

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.

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| Project reference | <i>This should be the project reference provided in your offer paperwork and not your application number</i> DIR30CC\1310 |
| Project title | Strengthening capabilities and capacities for sea turtle conservation in Indonesia |
| Country(ies)/territory(ies) | Indonesia |
| Lead Organisation | Turtle Foundation Switzerland |
| Partner(s) | Yayasan Penyu Indonesia |
| Project leader | Dr. Hiltrud Cordes |
| Report date and number (e.g. HYR1) | HYR1 |
| Project website/blog/social media | www.turtle-foundation.org |

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 the first six months of this two-year project, we focused on laying the groundwork across several key areas, particularly in staff training, digital setup, and establishment of operational structures and procedures:

Output 1:

1. Training and Capacity-Building

- **Participant Identification and Initial Training Sessions:** We identified key staff members for foundational training, which included three sessions:
 - A one-week team-building session for 12 staff members,
 - A two-week Training of Trainers (ToT) for 14 participants, and
 - A financial management workshop for the project coordinator and financial manager.
- **Indicator:** With a total of 15 YPI staff (11 male, 4 female) completing training, amounting to 42 aggregated training weeks, the proportion of trained employees has risen from 20% to 30% (DI-A01).

2. Development of a New YPI Website

- We commissioned an agency to develop the YPI website and provided professional photographs from three project sites. The launch is scheduled for the end of the first fiscal year in March 2025.
- **Indicator:** The website will enable us to track visitor engagement upon completion (DI-C11).

Output 2:

3. Ranger Handbook Preparation

- **Indicator:** Work on a practical ranger handbook for sea turtle conservation has begun, including photo documentation of key work steps and content development (DI-C01).

4. Training of Rangers

- **Indicator:** In September, 14 participants completed the first two-week training course at the Berau sea turtle conservation site of YPI in Indonesia (DI-A05).

Procurement and Project Management

- We acquired essential capital items, established a steering committee and advisory board, and selected project management software to support ongoing coordination. All initial assumptions for project implementation still hold true.

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.

Confidential information:

Over the past six months, our project has encountered several notable challenges that required adaptive responses:

In August 2024, the Yayasan Penyu Indonesia (YPI) project supervisor, Jatmiko Wiwoho, was dismissed without notice due to fraudulent activities. Financial irregularities were flagged by YPI's financial manager, which enabled prompt corrective action. This unexpected development has left the supervisor position vacant, and recruitment efforts for a replacement are ongoing. As an interim measure, the President of Turtle Foundation Germany, Prof. Dr. Otto Jockel, will take on the project supervision role gratuitously. This temporary solution ensures that the project timeline will not be affected. Additionally, as the supervisor position is budgeted at 25%, this vacancy will slightly reduce monthly staffing costs until a permanent replacement is found (see risk register).

The initial Training of Trainers (ToT) proved more costly than anticipated due to higher-than-expected travel expenses, prompting a revision to our training schedule. To address this, we are considering two options: either to conduct only two of the three originally planned ToT sessions in the field with all participants and to hold the third session online, or alternatively, to seek additional funding to cover travel costs for a third in-person ToT. While this adjustment may impact the overall project costs, it will not affect the BCF funds or the project's established timeline.

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:

Yes (will be submitted in the next days)

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** X

4c. If you expect and underspend, then you should consider your project budget needs carefully.

5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

6. Please use this section to respond to any feedback provided when your project was confirmed, or from your most recent annual report.

Feedback:

- on the turtle rangers: what is their institutional basis for actions and accountability (community vs NGO vs Government)?

The rangers are either hired employees of YPI or members of community groups. All of them are working for sea turtle conservation projects in the framework of cooperation agreements with governmental institutions. However, they do not have law enforcement authority.

- please clarify Yayasan Penyu Indonesia's (YPI's) working model with communities: what community institutions do they work through and what mandate does YPI have for this?

Depending on the situation and project location, YPI is approaching governmental institutions on village and district level as well as formal and informal community groups to gain support for community development activities, identify beneficiaries, and establish partnerships. Supporting communities with education and income generating activities is part of the MoU between YPI and the government.

- the poverty reduction plans are not clear. Please clarify what they are and how they link with turtle conservation and explain what mandate and/or capacity YPI has for these.

We are planning to identify community groups, which are threatened by poverty and at the same time are gaining income from illegal exploitation of sea turtles – mainly through egg trade. The poverty reduction action plans will develop alternative income opportunities for the affected community groups. The plans will be elaborated by consultants in collaboration with the communities.

- your budget shows you have split your audit request across both financial years. We only require an end of project audit so will consolidate your audit request into the second year of the project. If you do not want us to do this, please get in touch as soon as possible.

We agree to the consolidation of the audit expenses into the second year of the project.

The two proposed changes to the log-frame can be found in the annexes.

Checklist for submission

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| 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. | Yes |
| If not already submitted, have you attached your risk register ? | Yes |
| 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. | Yes |
| Submit to BCFs-Report@niras.com . | Yes |
| Have you clearly highlighted any confidential information within the report that you do not wish to be shared on our website? | Yes |
| Have you reported against the most up to date information for your project ? | Yes |
| Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report. | Yes |