

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

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| Project reference | <i>This should be the project reference provided in your offer paperwork and not your application number</i> 29-024 |
| Project title | Investigating hunting causes and implementing community-led mitigations in the Philippines |
| Country(ies)/territory(ies) | the Philippines |
| Lead partner | Bristol Zoological Society |
| Partner(s) | PhilinCon |
| Project leader | <i>Dr Daphne Kerhoas</i> |
| Report date and number (e.g. HYR1) | <i>HYR1</i> |
| Project website/blog/social media | https://bristolzoo.org.uk/save-wildlife/conservation-and-research/negros-bleeding-heart-dove-project |

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).

Bristol Zoological Society in partnership with PhilinCon, Inc. initiated this project on the 1st of June 2022 and has employed 35 staff to carry out its ambitious objectives. Our project's workload is divided into 4 teams: Field team, Community team, Market team and Operational team.

Community Team (Output 1)

June 2022:

- The project leader, community manager, and the community team leader visited the 8 participating communities to introduce the project through its Barangay council
- Distributed project letters for coordination to Barangay captains of the 8 participating Barangays

July 2022:

- Conducted 3-day community facilitator training covering expectations, project deliverables and outcomes, safeguarding, our code of conduct and profiling participating communities
- Finalised the hunting survey methods and sent to an independent human ethics review board for scrutiny and input
- Delivered the community forum where we discussed the project and assessed community interest for the first 4 barangays
- Initiated inquiry regarding permits from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (IP) which are required for two of the participating communities

August 2022:

- Delivered the community forum for the final 4 barangays
- Conducted community and market team leaders 2-day training in semi-structured interviews, focus group data collection (FGD) and ethical procedures
- Signing of the barangay council's acceptance of the project (for survey participation and livelihood entitlement) for the 8 participating communities
- Received approval from the Human Ethics Board for the hunting survey
- Pilot testing of survey methods on one selected community
- Paperwork submitted for IP permits for the 2 IP communities

September 2022:

- Conducted hunting interviews and FGDs in 3 of 8 communities
- Transcribed audio recordings of the first 12 hunting interviews
- Began data entry for the first set of hunting interviews
- Finalised the wellbeing survey methods and sent to an independent human ethics review board for scrutiny and input
- Followed up on the IP permits for the 2 IP communities

Field Team (Output 2)

From June 2022 to September 2022, the field team has completed 7 expeditions (in average 4 days long) inside the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park covering 28.7km of transects with a total of 178.5km of trekking mileage. During these expeditions, the team conducted 22 transect surveys covering 11 grid cells in several parts of the park (map of grid cells provided in attachment). Transect survey have been very successful and we were able to detect signs of Visayan warty pigs, long-tailed macaques, hunting and other illegal activities inside the park. We were also able to penetrate some of the interior parts of the park that have never been surveyed before due to its difficult terrain. The terrain is mostly steep and rocky, with very few water sources available but the forest and the biodiversity are mostly intact. All signs of hunting and other illegal activities inside the park were mapped out and reported to the forest rangers so they could conduct patrols in the areas. From July to September, rangers were able to remove 300 traps in the forest area.

June 2022:

- Conducted pilot surveys inside the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park

July 2022:

- Conducted field surveys with transects in grid cells 10, 9 and 18
- Conducted surveys with transects in grid cells: 7, 15, 23 and 24

August 2022:

- Conducted field surveys with transects in grid cells 28, 23, 15 and 7
- Conducted field surveys with transects in grid cells 10 and 2

September 2022:

- Conducted surveys with transects in grid cells 3 and 2
- Conducted surveys with transects in grid cells 3, 2 and 10*

*Grid cell 10 was visited three times as this area has limited water source and a very difficult terrain. Therefore, we conducted these surveys before the flooding season comes this October to January and the dry season February to April.

Market Team (Output 3)

The market team were assigned to do surveys on meat stalls, restaurants and tourist shops in 4 target cities; Kalibo, Caticlan, Boracay and Pandan, to determine the presence of wild meat and wild animal parts or bones trading in the markets.

June:

- Coordinated with 4 target cities; Kalibo, Caticlan, Boracay, Pandan for market survey and recruited and trained two market surveyors.
- Meeting with Municipal Mayors of Kalibo, Malay and Pandan to present the project and assess interest
- Designing the survey method for the market survey.

July:

- Finalised the market survey methods and sent to an independent human ethics review board for scrutiny and input
- Forwarded necessary documents as requested by Municipal Mayor/s (MOA DENR, Project Darwin Log Frame, Darwin Initiative Applications).
- Forwarded letters to the Philippine National Police of each of the target cities informing them that we were conducting market surveys.

August:

- Received approval from the Human Ethics Board for the market survey of meat stalls, restaurant and tourist shops
- Completed data collection and ethics training with the market team leader and surveyors
- Pilot testing of the survey methods in a restaurant and a meat stall

September:

- Actual survey started in 4 target cities; Kalibo, Boracay, Caticlan, Pandan
- The team surveyed 12 meat stalls, 18 restaurants and 3 tourist shops, making a total of 33 surveys conducted.

Operational Team (Output 4)

June:

- Hired the Darwin staff and signed a short-term contract of 3 months as a probationary period
- Submitted the project for approval to the Protected Area Management Board
- Held an event to introduce the project to all the relevant parties, especially the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) at local, regional, and provincial levels

July:

- Submitted the project information to the DENR

August:

- Visited DENR office and provided a formal letter regarding the project

September:

- Presented a project update to the Protected Area Management Board
- Finalised the hunting perception survey methods (for DENR and local NGOS) and sent to an independent human ethics review board for scrutiny and input

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.

Community Team

- Issues in acquiring IP permits. The process is tedious and long, delaying the schedules of hunting surveys in two of the targeted communities.
- There is a limited budget for community engagements. Specifically, the Community Team Leader and Manager believe that a bag of basic goods should be offered to interview and FGD participants to compensate them for their time. The Project Leader has requested additional funding for this from the Lead Partner and it is currently under review for the budget of 2023.
- Due to a thorough Human Ethic Review, Wellbeing/Gender Equality surveys are shifted after the hunting survey and will take place in Q3 and Q4 of Y1.

Field Team

- Many of the areas inside the Northwest Panay Peninsula Natural Park where we conduct our surveys are difficult to access because of limited water sources. We need to hire two porters to carry supplies and water, which would be additional to our budget. Funding will be available from January 2023 from the Lead Partner.
- Rangers have a fixed budget and schedule to conduct a 4-day foot patrol twice a month. The rangers’ team may need to hire a vehicle to pick them up from where they exit the forest and drop them at the place where they all left their motorbikes but the budget for transport may be too small for this.

Market Team

The team has not yet encountered any major problems. Most of the respondents were responsive to the survey and they gladly shared their knowledge and experience about wildlife trade.

The budget for transport between cities is somewhat limited. A request for additional funds has been put to the Lead Partner and is currently under review for the budget of 2023.

Operational Team

We have successfully secured approval for our project from the Protected Area Management Board in June. Now we are focusing on the short survey on perceptions of hunting that will take place in Q3 instead of Q1/Q2 as previously planned. This output has been slightly delayed due to the need to focus on initial project setup and approvals by the DENR and PAMB. We are now in the process of having this short questionnaire survey approved by the Human Ethics Review board. The lesson learned from this past 4 months was that one must organise another event specifically for this output rather than holding an event after the PAMB meeting as we had previously planned. We tried to do this directly after the June PAMB meeting but most PAMB members and DENR left directly after this long meeting (6h long). Therefore, we now understand that this specific event should be held as a stand-alone event rather than after another meeting (although the latter guarantees attendance from the relevant parties).

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

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| Discussed with NIRAS-LTS: | Yes |
| Formal Change Request submitted: | No |

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| Received confirmation of change acceptance | No |
| Change request reference if known: Change request form submitted for another issue (change for the person hired as the Community Team Leader), 23/08/2022 approved by Eilidh. Another change request is about to be submitted early November addressing some of these concerns. | |

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| <p>4a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Estimated underspend: £</p> |
| <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| <p>5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?</p> <p>No</p> |

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**