

## 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**

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|---|---|
| <b>Project reference</b>                  | DARNV002  |
| <b>Project title</b>                      | Innovation of Bait Fisheries for Live-bait Conservation   |
| <b>Country(ies)/territory(ies)</b>        | Indonesia   |
| <b>Lead partner</b>                       | IPNLF   |
| <b>Partner(s)</b>                         | Yayasan IPNLF Indonesia and SNTech  |
| <b>Project leader</b>                     | <i>Craig Turley</i>   |
| <b>Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)</b> | <i>HYR2</i>   |
| <b>Project website/blog/social media</b>  | <a href="https://ipnlf.org/unlocking-a-huge-potential-for-ocean-conservation-and-climate-change-ipnlf-maldives-and-sntechs-innovation-seeks-to-limit-wild-caught-bait-fish-in-pole-and-line-tuna-fishing/">https://ipnlf.org/unlocking-a-huge-potential-for-ocean-conservation-and-climate-change-ipnlf-maldives-and-sntechs-innovation-seeks-to-limit-wild-caught-bait-fish-in-pole-and-line-tuna-fishing/</a> |

**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).**

- Due to political complications, the project could no longer operate in the Maldives as originally proposed and IPNLF proposed to DEFRA through a change request to move the project to Indonesia, where IPNLF have strong support from the fishery level, industry level, and government level. DEFRA approved the change request in April 2023, allowing IPNLF to begin the process of informing all relevant stakeholders in Indonesia and transitioning the project from Maldives to Indonesia.
- IPNLF initiated stakeholder meetings through our locally registered entity, Yayasan IPNLF Indonesia. The scope of these Darwin Innovation trials falls under an existing Memorandum of Understanding between IPNLF and The Indonesian Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MMAF). This helped to streamline the process of transitioning the project without entering a potentially lengthy bureaucratic process which could have led to further delays in the project timeline.
- It was decided to run the initial innovation trials in Bitung, North Sulawesi, due to strong industry support from several IPNLF members who both operate and source from the pole and line skipjack fishery in Bitung. These industry partners include: PT. Samudra Mandiri Sentosa (PT. SMS), a pole and line fishing company and processor based in Bitung, Fish Tales, a Dutch canned fish brand, Woolworths SA, a major retailer in South Africa and Sainsbury's Supermarkets, a major retailer in the UK. All of these stakeholders have a vested interest in the success of the project to enhance the sustainability, lower the carbon footprint and improve the operational efficiency of these already low impact fisheries. A representative from each of these companies is on the project steering committee.
- A number of meetings have been held with other stakeholders including in-person meetings with other processors including PT. Nutrindo and PT. Bintang Mandiri Bersaudara (BMB) as well as the Bitung Fishing Port Authorities (Pelabuhan Perikanan

Samudera Bitung (PPS BITUNG), and several pole and line fishing vessel captains. The purpose of these meetings was to get stakeholder inputs on the project, and ensure there was no objection to operating the trials around the Anchored Fish Aggregating Devices (AFADs).

- Vessel charter arrangements, purchasing of some tools and equipment and manufacturing of stainless steel frames for a paired experimental trial were conducted by Yayasan IPNLF's Sustainable Fisheries Officer, [Azizah Charir](#).
- The first innovation trials were scheduled for the end of August/beginning of September 2023. The technological equipment (SNTech's Pisces programmable LED lights, marine hydrophone, underwater speaker and amplifier and underwater cameras) had to be transferred from Maldives to Indonesia. After reviewing several options, it was determined that the most cost-effective and sensible way to transport the equipment was from IPNLF Senior Research Officer, Ibrahim Nadheeh to personally carry the equipment from Maldives to Bitung and to participate in the innovation trials.
- Over 6 days, the experimental rig was tested and the first 5 experimental trials were conducted. These first trials did not yield much in the way of results, but this is possibly due to unfavourable weather and fishing conditions. However, these first trials did raise some additional questions regarding the marine acoustics component (such as which sounds could attract or repel and at what amplitude) and questions for the LED lights (such as what depth will they be effective at, and could they attract unwanted bycatch?). Eventually these trials had to be stopped due to the unfavourable weather conditions.
- The next at-sea trials are scheduled to take place in the first two weeks of November in Maumere, Indonesia. The project has shifted from Bitung to Maumere because of the shorter pole and line fishing trips closure to shore and more favourable fishing and weather conditions in November.
- Options to trial some of the technology in experimental tanks with skipjack tuna (in order to narrow down some of the variables to be tested at sea) are currently being assessed. Whilst tank trials do not fall under the scope of the original proposal, IPNLF are likely to be able to raise co-finance for tank trials, the results of which would directly benefit this Darwin Innovation project.

**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 political situation in the Maldives that disrupted this project was unexpected and unprecedented. Although very unlikely, to avoid a repeat in Indonesia, IPNLF and our local entity Yayasan IPNLF Indonesia ensured we are working under our existing Memorandum of Understanding with MMAF (to promote innovation in the fisheries sector). Should any of our work require a new MoU, then IPNLF will ensure this is obtained before work commences and will notify Darwin/NIRAS in a timely manner.
- Poor fishing and weather conditions disrupted the initial innovation trials. However, this is common when conducting at-sea fisheries work, and time for several more periods of innovative trial remain, with a 6 month no-cost extension (already approved by DEFRA) taking this project to September 2024.

**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

Formal Change Request submitted: Yes

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes

Change request reference if known: April 2023 Change Request

**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.

**5. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to BCF management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

In the April change request DEFRA agreed to a six month no-cost extension. The budget for April 2023 - March 2024 will be required to cover the cost of activities that will be conducted between March 2024 and September 2024 when our project will end. What is the procedure for sharing this budget between financial years?

**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**