

## 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: 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023**

<b>Project reference</b>	29-002
<b>Project title</b>	Conserving and restoring orangutan habitat and ecosystems, Gunung Palung, Indonesia
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Indonesia
<b>Lead partner</b>	Fauna & Flora - Indonesia Program
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Gunung Palung National Park Agency Yayasan Palung
<b>Project leader</b>	Arief Hamidi
<b>Report date and number (e.g., HYR1)</b>	31 October 2023, HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	
<p><b>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).</b></p> <p>During April – October 2023, project activities was delivered and progressing toward outputs as below:</p> <p><u>Output 1: Reduced direct threats to forest habitat and rare - threatened species, through effectively operating joint Protection &amp; Monitoring Units (PMU)</u></p> <p>During June – September 2023, four (4) PMUs (total 20 person; all men) has conducted 12 times of monthly forest-patrols (793.84 KM patrol distance, covered 468.15 Ha in total) of two Village Forest (Penjataan, Rantau Panjang) and two Traditional Zone of Gunung Palung National Park-GPNP (Riam Berasap and Sempurna) (Activity 1.9). The patrols have recorded 11 detection of forest fires, 66 case encroachment, 2 case of poaching (Activity 1.7).</p> <p>Based on the finding of illegal logging cases in Penjataan Village Forest, joint law-enforcement patrol was deployed in Penjataan on 20-21 June 2023 involved PMU of Penjataan, authorized stakeholders and law enforcers, i.e., Forest Management Unit (FMU) Kayong, Police officers, Village non-commissioned force (Babinsa), Forest Ranger (Polhut) of GPNP (Activity 1.11). The joint team had arrested 3 loggers who is allegedly do a continuous-massive logging. The decided action is signing an agreement (statement letter) between the perpetrator and the land-managers not to do illegal logging activities any further. If the perpetrator is caught again later, legal action will be taken without exception. A clear direct impact from joint patrol is no illegal logging cases in July-September's patrol in Penjataan and Rantau Panjang. As part of our sustainable solution, some ex-logger in Penjataan, we provided them an investment scheme for organic farming by planting chillies and resulting a success income. Because of this, other villagers also asked FFI to give similar scheme for farmer.</p> <p>Forest cover monitoring upon GPNP using spatial imagery had been conducted during Juni – September 2023, found 300,93 Ha degraded areas (0,27% of total area) (Activity 1.13). The analyses shown deforestation about (a) 243,21 Ha (0.22%) in Sempurna, (b) 50,93 Ha (0,04%) in Riam Berasap, (c, d)</p>	

6,78 Ha (0,0062%) combined of Rantau Panjang and Penjalaan. The all-recorded threats upon habitat will be analysed to demonstrate the trend of threats by the end of Y2.

Output 2: 11,223 people in four communities around Gunung Palung have improved resilience to climate change through improved prevention and management of fires, water table management and peat swamp forest rehabilitation.

Hotspot monitoring using NOAA analysis was taken on August – October 2023 as the highest vulnerability potency of fires (Activity 2.8). The NOAA identified 23 hotspots in total, where the highest was found in Sampurna Village (21 hotspot). Beside NOAA's result, the potential areas prone to fires are monitored through fire spot monitoring patrols carried out by the PMU team around the licensed Village Forest and GPNP areas. The patrol team identified 11 potential fire spots in these areas. The results of these findings will be input into the hotspot data system to analyse annual hotspot trends, inform Manggala Agni (Fire Prevention Brigade of MoEF) and FMU of Kayong by the end of Y2.

Village level agreements on fire mitigation have been developed to strengthen community resilience to climate disasters, through FGD on 12th-13th August 2023 in 2 villages, i.e., Rantau Panjang and Penjalaan (Activity 2.1). The agreement has been signed by 59 people of two villages (51M:8W) representing village govt., LPHD, farmer groups, community group, and authorized stakeholders (FMU, Manggala Agni, Babinsa, Babinkamtibnas). The essence of the agreement includes land management without burning on peatlands, which is binding on all activity actors in the villages of Rantau Panjang and Penjalaan. By 11 - 12 October 2023, training on land clearing without burning (PLTB) was delivered to 3 targeted villages (Riam Berasap, Rantau Panjang and Penjalaan) attended by 35 participants (26M:9W).

In mitigating fires disaster through habitat restoration, water table monitoring is carried out to design effective restoration methods and hydrological control of peat through the construction of canal blocks. In May - September, Water table monitoring was carried out 3 times (based on season) at 9 measurement points (Activity 2.3). Monitoring results show an average water table height of 31.56 cm in the dry season, 18.11 cm in the rainy season, and - 9.77 cm (flooded) in the season with the highest rainfall. A total of 7 points (4 Penjalaan, 3 Rantau Panjang) plans for installing canal blocks have also been determined based on the results of hydrology assessment and WT monitoring, to regulate peat hydrology so that the area does not dry out and easily burned.

As part of activity 2.7, observation to village forest area of Penjalaan and Rantau Panjang to identify disturbed areas and surveying tree species for restoration was conducted in 16-17 August. The result along with peat-hydrological result become reference to develop restoration design and identifying area within Penjalaan and Rantau Panjang village forest, to secure GPNP core areas from fires. The Restoration method was designed based on its vulnerability level to fires, logging, access and biodiversity, as follow: Assisted Natural Regeneration (ANR) for 445.94 ha, enrichment planting for 243.20 ha, MPTS planting for 26.57 ha and full-restoration planting for 9 ha of open areas. About 5,472 seedlings has been stored in two village nurseries of Penjalaan and Rantau Panjang (last monitored by 10 September 2023), of which will be planted in selected restoration areas by November 2023.

Output 3. Capacity of at least four community groups representing 500 households (>3,000 people) is increased to diversify livelihood opportunities based on biodiversity-friendly products

Three times of assistance to community groups has been maintained during April – October 2023, focusing on maintaining productions and market access, as well as do evaluation to each KUPS (Activity 3.3). Some progresses/issues are as follows:

- Coffee (3 KUPS in two village): The demand of coffee product (beans) to two of KUPS of Penjalaan was increased up to 150 (max. 200) Kg/month, compare to baseline which <100Kg/month. The markets are diverse, gentle agreement to absorb coffee product came from 3 schools and 2 stores, which consistently ordering to KUPS. The market from private were not achieved yet due to the quantity of product has not meet yet. The price of beans is fluctuated by the presence of competitor, which impact to market absorption and production volume. Productivity remain under evaluation and market strategy are developing.
- Stingless-bee Honey (1 KUPS Penjalaan): the heavy rain during on Agustus 2023 resulting flooded which broke 30bee-nests and impact to decreased production and income. Follow up plan to re-establishment and business recovery will be taken by the remaining Y2.
- Crafting (KUPS Asoka of Penjalaan, KK Kaet Melayet of Riam Berasap): the demand rising, production increase approx. 5 layers of mat-craft per month (up 20 layers in a month on some occasion) to meet market demand from Provincial Environment Agency, FMU of Kayong Utara, and Industry and Trading Agency (Dekranasda and Desperindagkop) of Ketapang, as well as various

events in specific situations. We identified the future market opportunities outside West Kalimantan and will try to access by the next activities.

- Farming: KUPS MAL of Penjajaan is developing a chili-based horticulture. The first cycle harvest in June 2023 produced around 10Kg/week. This second cycle, farmers are currently able to produce 15 kg per week during the high season and an average of 5 kg per week during the low season. The KUPS needs to improve their recording of production and bookkeeping.

Further assistance will be focusing more on financial management, production and market strategy.

Technical training to enhance agricultural productivity was delivered on 27 Juli 2023 in Penjajaan village participated by 80 people (58M:22W) representing four target villages (Activity 3.6). The training is useful to enhance productivity of commodity plants by enhancing photosynthesis, stabilize humidity and air circulation on soils, stronger against dry season, also improve quality and quantity of fruits. The productivity training is also delivered to answer the depending on and high cost of chemical fertilizer.

Along with the training, the socialization of terms and conditions for registering community business group in Agriculture Agency (called SIMLUHTAN) was also delivered. SIMLUHTAN is an application that contains organization information of farmer-assistance, extension staff, and farmer, of which are feasible to access government support/grant (Activity 3.9).

Output 4. Two village forest institutions have secured long-term funding (at least 10 years) for PMU operations to protect village forests and contribute to community wellbeing

Regarding sustainable financing through Payment for Ecosystem Service (PES), Financial support is needed to support community forest by Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil- Remediation and Compensation Procedure (RSPO-RaCP) scheme, sourced from private sector conservation liabilities of RSPO, RaCP scheme to secure 25-years support for Village Forest management of two villages (Rantau Panjang dan Penjajaan) and have informed to both village forest management institutions (LPHD). To pursue the schemes, discussion with CFES will be carried out and developing concept notes as well as preparing annexes to support the requirement.

**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.**

Floods in rainy season was unexpected and impact to community livelihood i.e., stingless-bee honey farming. We learnt that the bee-nest should be re-designed and developed to be safer from flooding.

We identified that coffee is not the main choice for the community/farmers in Penjajaan and Rantau Panjang villages. Planting coffee actually a side job which finally becoming contributor to the community's livelihood. Farmer are working on multi-commodities farming, with majority have coffee in their farmland which combined to other commodities including rubber, horticultures, and palm oil.

Palm oil businesses are still a favourite community business and remains difficult to be competed against forest-friendly businesses. Some people are reluctant to switch their most-activities from palm oil to other businesses, including coffee. The low productivity of coffee and high demand locally, making the selling prices in local market are higher than others (in wider areas). This situation makes a difficult situation for bigger markets to absorb the local product. However, the potential demand from the local market is high, even with the quality below the wider market. The product stocks were always fully absorbed and frequently remain insufficient (unable) to meet local market demand. Therefore, even though the income from coffee is relatively small, but it is sustained with stable income, highly potential in contributing to fulfil community's wellbeing.

Fulfilment of wellbeing is obtained from other commodities options such as rubber, horticulture, chillies, vegetables and others including palm oil. We learned that it is necessary to change the coffee's business strategy by optimally targeting the local market to increase income from the coffee business. During six months of intervention by Y2, coffee production is increased to around 240Kg/month (compare to baseline <100Kg/month). We are also introduced organic farming as one options of livelihoods which could combined with coffee. Additional works as farmers in the next project implementation, organic farming interventions will be expanded. The PMU team and KUPS of Penjajaan was initiated the organic farming on chili commodity as trial, with an income of 1 person 2.4 million per month. The project intervention will reach more farmers in the next 6 months.

<b>3. Have any of these issues been discussed with NIRAS and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?</b>	
Discussed with NIRAS:	Yes/No
Formal Change Request submitted:	Yes/No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No
Change request reference if known:	
<b>4a. Please confirm your actual spend in this financial year to date (i.e., from 1 April 2023 – 30 September 2023)</b>	
Actual spend: ██████████	
<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 2024)?</b>	
Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: ██████████	
<b>4c. If yes, then you need to 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.	
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. <b>Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.</b>	
NB: if you expect an underspend, do not claim anything more than you expect to spend this financial year.	
<b>5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</b>	
N/A	

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](mailto: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**