

## 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>	DARNV023
<b>Project title</b>	Applying a rights-based approach to human-wildlife conflict
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	India, Indonesia
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	International Institute for Environment and Development
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Nature Conservation Foundation, WALHI North Sumatra, Zoological Society of London
<b>Project leader</b>	Dilys Roe
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2024, HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	Project page will be published on the IIED website this month

**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.

Milestone project activities for April-September 2024 included recruitment of a Researcher (IIED) and a Programme Manager (NCF), and the successful holding of a project in-person inception workshop, a virtual workshop and monthly meetings. All activities planned for Q1 and Q2 of the project have been successfully completed.

**Output 1:**

- At the in-person inception workshop in London in June (**activity 1.3**), the project team presented and discussed ideas for the international guidance and site-level tool. The team reviewed the project timeline and activities and developed further detailed plans; mapped key audiences and discussed communications activities; and reviewed the project indicators, developing an M&E plan including roles and responsibilities.
- Over Q1 and Q2, case studies of human-wildlife conflict were reviewed to identify associated social impacts, alongside a review of literature and consultations with experts to identify relevant human rights laws and conventions (**activity 1.1**). The social impacts and human rights were then mapped to better understand which rights are relevant in the context of human-wildlife conflict. These mapped human rights impacts are foundational to the international guidance that is currently being drafted. The

literature review and expert consultations also included ways to identify rightsholders, duty-bearers and their responsibilities (**activity 1.2**), which has been useful in supporting drafting of the guidance as well as development of the site-level tool.

- In September, a virtual workshop was organised (**activity 1.4**). The outline of the international guidance and the different phases of the tool were presented and discussed. This workshop also included more detailed discussions of project plans for the upcoming six months, including the appropriate time for testing of the tool.

Output 2:

- In Q1 and Q2, the team reviewed different multi-stakeholder tools (e.g., human rights and social impact assessment, social safeguards, governance assessment, conflict transformation, consensus building) to develop the site-level tool (**activity 2.1**). Building on these tools and activities 1.1-1.3 (**activity 2.2**), the steps for each of the phases were outlined and presented at the virtual workshop in September (activity 1.4).
- At monthly meetings (**activity 2.3**), the project team shared updates on their progress and held technical discussions relevant to Outputs 1 & 2. Optional weekly check-ins were also organised so the team could discuss ideas and questions as they arose.

The M&E system remains appropriate, with assumptions holding true and outcome and output indicators remaining relevant. However, the team recognises the need to make changes to the time-bound aspect of output indicators 1.1 and 1.2. To effectively incorporate expert feedback into the guidance and prepare it for dissemination, output indicator 1.1 will be achieved by the end of Year 1 (Mar25) and output indicator 1.2 by the end of Year 2, Quarter 2 (Sep25).

**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.**

At the virtual workshop in September, the project team reviewed the workplan. One key point of discussion was when to conduct the tool testing and whether project partners should organise exchange visits during the tool testing to observe and learn from each other's experiences. The team collectively agreed to delay tool testing by 3 months to better align with the output indicator 2.2 (Prototype of the tool developed and ready for testing by the end of Quarter 3, Year 1). Tool testing will therefore take place in January-June 2025, with testing at one site per country in Y1Q4 (Jan-Mar 2025) and a second site per country in Y2Q1 (Jun-Apr 2025). During tool testing in Y2Q1, rather than partner exchange visits, the team believes it would be more useful to invite a human rights and/or human-wildlife conflict expert familiar with the country/site context to observe the testing process.

As noted in the previous section, the team also recognised the need to make changes to output indicators 1.1 and 1.2. This will impact the timeline of activity 1.5 (Share final guidance) which will be conducted in the final six months of the project (Oct25-Mar26).

A change request reflecting these two points will be submitted in the next few weeks.

**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:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance:	N/A
Change Request reference if known: N/A	

**4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e. from 1 April 2024 – 30 September 2024)**

**Actual spend:**

<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"/></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>No</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.</b> 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.</p>
<p>A response to feedback provided at the time of confirmation was provided on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. The project was not subject to an Overseas Security or Justice Assistance assessment.</p>

## Checklist for submission

<b>For New Projects (i.e. starting after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)</b>	
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 <b>risk register</b> ?	Previously submitted
<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.	
<b>For All Projects</b>	
Include your <b>project reference</b> in the subject line of submission email.	
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?	
Have you reported against the most <b>up to date information for your project</b> ?	
Please ensure claim forms and other communications for your project are not included with this report.	