, with participation from 15 male and 15 female participants. The training covered several key topics, including community group dynamics, the formulation of group vision and mission statements, business diagnostics, and group financial management training and simulation.

Output 4: By 2026, the management and zoning plan of the Geopark for the Spermonde Karst island include actions to mitigate land-based impacts on marine ecosystems

Activity 4.1 Facilitate stakeholder workshops and scientific computer-based modelling to develop models of land-based impacts on marine environment.

Scheduled for Q3 and Q4 (following a change request; originally planned to begin in Q4 of Y1 and Q1 of Y2), activities are currently being implemented alongside preparations for the implementation of Activity 1.5. Scientific computer-based modelling will be supported by biophysical and chemical data obtained from field surveys scheduled for November 2024.

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.

1. The SMART Patrol training received positive feedback from staff at the Department of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and from agencies under the MMAF involved as participants (BKKPN, PSDKP, BPSPL). Participants found the SMART Patrol practical and highly useful for inventorying field findings. Until now, SMART Patrol has been more familiar among government agencies in the forestry sector and is not yet widely known within marine-focused agencies. Participants from marine agencies confirmed that no integrated system or tool currently supports patrol activities in their waters. As a result, SMART Patrol may be adopted by marine agencies in South Sulawesi and, potentially, more widely as a system to support their patrol activities. Assistance with SMART Patrol implementation will continue for marine agencies in South Sulawesi.
2. During the implementation of PMSD, discussions arose with the Pangkajene and Kepulauan district government about the potential for the Pangkep district government to support the local fishing industry by establishing a regional enterprise. This enterprise could serve as a new source of government revenue while supporting the marketing of fish products within the community. However, the discussions were stalled due to the upcoming regent election. Efforts will be made to revisit this topic after the election aiming the same consensus and support from the new regent. The potential impact of these discussions, if the district government acts on the recommendations, is that the district government could gain more substantial direct benefits from capture fisheries activities within their area.
3. In efforts to establish market linkages as part of this year's PMSD agenda, three corporate buyers were engaged, resulting in the development of two new marketing channels for tuna and small pelagic fish. One company expressed interest in sourcing grouper, yet fishers have been unable to fulfill the company's monthly demand of 100 kg, constrained by their existing commitments to local intermediaries. The potential outcome of these engagements is that, should business with corporate buyers proceed optimally, fishers' earnings may increase, although this could potentially reduce the profits of local intermediaries.

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: *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?

We will propose a budget change request this year in a separate submission

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.

The following is our update to some of the comments in our annual report review last year (Y1), except for comments that are self-explanatory, such as the comments in section 2 (Comments and queries for Project Leader) number 2 (Ensure consistency between report sections and the logframe).

On the **Comments and queries for Project Leader** section:

Coment no. 2: Clarify grouper target species and provide baseline CPUE for these as per indicator 0.3 (in the next annual report). Currently, we have separated the grouper data in the fish landing monitoring database so that we can report the grouper CPUE in the upcoming annual report.

Comment no. 4: Consider altering Outcome indicator 0.3 from CPUE to LBSPR for priority grouper species. We agree with this suggestion. We are working on calculating LBSPR by considering the level of completeness of its implementation, especially in terms of budget availability to measure gonad maturity.

Comment no. 5: Strong need to protect some areas from trawling and drag nets (cantrang). This suggestion is an important consideration in the design of activity 1.4. which we will implement in Q4.

On the other section:

On whether modified trawls are less destructive (note in section 4.2. Progress towards Outputs in the review document). We are currently accessing study documents that show that modified trawls are less destructive, which we will present in our upcoming annual report. This process is

in line with the preparation for *activity 1.4. Develop action plan for sustainable fisheries management practices in two fishing communities*

On the issue of destructive fishing in Spermonde (as mentioned in sections 2., 4.3., 4.4., and 12.). We strongly agree with the comments in section 12 (Early indicators of transformational change), that efforts to address the issue of destructive fishing in Spermonde will take a long time. Destructive fishing in Spermonde is a complex phenomenon and has always been a major obstacle to sustainable fisheries. Considering the criticality of this issue, we are developing a small study whose results we will present in the next annual report.

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.	✓
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.	✓