

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

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
Report date	October 2010
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR 2
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

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

Population and HEC survey teams are continuing field work as planned. Currently teams are deployed in Lampung, South Sumatra, Jambi and Bengkulu Provinces (11 survey teams and 5 HEC mitigation teams). Survey teams are being used to conduct interview-based, occupancy and dung-DNA capture-recapture based population and status assessments. HEC mitigation teams are conducting evaluation and needs assessments of conflict areas to focus follow-up work (under Activity 2.2 below).

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

A comprehensive guide book to HEC mitigation is in the final stages of production, awaiting only finalisation of some illustrations. Once complete, the guidebook will then be printed and distributed as part of HEC mitigation education training in conflict hotspots in the second half of the year. The guidebook is also accompanied by supporting educational material such as posters, brochures and demonstration HEC mitigation tools (see 4.2 below).

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

Following an assessment of HEC problem areas (under Activity 1.2) we have now initiated a program of HEC mitigation training, workshops and conflict planning at five key HEC hotspots. These sites have been selected on the basis of the threat of conflict and the importance of the sites including the sites' and elephant populations' likely long-term viability (as described in the our report on Year 1). At each site, a project team will be present for around 3-4 months assessing the problems in detail, conducting training workshops and demonstrations with local stakeholders and developing long-term, sustainable mitigation plans for each site. Following the initial visits sites will each receive further follow-up visits to ensure smooth implementation of the HEC plans.

- **Law enforcement patrols by PHKA and WCS-IP staff in key/priority sites (Activity 3.1).**

Following the MIKE training in Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Parks (see 4.1 below) both parks have designed a new patrolling schedule and have committed to implement it in partnership with rhino protection patrols coordinated by NGO partners. We will provide follow-up support to ensure this runs smoothly. We have also devised and agreed a new patrolling schedule with Gunung Leuser National Park in northern Sumatra and that has begun operation this September, focusing initially on the eastern and western portions of the park (Langkat and South

Aceh regions respectively).

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

We continue to operate a Wildlife Crime Unit working across Sumatra to support the work of legal enforcement authorities by providing information and advice on the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime cases. In the last six months the unit, working in collaboration with Indonesian police and forestry department rangers, has led to the arrest of four suspects for trading illegally in protected wildlife. During this time three earlier suspects have been sentenced to prison terms for violating wildlife protection laws. Currently the unit is investigating a number of new suspects, including a high-level dealer suspected of trading in elephant ivory, tiger parts and rhino horn. We hope to pursue this latter case with partners from the National Police Special Crime Unit in the coming months.

- **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)**

The second CITES-MIKE training workshop was held in the MIKE site of Bukit Barisan Selatan in July/August 2010. This 8-day ranger workshop was attended by around 40 staff from the national park and stakeholder NGOs involved in supporting elephant, rhino and tiger protection and monitoring activities at the site. Participants were taught patrolling methods and strategies; navigation; use of patrol monitoring information systems (specifically the MIST computer program, which has been adopted as a standard law enforcement monitoring tool by CITES, WCS, and other organizations in Asia and Africa); roles and responsibilities, Indonesian laws and legislation; and an introduction to CITES. Follow-up activities have now been planned, for both participants of this training and the previous training in the Way Kambas MIKE site, to ensure that the lessons learned are sustained.

- **Public awareness and information dissemination activities in support of protected areas and elephant conservation (Activity 4.2)**

During this project period we have produced various awareness and education material, including two brochures and a poster. We also conducted a large workshop to disseminate information regarding strategies for HEC mitigation. The workshop was held in August at Way Kambas National Park for 120 participants from across southern Sumatra, including attendees from local communities, local government, forestry department staff and local police. The workshop was attended by the Department of Forestry’s Director of Biodiversity Conservation.

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

This activity is incorporated with Activity 2.2. Training and subsequent follow-up activities are focusing on self-evaluation and development of village-level mitigation strategies in every village within the target areas. As part of the training program we have also arranged exchange visits between conflict sites and for groups to observe demonstration activities at Way Kambas Nat. Park.

- **Indonesian student attends UK university**

This activity was planned for this year, but it has been agreed to postpone it to next year given the extremely busy implementation phase of the project. Prior to the decision to postpone the application we had held detailed discussions with several UK institutions to identify the most appropriate course. The contacts made in doing so have been informed of the decision and are ready to initiate application procedures again soon for next year.

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.

No notable problems. The only variation to original plans in this six-month period was the decision made to delay the attendance of an Indonesian student to a UK university until next academic year, as noted above, this has no overall impact on the project outputs, the budget, or the annual expenditure predictions.

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

No and No

Discussed with LTS: no/yes, in..... (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: no/yes, in.....(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/yes in.....(month/yr)

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No

If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.

Estimated carryforward request: £

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

None to date

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 LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report**