



**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>	<b>DIR28S2\1062</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, C3 International Limited
<b>Project leader</b>	Reynante V. Ramilo
<b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b>	HYR2
<b>Project website/blog/social media</b>	<a href="https://c-3.org.uk/darwin-initiative/">https://c-3.org.uk/darwin-initiative/</a>

**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).**

**Output 1. Sociocultural research conducted into traditional knowledge of Tagbanua and implications for marine resource management at six target IMMA sites**

Socio-cultural and bio-cultural data on four Indigenous communities collected

Socio- and bio-cultural data from four project sites (Malawig, Lakdayan, Depelenged, and Turda) have been collected. A series of activities participated by different sectors within the Indigenous communities were conducted to collect the data. The free listing interviews and participatory mapping are already finished in Malawig, Lakdayan, and Depelenged. Meanwhile, data collection is still ongoing in Turda. To enrich the data collected in Lakdayan, Mr. Clint Bryan Gallaron also documented the oral history of the community through unstructured interviews and journaling.

**Output 2. Capacity building and legal support delivered to six barangays who have proposed Indigenous Marine Managed Areas**

Five training activities on marine ecology and conservation conducted in target sites

Training activities on basic ecology, ecological ethics, and environmental principles have been provided to the Indigenous community members and local government officials within four of the project sites. These project sites are namely, Malawig, Depelenged, Lakdayan, and Turda. An additional training activity on dugong ecology and sustainable dugong ecotourism was conducted in Malawig last 9 September 2023.

Two community consultations conducted for the establishment of IMMAs

Through the series of community workshops and several meetings, the Indigenous communities of Lakdayan and Depelenged have determined areas within their ancestral waters that they are recognizing as Indigenous Marine Managed Areas (IMMAs). To gain insights from the larger community regarding these IMMAs, community consultations were organised in Lakdayan and

Depelenged on 19 August and 24 September 2023, respectively. A total of 45 community members, 25 of whom were women, participated in Lakdayan, while a total of 51 community members participated in Depelenged. The community consultations in the remaining sites will be conducted in the first quarter of 2024.

Capital equipment support provided to two Indigenous communities

C3 Philippines provided infrastructure support to communities to aid them in protecting their future IMMAs and ancestral waters at large. By the end of September 2023, the construction of one floating guardhouse in Sitio Calawit was completed. The floating guardhouse for the Indigenous community of Depelenged was still being constructed at the time.

**Output 3 Coordinated marketing plans developed for traditional crafts to improve incomes of communities involved in six marine areas**

One livelihood training conducted for the Indigenous women of Malawig

To improve the marketability of their woven pandan bags and mats, C3 Philippines facilitated a training needs assessment last 26 August 2023 and training on bleaching and dyeing indigenous fibers on 8-9 September 2023. 40 Indigenous women completed the training.

**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.**

Per Diem of IPS and IPOs

Indigenous communities are starting to require organizations to provide a daily stipend (per diem) to their leaders for every activity requiring travel. In particular, the Indigenous community of San Isidro and Panlaitan issued a duly signed resolution affirming this in 2021 and the Depelenged also passed a similar resolution in August 2023. This requirement has minimal effect on our timetable as we have only postponed some activities.

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent Application

The FPIC process is stipulated in NCIP Administrative Order No. 3, Series of 2012. The process including the evaluation/ validation process is lengthy and has to pass by the NCIP national and regional offices but major impacts on project implementation are not foreseen yet. C3 is working closely with the local NCIP Coordinator, ensuring that all our activities are coordinated and they are well informed.

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

Discussed with NIRAS: Yes/No

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

Change request reference if known:

**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?**

None at the moment.

**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**