

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	DAREX005
Project title	Ridge To Reef Conservation in West Papua, Indonesia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead partner	Fauna & Flora International
Partner(s)	1) Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara (YKAN) 2) Directorate General for Nature Resources and Ecosystems Conservation (KSDAE), Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) 3) West Papua Research Agency for Regional Development (BRIDA/BALITBANGDA-Papua Barat)
Project leader	<i>Frank Momberg</i>
Report date and number ()	April-September 2023, HYR2
Project website/blog/social media	https://www.fauna-flora.org/ , https://ykan.or.id/

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).

During March (April) to September (October) 2023, project activities has been delivered and progressing against output as follows:

Output 1. Regional policies, development and spatial plans, and sustainable financing mechanisms support the long-term protection of the Raja Ampat and Tambrau land and seascapes covering 5.1 million hectares

With the splitting of West Papua Province and the establishment of the new Province of South-west Papua (Papua Barat Daya or PBD) in December 2022, the target province of the project was adjusted. We are focusing on PBD Province for project interventions. However, we also keep assisting West Papua province as much as possible with any project component that remains aligned with West Papua’s development plans.

1.2. Government engagement with the Provincial Planning Agency (BAPPEDA) of PBD Province was initiated in December 2022 and maintained. From April to September 2023, formal and informal meetings were held with the formulating team of Inception Design for Provincial Development Planning (Ranwal RPD), including sharing information on the Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) as well as endemic fauna and flora distribution within PBD areas. This step is the initial stage of facilitation to incorporate biodiversity conservation values and low carbon development into the Mid-term Provincial Development Plan (RPJMD) of PBD (**Activity 1.2**).

A review of sustainable funding policies (**Activity 1.4**) to support the strengthening of forest resource management around conservation areas is still in progress. Data and information collection on central

government policies through village-based programmes and similar private sector interventions in the form of CSR and funding innovations for community groups is still ongoing. Financing mechanisms from private sector companies, which have land-based agricultural/ forest concession businesses, especially palm oil, are also being studied (e.g. RSPO RACP). Other innovations are expected from state-owned enterprises, such as the State Electricity Company/PLN, by setting aside funds to sustain community-based forest resource management to protect watersheds of hydropower development schemes. West Papua Province has set up a legal framework for an endowment fund for sustainable development. However, it needs to be revised so that in addition to supporting basic needs, it also promotes conservation through sustainable forest resource management. Similarly, a more comprehensive regional regulation could be developed in Southwest Papua Province.

Sustainable financing for the management of conservation areas and customary management areas has been identified. The study summarises that funding is required: (1) IDR 2,294,014,798/year for the management of North Misool MPA; (2) IDR 2,349,056,573/year for the management of Maksegara MPA; and (3) IDR 1,309,535,474/year for each of Werur MHA and Malaumkarta MHA (**Activity 1.4**). The Institute for Research and Community Service-Hasanudin University has been contracted to conduct a biophysical and socio-economic connectivity study of terrestrial and marine protected areas through the Ridge to Reef scheme. The study will cover protected areas in Raja Ampat Waters (including North Misool), Jeen Momom Coastal Park (including around Werur CLC), Maksegara Conservation Area (including Malaumkarta CLC), as well as Tambrau Nature Reserve, Protection Forest and Nature Reserve around Misool Islands (**Activity 1.5**).

Output 2. Management effectiveness of 7 terrestrial and 3 marine protected areas is improved, and other effective area-based conservation (OECMs) designations are created, enabled by evidence-based planning, community engagement, and increased technical and operational capacity

2.1. From August to October, terrestrial biodiversity assessment was conducted in three PAs, i.e., North Tamrau NR, Sausapor NR, North Misool NR (additional), and 6 forest villages (Hutan Desa) next to North Tamrau NR: Rufewes, Iwin, Syubun, Syunam, Banfoth, Baun. This assessment contributes to covering 3 out of 4 terrestrial PAs, 2 customary marines (Werur and Malaumkarta), and 6 out of 20 forest villages in total. Biodiversity assessment in South Tamrau NR and 8 forest villages is planned to be conducted by early 2024 (**Activity 2.1**). Population baseline and monitoring for eight target species (Western Long-beaked Echidna (CR); Grizzled Tree-kangaroo (VU); Waigeo brush turkey (EN); Dugong (VU); Hawksbill (CR), Green (EN), Leatherback (VU) sea turtle, Indo-pacific humpback dolphin (VU)) has been conducted from March to September 2023 and will still be continued (**Activity 2.2 and 2.3**). All baseline surveys for coastal & marine species (sea turtles, dugongs, and dolphins) are almost complete, with one more dugong baseline survey to be completed this year. A baseline population survey for bird-of-paradise and CITES-listed parrots will be conducted from November 2023 to February 2024 (**Activity 2.3**).

2.2. Eight species targets for developing species action plan have been selected, i.e., (Western Long-beaked Echidna (CR); Grizzled Tree-kangaroo (VU); Waigeo brush turkey (EN); Dugong (VU); Hawksbill (CR), Green (EN), Leatherback (VU) sea turtle; Indopacific humpback dolphin (VU); red bird-of-paradise; sulphur-crested cockatoo). Specifically for coastal & marine species, a workshop on initiating Species Action Plans was conducted on October 26-27, attended by 30 people.

2.3. After a KAB survey was conducted in 12 villages by Y1, we continued KAB surveys in additional 10 villages in Tambrau district during September 2023 (i.e., Babak, Bamusbama, Bano, Syarwom, Bamuswaiman, Wormon, Esmambo, Hopmare, Werbes, Nombrak), having now covered 22 villages and 410 respondents (M: 197; W: 213) in total. The remaining 18 villages are targeted to be conducted by December 2023 (**Activity 2.5**). Conservation awareness for children in elementary and middle school during September 2023 has been carried out in 8 villages, namely Beo, Araway, Kabilol, Go, Klayili, Della, Malakobutuk, and Klabilil with a total of 262 participants (M: 134; W: 118). Conservation awareness was also carried out for adults in the form of training in recognising wildlife species and biodiversity data collection techniques at TWA (Nature Tourism Park) Sorong on 10-16 July 2023 with a total of 62 participants (M: 49; W: 13) (**Activity 2.6**). The total number of participants involved in conservation awareness since the first year is 443 people.

2.4. The facilitation of technical evaluation of the establishment of North Misool MPA has been carried out 3 times at the level of the Directorate of Marine Biodiversity Conservation (KKHL)-Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF) (May 9, 2023), the level of the Legal Section of the Directorate General of Marine Spatial Management (PRL)-MMAF (July 20, 2023), and the level of Echelon 1 and 2 Legal Bureau-MMAF (August 18, 2023) (**Activity 2.11**).

The conservation area in North Misool, based on the technical evaluation results, obtained a total area of 308,777.35 ha with a core zone area of 14% as a conservation target of 3447.86 ha. The conservation area in Maksegara Waters, based on the results of critical habitat analysis, obtained a total area of 130,301

ha, which, based on the No Take Zone recommendation analysis, still needs additional data for conservation targets. Malaumkarta CLC management area has a total area of approximately 5,000.52 ha and is entirely an Egek (Seasonal Catch for Sea Cucumber, Lobster, and *Rochia nilotica*) area. Werur MHA management area with a total area of 12,276.67 ha consisting of 2,070.6 ha of Sasi Zone (Seasonal Catch-Fully Protected) and 10,206.1 ha as Limited Utilisation Zone (**Activity 2.12**).

2.5. Socialisation and door-to-door discussions with various authorised stakeholders of Raja Ampat were held on 19-21 September 2023 to encourage the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve nomination. Key stakeholders include (1) LOKA PSPL Sorong (LOKA Coastal and Marine Resource Management-Sorong); (2) PSDKP Raja Ampat (Surveillance and Control of Marine and Fishery Resources-Raja Ampat); (3) BLUD SUOP Kawasan Konservasi Perairan Raja Ampat (Regional Public Service Agency-Raja Ampat Conservation Areas) which managing marine conservation areas within Raja Ampat; (4) BKPPN Kupang for Raja Ampat areas for managing 2 marine areas in Raja Ampat archipelago; (5) West Papua BBKSDA which working 9 conservation areas in Raja Ampat and; (6) University of Muhammadiyah as a research institution for the environment, fisheries, agriculture, and education (**Activity 2.13**). As a result of the discussion, Fauna & Flora with Indonesia Man-and-Biosphere (MAB) Foundation then developed an initial design (Ranwal) and stakeholder mapping as a draft of recommendation for the zonation map of Biosphere Reserve of Raja Ampat from various institution's data (**Activity 2.15**).

2.7. The National Social Forestry scheme has been socialised to 41 villages in Sorong and Tambrau Regency (Activity 2.18) of which 36 villages gave their consent through FPIC and 35 forest village management institutions (Lembaga Pengelola Hutan Kampung/LPHK) were established as well as submitted as Forest Villages to Ministry of Environmental and Forestry (MoEF) with a total area covering 49,063.50 ha (**Activity 2.20, 2.21 and 2.22**). Fundamental Facilitation Technique training was delivered to 30 forestry facilitators from 9 institutions, i.e., Fauna & Flora staff, BBKSDA of West Papua, BPSKL of Sorong, FMU Unit II Sorong, FMU Tambrau, CDK of Sorong, CDK of Tambrau, Kasuari Foundation, and a representative from LPHK during September-October 2023 (**Activity 2.19**).

2.8. On July 2023, 4 community-based SMART Patrol team in Sorong Regency were trained (12 people, all men), and 3 of them was established (9 people, all men). This number contributes to 9 community patrol teams, 35 people (M: 29; W: 6) covering Sorong and Raja Ampat Regency since 2018 and 2022. A community patrol team in Tambrau will be established in early 2024, targeting 5 community patrol teams. Besides, 3 community-based marine surveillance teams were selected and trained by Y1, totaling 48 persons. During this Y2, training on turtle ecology and monitoring was also conducted on 11-14 September 2023 with 22 participants from 7 villages on the north coast of Sorong-Tambrau Regency (M: 18; W: 4). 3 Community Surveillance Groups (Pokmaswas) have been formed in the target locations: (1) Pokmaswas Mate Jaklow with 17 members (17 men) who assist in the management of Conservation Areas in the Northern Misool Waters; (2) Pokmaswas Farus Sem with 28 members (3 women) who assist in the supervision of Werur CLC; and (3) Pokmaswas Funuwai Tasik with 20 members (2 women) who assist in the supervision of Malaumkarta CLC as well as Maksegara MPA. Technical training has been conducted to operate patrol equipment, namely GPS, Binoculars, and walkie talkies (**Activity 2.25**). Supervision assistance to Pokmaswas (3 groups) is carried out routinely with an agenda of 2 times a week supervision supported by fuel for Speedboats. The training was conducted for Pokmaswas (3 groups) on the basics of conservation, tourism assistance, and the development of SOPs to enforce violations at sea (**Activity 2.28**).

2.9. The project has provided information and data for BBKSDA of West Papua's METT evaluation, i.e., Sausapor NR (score 56), Tambrau Utara NR (score 58), and North Misool NR (score 62) on 23 August 2023.

Output 3. At least 2,400 local people (>40% women) register improved livelihoods through secure tenure and legal access to natural resources, improved community capacity for sustainable natural resource management and ecotourism, and improved value chains and market access for forestry, agriculture and fisheries

3.1. A socio-economic survey and PWA were conducted in 12 villages within Sorong, Kofiau, and Tambrau by Y1. During September 2023, socio-economic survey and PWA has been run for 10 more villages in Tambrau Regency (Babak, Bamusbama, Bano, Syarwom, Bamuswaiman, Wormon, Esmambo, Hopmare, Werbes, Nombrak), hence covering 22 villages (200 respondent, M:119; W:81) in total (**Activity 3.1 and 3.2**). The remaining 18 villages are targeted to be done by December 2023.

3.2. Local product potencies of agriculture, fisheries, and non-timber forest product (NTFP) has been identified as sustainable livelihood sources for communities in 22 villages across Sorong, Raja Ampat, and Tambrau Regency, and will be analysed using CLAPS (Community Livelihood Appraisal and Product

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?

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**