

Biodiversity Challenge Funds Projects

Darwin Initiative, Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, and Darwin Plus Half Year Report

Note: 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 2022

Project reference	<i>28-011</i>
Project title	<i>"We are the forest:" beiradeiro training and socio-environmental services, Amazonia</i>
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	<i>Brazil</i>
Lead partner	<i>Instituto Socioambiental</i>
Partner(s)	<i>AMORERI (Associação dos Moradores da Reserva Extrativista Rio Iri) * AMORA (Associação dos Moradores da Reserva Extrativista Riozinho do Anfrísio) * AMOMEX (Associação dos Moradores da Reserva Extrativista Rio Xingu) * *Beiradeiro Associations from the Iri Extractive Reserve, Riozinho do Anfrísio Extractive Reserve and Xingu River Extractive Reserve respectively.</i>
Project leader	<i>Roberto Sanches Rezende</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

Between April and September we carried out:

- 1.1. Three training modules (according to Timetable).
- 1.2. One follow-up and evaluation expedition with students and monitors (according to Timetable).
- 2.1. Two expeditions with archaeologists, ecologists and anthropologists (according to Timetable).
- 2.2. One training workshop on data collection (according to Timetable).
- 2.3. One community assembly (Rio Xingu Extractive Reserve) (according to the Timetable).
- 2.4. We have finished the chapters for publication on the socio-environmental contributions of the beiradeiros of Terra do Meio, based on collaborative research on its Traditional Agroforestry System carried out between 2016 and 2022 (according to Timetable).
- 2.5. We have not yet produced audiovisual material on the Agroforestry System of the Beiradeiros as foreseen in the timetable. ISA published printed and audiovisual material on the socio-environmental contributions of traditional peoples (<https://youtu.be/FsnRF1aJCMM>), which preceded specific publications on the Beiradeiros (delayed).
- 2.6. We have approval of the three local associations to ask IPHAN to start the process of recognizing the colocações as a traditional agroforestry system. However, we assess that this is not the best political moment for submission (according to Timetable).
- 2.7. In June, a negotiation meeting with companies took place in the Rio Xingu Extractive Reserve. There was a specific panel on socio-environmental services, carbon market and ecological restoration, with the participation of a Brazilian start-up (BlueBell) interested in developing a methodology for the creation of an environmental asset based on the environmental contributions from communities (water, soil, carbon, culture, biodiversity). We also held conversations with other two companies about carbon markets and its potential to value other contributions from communities (Revalue Nature and Nativa Carbono - conversations with Revalue Nature are confidential). In a complementary way, we have advanced in the construction of a quality of life and environmental monitoring system (also linked to Output 3) that will guide negotiations on socio-environmental services in the Canteen Network through a systemic approach (not focused on specific services or value-chains - according to Timetable).
- 3.1. and 3.2 One follow-up and evaluation expedition with students and monitors. We changed the number of monitors to increase the number of participating students. The decision was made by the student-monitors themselves in a debate on the choice of monitors (according to Timetable).
- 3.3. Biodiversity data were collected between April and June 2022 on 40 beiradeiros trails and on 30 transect trails. The choice of monitoring points changed from conversations with ICMBio, focusing on an Extractive Reserve and the Terra do Meio Ecological Station (according to Timetable).

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.

Below are comments on problems and unexpected developments according to activities proposed in the timetable:

1.1. The training modules can only be carried out in the months of July and January due to the formal school calendar. Thus, the last three modules will probably be carried out in advance or in the city so that we do not use school spaces.

2.1 and 3.3. We had administrative and bureaucratic difficulties with the procedures for the payment of scholarships to support research and project activities, despite the scientific cooperation agreed with departments of the Federal Universities of Pará (UFPA) and the Federal University of Western Pará (UFOPA) for the participation of their professors and researchers. The implementation of the scholarships depends on the signature of the university rectors. The terms of cooperation have already been prepared and are awaiting evaluation and signature by the rectors. This has not yet delayed the goals and activities of the projects, as we are looking for alternatives for student participation, such as paying per diems through a partnership with ICMBio and directly hiring graduate students as researchers.

3.2. We changed the organisation of the monitoring work based on a conversation with the young people of the course. Instead of 4 monitors per Extractive Reserve, we decided to include everyone who would like to carry out monitoring, allowing more young people to learn to use the research tools. This increases the number of people trained to carry out survey and data analysis tasks among young people, allows for a greater territorial coverage of the sample, and forms a group of “beiradeiros” able to collect and analyse data for different issues related to the territory. This fact, and the difficulty of formalising the cooperation of scholarships with universities, led us to propose, at that moment, budgetary adjustments in the payments of monitors and scholarship holders.

2.5. Due to the delay in audiovisual production, we propose to shift the resources planned for the communication work and audiovisual production related to the recognition process of the Agroforestry System of the Beiradeiros to the third year of the project.

2.7. As an unexpected development, we highlight the interest of decision makers in the perspective of payments for socio-environmental services associated with the SAT that has been developed by the project. We are in dialogue with representatives of the Ministry of the Environment, negotiating a consultancy supported by GIZ to detail and value two socio-environmental services or two value chains associated with the beiradeiro way of life. The expectation is that this consultancy will contribute to the regulation of the national PES law, which will be prepared next year by the Ministry of the Environment. We also participated in the construction of the Bioeconomy Plan for the state of Pará, as members of the working group. We were able to present our perspective on agroforestry systems and the need for payment mechanisms for socio-environmental services for the traditional peoples of the state.

3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS-LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: No

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

Change request reference if known: CR21-068

4a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

4b. If yes, then you need to 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 if necessary. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

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

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response (including the submission of your risk register), or if your Annual Report Review asked you to provide a response with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with NIRAS-LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email** to BCF-Reports@niras.com. The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number, followed by the specific fund in the header of your email message e.g. Subject: 29-001 Darwin Initiative Half Year Report**