

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

29 October 2007

Project Ref. No. 17-009

Project Title Integrating religion within conservation: Islamic beliefs and Sumatran forest management

Country(ies) Indonesia

UK Organisation

Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), University of Kent

Collaborator(s)

Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences (IFEES), UK;

University of Andalas (UNAND), Indonesia;

British Council (BC), Indonesia;

QBar, Indonesia;

Conservation International (CI), Indonesia;

Fauna and Flora International Indonesia Program (FFI-IP);

Indonesian Conservation of Natural Resources section for West Sumatra province (KSDA), Department of Forestry, Indonesia;

Greenlaw, Indonesia

Project Leader Professor Stuart R. Harrop

Report date October 30, 2009

Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4) HY1

Project website

http://www.kent.ac.uk/dice/research/islam_conservation.html

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up).

July 2009

Prior to the formal commencement date of the Project, internal arrangements and- where applicable- contracts, were established in the University of Kent in order to ensure that the project could commence immediately and efficiently through its life-cycle.

Within Indonesia, once the Project had formally commenced, DI staff terms of reference were developed and nationally advertised. 25 applications were received and reviewed, 5 interviews were held and 2 staff members hired. Staff contracts were developed in accordance with national laws.

A project office provided by the University of Andalas (UNAND) was also formally set up.

An international project stakeholder meeting was held at UNAND from July 22 to 24, 2009. All project participants attended this event including other invitees and interested parties. The purpose of the meeting was to formally launch the project in West Sumatra. The first day opened with a special welcome ceremony and then focused on introducing the project to a wider audience (media, potential project collaborators), as well as to formally introduce all of the existing national and international stakeholders to one another. Each stakeholder gave a

15 minute presentation about their organization and how they would be involved in the DI project. The second day focused on breaking into working groups designed to review the DI activity plan and openly discuss ideas for ensuring the implementation of project activities within the proposed timeline, as well as confirming stakeholder responsibilities. For the third and final day, a field trip was arranged to visit a local (Minangkabau) community to hone the selection criteria for the DI project field sites. Deriving from the synthesis of ideas and knowledge from the working group and also the experience of the initial field visit in addition to full involvement of all participants; field site selection criteria have since been developed and agreed to by all stakeholders.

The DI project launch received national exposure (via an article in the Padang Express newspaper and Padang TV, the local newstation).

August 2009

It must be stressed that, in the current year, the fasting month of Ramadan was from August 22 to September 20. During this period, working hours were dramatically reduced in order to focus on religious worship and family as is the cultural norm.

Student interview criteria, advertisements and interviews for DI Msc scholarship were conducted at UNAND. Two applicants were selected out of 20. Student MOUs and TORS were developed for the scholarship students which will ensure that each student is fully versed on all information pertaining to the DI project objectives as well as confirmation that each student will conduct their field research in a DI project site, work with DI staff and provide data which will be used for publications on behalf of the project.

Project-based TORs were also developed for each project partner to ensure transparency and clarity regarding each project partner's role and DI expectations, commitments and associated timelines. DI project budget templates and guidelines, communication protocols and monthly reporting frameworks for DI staff were also developed.

The DI project website was designed and launched (link provided above).

September 2009

Weekly meetings were conducted with local religious leaders and NGOs to increase the exposure of the project and to source additional support for the project.

As a result of the stakholder workshop, both DI staff were invited to participate in two, week-long training workshops (one focusing on religion and conservation outreach and the other on sustainable livelihoods) hosted by FFI-Aceh. As a result, FFI-Aceh is interested in sending a team to West Sumatra to look at setting up a cultural exchange partnership with the DI project and a proposal is currently being developed by both parties.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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.

Several major events occurred during the project's commencement. The National Indonesian elections were held in July 2009, which made it difficult to meet with government partners. It is anticipated that project partners from within government are likely to change when the new parliament comes into power towards the end of 2009.

Because of the pening elections there were uncertaintiess over foreign visa requirements which led to the project team requesting an extended project start date of 1 July 2009. This request was approved.

On 30 September 2009, a series of earthquakes (>7 richter) severely affected Padang, West

Sumatra, where the project office, several partners (Qbar, University of Andalas and Dept. Forestry) and DI participants (BC school network and religious groups) are located. Whilst, thankfully, no DI partners suffered casualties, infrastructure damage and death (estimated at 4000 people) has been widespread both within Padang and surrounding local farming communities (several potential DI field sites). As of that date, DI project staff and partners have necessarily devoted all of their efforts on the recovery effort. This will affect the project timeline and budget. The Religion and Education Coordinator decided to resign from the project so that he could start up a local NGO to focus full-time on helping with the relief effort. Thus, a new coordinator will need to be found, which is anticipated to affect project implementation. The project will also need to locate (and pay for) a new office as the previous office at UNAND is no longer a viable option.

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Yes, the start date was changed to July 1st and a revised timetable and associated budget were provided and approved by the Darwin Secretariat.

The impact of the recent devastation in West Sumatra on the implementation of the project is currently being discussed with the field team and will later need to be discussed with the DI Secretariat when the full facts are appreciated and the consequences for the project are understood.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no/yes, in...May 2009..... (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/work plan: no/yes, in...May 2009.....(month/yr)

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No, thank you.

If you were asked to provide a response to this year's annual report review with your next half year report, please attach your response to this document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**