

## 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 2022**

<b>Project reference</b>	<b>29-026</b>
<b>Project title</b>	Replicating a successful model to develop a network of Indigenous-Marine-Managed-Areas
<b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>	Philippines
<b>Lead partner</b>	Community Centred Conservation (C3) Philippines
<b>Partner(s)</b>	University of Edinburgh-UK
<b>Project leader</b>	Reynante V. Ramilo
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR1
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	

### **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).**

The project formally started the field implementation on June 2022. Series of courtesy meetings in the local partners were conducted. The team met with the National Commission of Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) Calamianes Office in Coron. The Project Lead, R Ramilo presented the project scope and objectives to NCIP Tribal Affairs Assistant, Mr. Conrad Balbutan. All requirements for FPIC were discussed. Mr. Balbutan also assured C3PH that NCIP will help to facilitate the request for FPIC. Scheduled were also planned.

In early July and August 2022, seven (7) community meetings were conducted in Cheey, Buenavista and Decabobo in Busuanga and Coron respectively. These communities are the initial recommendations of the NCIP. The team presented the project objectives and solicited the support and issuance of pre-condition/FPIC for the project. The communities were attended by elders “Apong Dakulo”, men and women of the indigenous tribes of Tagbanuas.

This September 2022, three (3- Calawit, Cheey and Turda) out of the six (6) target Indigenous Peoples’ communities in Coron and Busuanga, the pre-condition consent has been secured. The other 3 IP communities (Buenavista, Malawig and Turda) expected to issue their consent and support this November 2022. Other secondary data and documents were also collected like the base-line data and information of the community and their ancestral domain plans. After securing all the 6 IP consent, the pre-condition/FPIC will be filed to NCIP for official issuance of FPIC certificate.

Meeting with the partner, University of Edinburgh was also facilitated on 27 June and 28 September 2022 to finalize the schedule and activity plan for the project. The partner representative is schedule to visit Calamianes Palawan in January 2023 to start the work on IP-social survey.

**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.**

The team experienced that there are some challenges in securing the FPIC permit from the partner communities considering the limitation on communications and transportation. The elders who are living in far and remote side of the communities are sometime difficult to reach and invite in community meetings to attain the proper quorum required to pass resolution and agreements. As one of the important requirements to fully implement the project, it needs an ample time to secure. This is manageable and no effect on the budget and timetable of the project activities.

**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: Yes/No

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

Change request reference if known:

**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?**

None at the moment

**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](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**