

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2009)

Project Ref. No.	17-024
Project Title	Securing human-elephant co-existence in Sumatra
Country(ies)	Indonesia
UK Organisation	North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo)
Collaborator(s)	Wildlife Conservation Society Indonesia Program
Project Leader	Alexandra Zimmermann
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Project website	--

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).

Activities in this period closely followed the planned project timetable. A summary of progress against each planned activity for this period is shown below

- **Desk-based map study to identify priority sites for elephant population survey and HEC assessments (Activity 1.1)**

Priority survey locations have been identified using a combination of digital forest cover maps and then further supplemented by acquired knowledge of elephant distributions and reported conflict, including data from previous survey work data (Blouch & Haryanto 1984; Blouch & Simbolon 1985).

- **Deployment of elephant population and HEC survey teams in areas identified as priorities (Activity 1.2)**

Survey teams have begun visiting areas identified as priorities by the initial assessment (Activity 1.1). The survey approach includes an initial questionnaire survey to obtain local knowledge of elephant distribution and data regarding the incidence of conflict. These data were then used to identify areas for large-scale systematic occupancy surveys, and/or intensive dung count surveys. To date this survey approach has been conducted at priority sites in Bukit Barisan Selatan and Way Kambas National Parks in Lampung and Bengkulu Provinces, the industrial forestry landscape of Northern Riau Province and protected/production forests landscapes of central South Sumatra Province. The survey has so far identified a number of conflict hotspots, particularly in Lampung, South Sumatra and Bengkulu provinces.

- **HEC reduction plans and guidance handbooks prepared for HEC hotspots (Activity 2.1).**

We are in the process of developing a guidance manual for HEC mitigation. This has been drafted in Indonesian language already and is now being formatted. The content of the manual is based on several years of experience of mitigating HEC in both Indonesia and India. The finished manual should be completed in the next quarter and available for distribution and incorporation to training programs (described under Activity 4.3 below).

- **HEC reduction plans implemented at HEC hotspots (Activity 2.2)**

Extensive efforts have been put towards implementing community-led HEC mitigation strategies at several sites. These include Way Kambas National Park in Lampung Province, and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park in Lampung and Bengkulu Provinces. Here we have continued to monitor HEC and to promote community-based approaches to sustainably implementing the methods we had developed. The community-led approach has already attracted the support of local government who

are now providing additional resources to affected communities. We have begun initiating community-led HEC mitigation in two other conflict hotspots identified by the survey (Activity 1.2) within South Sumatra Province. This is following the proven approach used in Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan and has so far included a series of village meetings and training sessions for affected farmers.

- **Deployment of Wildlife Crimes Unit staff throughout Sumatra (Activity 3.2)**

We have developed and deployed a Wildlife Crime Unit to support the work of legal enforcement authorities by providing information and advice on the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime cases. The unit has in turn begun creating a network of 'community wardens' and informants that monitor and investigate suspected wildlife crime cases at markets, shops and transport hubs across Sumatra and adjacent areas of Java. Once cases are identified they are handed over to the legal enforcement agencies (police or forestry police). In the last six months this network has led to the arrest of nine suspects and the confiscation of protected wildlife from five more. All of the arrested suspects are now in process of prosecution by the authorities. Five of the arrested suspects were in Bintuhan, Bengkulu Province and arrested on suspicion of trading in illegally obtained elephant ivory. The work of the Wildlife Crime Unit will be increased in the coming periods as the network is expanded.

- **Workshops and 'on-the-job' training in CITES MIKE approved standard elephant population monitoring methods, HEC assessment and reduction methods, and law enforcement and law enforcement monitoring (Activity 4.1)**

Training in survey methodology has been a continuous process. We have typically sought to provide technical classroom-based sessions followed by a system of pairing experienced survey teams with those seeking training in the methodology and analysis of the data. Organizations who have received formal and practical training in this way during this project period include: PHKA staff (both from National Parks and Natural Resource & Conservation Offices); local government staff (typically from the regional forestry department offices - Dinas Kehutanan); international NGOs (including staff from ZSL, WWF, FFI, and the International Rhino Foundation); local NGOs (including Leuser International Foundation and many smaller local NGOs across Sumatra); and local community members. This process is ongoing.

Towards the end of this reporting period we began preparation for the first formal CITES-MIKE law enforcement training ('Phase 2') for the MIKE sites of Bukit Barisan Selatan and Way Kambas National Parks. The training itself will be held in October includes resources provided by WCS and the Supporting Site Officer for CITES-MIKE. This initial event will then be followed up in January 2010 with more intensive training in law enforcement and data management systems.

- **Training in HEC reduction methods provided for villagers in HEC "hotspots" at participatory mini-workshops at the district and site levels (Activity 4.3)**

As part of our response to conflict reports, we have hosted numerous village farmer meetings to discuss the safe mitigation of elephant conflicts, reaching around 370 directly affected villagers during the project period. The meetings touched on any issues relevant to the case, such as crop planning to predict and anticipate threats from elephants, personal safety when in areas containing elephants, safe methods for repelling elephant attacks (including practical demonstrations or visits to Way Kambas to see these methods in action), the link between habitat loss and the increased incidence of elephant crop raiding etc.

Village meetings also raised awareness of the law regarding wildlife, including which species can be legally hunted and where, which species are fully protected, the law regarding firearm possessing, and the law regarding actions that can be taken in response to conflict. We also sought to clarify how villagers can address problems themselves, but also where and how they could obtain help if needed (such as channels to the National Park and to Local Government, including compensation mechanisms for injuries or deaths).

These training activities will be continued throughout the project, and will be supplemented shortly with the addition of an Indonesian language training and resource manual being developed as Activity 2.1.

