

# Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2011)

<b>Project Ref. No.</b>	17-024
<b>Project Title</b>	Securing human-elephant co-existence in Sumatra
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Indonesia
<b>UK Organisation</b>	North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo)
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	Wildlife Conservation Society Indonesia Program
<b>Project Leader</b>	Alexandra Zimmermann
<b>Report date</b>	October 2011
<b>Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)</b>	HYR 3
<b>Project website</b>	

## 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).

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)

We deployed HEC survey and mitigation teams in South Sumatra (2 teams), Bengkulu (2 teams), and Nangroe Aceh Darussalam (1 team) provinces. We completed fecal DNA based capture–recapture surveys to assess elephant population status in Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan Selatan NP. We collected a total of 726 DNA samples from both national parks with five rounds of sampling occasions in each area. We are currently finishing an elephant occupancy survey in the PT REKI (Harapan Rainforest) area and its surrounding forest (the PT. ALN area) in collaboration with the Government's Natural Resource Agency (BKSDA) in Jambi Province.

- 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 being edited. We distributed posters and leaflets giving HEC mitigation advice in HEC hotspot areas throughout Sumatra, and used the materials for our HEC mitigation trainings described below. During this period, we also did training events in Pulau Duku and Suka Baru (Bengkulu), Ulak Kedondong (Palembang), and Menggamat (Aceh Selatan in collaboration with the PNPM project).

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

We continued implementing the HEC mitigation strategy in seven sites (HEC hotspots) as well as collecting data on community participation levels and holding coordination meetings with all stakeholders, including the local government. In Aceh Selatan, with the help of the PNPM project, we developed a consensus HEC mitigation strategy and helped build four watchtowers near Menggamat area. In Bengkulu (the Seblat area), we initiated HEC mitigation training in Pulau Duku-Suka Baru and set up an HEC mitigation team. In Padang Sugihan, we began HEC mitigation training in the Ulak Kedondong area.

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

During this period, WCS helped the Indonesian Rhino Foundation (YABI) conduct law enforcement monitoring using the CITES/MIKE program's standard MIST tool by training 30 forest guards in Bogor and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park in April 2011; 4 trainers and 5 database managers took part in the exercise. YABI initiated follow up MIST-based field patrols, which WCS – as the lead trainer – will evaluate.

WCS is also working to effect joint patrolling efforts through deployment of Tiger Protection Units and Wildlife Crimes Units in 5,800 square kilometres of the Leuser Landscape in northern Sumatra (one of important elephant areas remaining on Sumatra), working jointly with Gunung Leuser National Park

rangers.

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

Since the start of this project the Wildlife Crimes Unit has mounted operations against over 22 tiger, elephant, and other wildlife poachers and/or illegal traders, 13 of which have known links to wildlife trade from the Leuser region (the other 9 poaching cases likely also have links to the Leuser region, although the direct evidence upon which the cases are based are for wildlife from other important wildlife areas in Sumatra). These cases led to 21 arrests and, to date, to 13 successful prosecutions with a further eight cases still in process.

- 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)

A MIST-based law enforcement monitoring training workshop was held in the CITES MIKE site of Bukit Barisan Selatan in April 2011: this 8-day ranger workshop was attended by 30 staff from the Indonesian Rhino Foundation (YABI) 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 (MIST); roles and responsibilities, Indonesian laws and legislation.

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

During this project period, we disseminated information at the HEC mitigation trainings and workshops in Aceh, Palembang, and Bengkulu involving 173 persons from 37 HEC-afflicted villages across these areas. We also delivered posters, leaflets, and gave presentations describing HEC mitigation strategies.

- 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 visits to observe demonstration activities at Way Kambas National Park.

- Indonesian student attends UK university (Activity 4.4)

This activity was planned for this year and letters of acceptance for the candidate's participation in MSc courses were received from two UK universities (from the Durrell Institute of Conservation Ecology at the University of Kent and from the University of East Anglia). Unfortunately, however the candidate (Indonesian Field Coordinator, Mr Donny Gunaryadi) was unable to take-up his place because he did not achieve a TOEFL score acceptable to the UK Border Agency and so was unable to obtain a UK visa. As a partial replacement for this activity, the candidate has been entered for the Student Conference on Conservation Science at the University of Cambridge in 2012, where we anticipate he will present a paper on the project's HEC mitigation work.

- Sumatran Elephant Management Plan written in collaboration with PHKA and other in-country partners (Activity 4.5)

Planning for this activity was initiated in the reporting period and we anticipate that much of the second half of year 3 will be taken-up with completing this activity. A multi-author paper in a peer-reviewed journal will also result from this process and data analysis for that paper has already begun (incorporating also the results of Activities 1.2 and 1.2 – the Sumatra-wide elephant status assessment – of years 1 and 2).

## **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.**

Unfortunately, the Indonesian Project Field Coordinator (Mr Donny Gunaryadi) was unable to take-up the offers he received from UK universities to follow an MSc course because he did not achieve a TOEFL score acceptable to the UK Border Agency and so was unable to obtain a UK visa. As a partial replacement for this activity, the candidate has been entered for the Student Conference on Conservation Science at the University of Cambridge in 2012, where we anticipate he will present a

paper on the project's HEC mitigation work. The candidate will also take-up an internship position at North of England Zoological Society (Chester Zoo) in early 2012, during which he will work on analysing project data and preparing an additional paper for an international peer-reviewed journal under the supervision of project leaders Zimmermann and Hedges: the paper will compare and contrast this project's experiences in mitigating HEC in Sumatra with those of Chester Zoo's Darwin Project in Assam, India.

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

**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?**

**No.**

**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](mailto: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**