

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 2023

Project reference	28-018
Project title	Sanctuaries for threatened species and communities in Northeast Luzon, Philippines
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Philippines
Lead partner	Mabuwaya Foundation
Partner(s)	Local governments of Baggao (Cagayan) and San Mariano (Isabela), Department of Environment and Natural Resources community offices in Alcala and Naquilian, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Isabela State University, Tanggol Kalikasan.
Project leader	Merlijn van Weerd / Marites Gatan-Balbas
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	29 October 2023 / HYR3 (2023)
Project website/blog/social media	www.mabuwaya.org https://www.facebook.com/mabuwaya/

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).

Accomplishments for the period April to September 2023:

3 joint meetings in Baggao (women and agroforestry farmers) to talk about agroforestry farm establishment and maintenance and establishment of home gardens were conducted; 108 (18 male and 90 female) individuals attended these meetings.

1 meeting in San Mariano to talk about monitoring of planted fruit tree seedlings and distribution of vegetable seeds was conducted. This was attended by 23 individuals (M-14 and F-9)

In Baggao Cagayan, an additional 51 farmers have signed up to be engaged in agroforestry farm establishment covering 44.95 hectares. An additional 35 individuals will be provided with assorted vegetable seeds for their home gardens.

In San Mariano, Isabela, 39 farmers underwent an agroforestry farm planning workshop covering a total of 45 hectares. 51 individuals will be engaged in home garden establishment.

In total, 9278 assorted fruit tree seedlings were provided to our beneficiaries. 1336 packs of assorted vegetable seeds were provided to households.

37 agroforestry farms have been monitored in Baggao. Seedling survival rate is estimated at 95 percent.

45 biodiversity flipcharts were printed and provided to schools in San Mariano and Baggao.

An additional 4,000 copies (2,000 English and 2000 Tagalog) of the educational story book “Krokey’s Journey in the Northern Sierra Madre” were ordered and are now being printed.

61 teachers attended the training for Science Teachers in San Mariano. The goal of the training is for them to incorporate biodiversity conservation in their lectures.

3 Puppet shows on biodiversity conservation were conducted in the schools in San Mariano namely San Jose Integrated School, Binatug Elementary School and Disulap Elementary School.

Wildlife Sanctuay Management Plans (for Baggao) and San Mariano Wetland Management Plans have been developed and finalized. The plans will be presented at the end of this year to the barangay council and municipal council for adoption and incorporation into the Forest and Land Use Plan of the Municipality.

2 Philippine Crocodile monitoring activities were conducted. During the 2nd quarter (June 2023) we have counted 53 individuals (9 adults, 44 juveniles). During the 3rd quarter, (August - September) we have counted 57 (10 adults, 15 juveniles and 32 hatchlings). We have recorded 5 crocodile nests in the municipality of San Mariano and Benito Soliven. 27 individuals composed of sanctuary guards, DENR personnel, community volunteers and Mabuwaya staff were involved during the monitoring activities.

1 Isabela Oriole monitoring activity was conducted in six different sites in Baggao and 37 individuals were counted.

Flying foxes could not be monitored due to peace and order restrictions and bad weather.

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.

An unstable peace and order situation and swelling of rivers in Baggao hindered us in the monitoring of flying foxes and Isabela Oriole in Malisi and Camunayan. Isabela Orioles could well be monitored in 6 other sites in Baggao yielding a count of 37 individuals, but the flying fox roost site in Camunayan could not be visited. The peace and order situation has improved though, and we expect to be able to conduct a flying fox roost site count in the first half of 2024 when the NE Monsoon rains end.

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 2023 – 30 September 2023)

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 2024)?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

4c. 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.

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?

No

If you are a new project and you received feedback comments that requested a response, 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.

All new projects (excluding Darwin Plus Fellowships and IWT Challenge Fund Evidence projects) should submit their Risk Register with this report if they have not already done so.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with NIRAS 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**