

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

Project Ref. No.	18-007
Project Title	Collaborative Conservation of Critical Kerinci Seblat National Park Buffer Zone Forest
Country(ies)	Sumatra, Indonesia
UK Organisation	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Collaborator(s)	Lembaga Tiga Beradik (L-TB)
Project Leader	Zoe Cullen
Report date	1 April 2011 – 31 October 2011
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	Half Year Report Year 2
Project website	www.fauna-flora.org

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).

Project highlights over the last 6 months have been: a) dramatic progress made in securing legal community rights over the forests in the project area, with a total area of 20.872 Ha in seven villages approved as Village Forest by the Minister of Forestry and thus protected from the threat of conversion to plantation concessions; b) significant advances in village infrastructure and capacity for long-term sustainable forest management.

Activities 1.3 & 2.1: Training in participative mapping, principles of forest management and forest law:

Participatory mapping training was completed in Birun village 7th June. A separate mapping training session was not deemed necessary in Lubuk Beringin, where training was combined directly into administrative boundary mapping exercise in the field. From 25-27th July intensive training in community forest management practices was conducted for 7 'Village Facilitators' – one each from 7 villages in the project area – with specialist trainers in environmental law and forest conservation. The Village Facilitators have been nominated by their communities to act as village forest 'champions' and meet monthly with the field team to plan next steps to accelerate sustainable community forest management in their respective villages.

Activity 1.4: Participative mapping and agreement of Village Forest boundaries: Village Forest participatory mapping is a multi-step process, starting first with mapping of village administrative boundaries, which are not yet defined throughout most of Sumatra. This was completed in 4 villages in Yr1 (Tanjung Dalam, Durian Rambun, Koto Rami, and Lubuk Birah). During the reporting period participatory mapping of administrative boundaries was completed in Birun (8-17th June) and Lubuk Beringin (3-14 October). Tuo village is scheduled for November 2011. In Tiaro village, where the forest management model being facilitated is Customary Forest (on non state forest lands) rather than Village Forest (on State forest lands), forest boundary mapping was completed in Yr1 and physical markers of the Customary Forest boundary are now in place in the field (30th Sept– 1st Oct).

Activity 1.5: Establish and implement forest management framework: participatory development of forest management guidelines, village laws (*Perdes*), collaborative patrol teams: In June 2011 the project team supported five villages (Lubuk Birah, Durian Rambun, Kotorami, Tuo and Tanjung Dalam) to issue Village Head decrees regarding the composition of their Village Forest Management Institution (LPHD); Lubuk Beringin and Birun are in process. Preparation of Village Laws pertaining to the structure and operation of the LPHD is scheduled for November-December 2011.

Project partner Lembaga Tiga Beradik (L-TB) continues to coordinate TMP2H, a collaborative forest monitoring program in which 17 community members from villages in the project area, accompanied by 1-2 forestry and national park rangers, conduct patrols to identify, monitor and deter illegal forest activity. 5 patrols have been conducted during the reporting period, playing an important role in avoiding the spread of illegal forest encroachment from the west of the project area. The team also encountered and de-activated two tiger traps.

Activity 1.6: Legal designation of Village Forests: legal process for forest status change, village - District Govt agreements confirm support to protect Village Forests:

In August 2011 the Minister of Forestry for the Government of Indonesia officially approved 17 Village Forests in the bufferzone of Kerinci Seblat National Park, Merangin District (total area 44,000+ ha) – 5 had already been signed in March 2011, but release to the communities was pending approval of all 17. Seven of these Village Forests are facilitated through this project, representing a total area of **20,872 ha** critical Sumatran tiger habitat and watershed forest. Approval by the Minister was the culmination of all efforts to facilitate the Village Forest nomination and verification process during Yr 1 of the project, and sustained local and national level lobbying into Yr2. The project supported District Forestry Department staff to complete outstanding administrative requirements and lobby at national level on 3

occasions during April-July 2011, making an important contribution to achieving the wider landscape level goal of 17 Village Forests. Meanwhile, in Tiaro village Customary Forest, the District Head 'decree' to legalise Customary Forest status has now been submitted to the legal division of the District Head's office and final approval anticipated by December 2011.

This project is also working with the District Government to support development of a Forest Management Unit (a new forest management framework at landscape level, in which forest management is devolved from central government to the District). This is an investment in sustainability and is part of the project exit strategy, since it is hoped that the FMU will form the umbrella framework for long-term sustainable governance and monitoring of the Village Forests within it. Activities to date focus on facilitating multi-stakeholder discussions, providing technical advice, and helping to support one member of District Forestry staff to attend in-depth FMU training.

Activity 1.8: Fundraising for sustained management post-Darwin support: This will afford greater priority in Yr3 of the project. The project is in the process of securing additional for Yr 3 activities (estimated US 150,000), which will also contribute to replication of this community-based forest management approach in a further 6 villages.

Activity 1.9: Document and disseminate Village Forest model: A short film about the project is under-development and will shortly be launched on the FFI website.

Activity 2.2: Partner capacity-building / training: The FFI team continues to provide on-the-job training and guidance to staff of project partner L-TB, particularly regarding financial management training for L-TB's new book-keeper. FFI is also actively encouraging L-TB to increase efforts to secure funds independently and to date has provided guidance and support on the submission of one proposal. July 2011, FFI's Community Forest Specialist gave informal training for FFI & L-TB field staff on principles of climate change and REDD+. From 12-14th Sept. FFI's junior GIS specialist was facilitated to attend forest carbon accounting training conducted by GIZ.

Activity 3.1: Rapid High Conservation Value Forest assessment: Match-funds secured for Yr2 activities enabled the project to conduct a detailed HCVF survey in 6 villages in the project area. From June-July 2011 detailed forest inventory was conducted in 5 villages (Lubuk Beringin, Lubuk Birah, Birun, Tanjung Dalam, and Tiaro) with data collected for birds, mammals, herpetofauna, botany and biomass (carbon stocks). Forest Inventory is currently being completed in 2 further villages (Durian Rambun and Kotorami). A participatory approach to forest inventory was adopted, following training (see activity 3.3), with up to 20 community members gathering data with support from High Conservation Value Forest expert team from FFI. This work has generated some very interesting data, which is currently being compiled into full reports, and will be used to support development of Village Forest management plans and generate carbon baseline data to feed into a REDD+ feasibility study for the project area.

Activity 3.3: Training in carbon baseline assessment for selected village clusters: From 15-19th June the project implemented High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF), or Participatory Forest Inventory training for community members from 7 villages in the project area. 56 community members participated (8 per village), and participants split into groups focussing on mammals, birds, herpetofauna or botany/biomass. Following the 5 days of practical training, hosted by Tiaro village, participants from each village then played a key role in data collection during the rapid HCVF assessment in their respective villages. The enthusiasm and capacity witness during this training and subsequent village inventories was outstanding.

Activity 3.4: Environmental services payment system / REDD feasibility study for project area: Initial steps have been taken to progress feasibility assessment for REDD+ in the project area. Baseline data of carbon stocks has/continues to be collected as part of the village HCVF assessments, though additional data must be collected in 2012 to increase the sample and, therefore, accuracy. The project secured in-kind access to SPOT satellite images through a small grant from PlanetAction, and has completed an initial vegetation classification of the project area – this analysis is currently being refined with ground-truthing data collected during the HCVF assessments.

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.

1. Proposed road construction: Earlier in 2011 the District of Kerinci (NW of the project area) submitted a proposal to the Minister of Forestry for construction of three 'disaster evacuation' roads out of the district, each bisecting core zones of Kerinci Seblat National Park. One route – if approved – would have an immensely negative impact on the ability to protect forests in the project area. FFI, L-TB and NGO members of the AKAR consortium were extremely concerned about this proposal and provided detailed briefings of the threat to UNESCO World Heritage Centre, other local and international NGOs and government, debunking the assertion that the new roads are needed for 'evacuation' since existing roads should be well maintained in preference to carving new routes, and the routes proposed would be highly vulnerable to landslides / flooding etc. FFI and project partners attended a debate on the proposals at the Department of Forestry (June 2011) and submitted recommendations for the ToR of an expert team to evaluate the proposals. Finally, Darwin project support enabled the FFI Asia-Pacific Program Director (Tony Whitten) to raise the issue at the UNESCO World Heritage Committee meeting in Paris in 2011, at which the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra natural World Heritage site was officially added to the list of sites 'In Danger'. This was a very important moment, as recommendations for In Danger

listing have been made since 2004 without such listing taking place. Unfortunately the road threat is not resolved. There are many powerful interests involved, but we continue to monitor developments and provide data to reinforce understanding of the negative environmental and social impacts of the proposed roads with the hope of influencing decision-making.

2. Illegal encroachment by in-migrant coffee farmers: continues to be a threat in the forest block to the west of the project area. Collaborative forest patrols continue to be of great importance in the immediate project area, but some forest monitoring resources have also been allocated to support mediation between encroacher groups and District Government, in an effort to release a stalled process and support these stakeholders to focus on constructive solutions that will ensure – at a minimum – encroachment does not advance any further. Additional funds will need to be secured to ensure that this complex engagement can continue in the medium/long term.

3. Match-funds and Government Targets: As noted by the Darwin Committee at project inception, this project had high match-funding targets. Fortunately during Yr1 we were successful in leverage match funds to support and extend project activities, however the two grants secured (from ICAP and Climate & Land Use Alliance) were both for periods of one year, starting in March 2011. As a result, resources available currently for Yr2 are significant – which is of course very positive - but whilst need is similar, the secured funding for Yr3 is lower. Subsequently, we expect to record an underspend against Darwin funds during Yr2 but very much hope that these funds can be carried-forward to Year 3, to enable maximum delivery and impact during the final year of Darwin support.

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

Issues related to request for budget amendment have not yet been discussed with LTS International – as such, no changes have yet been made to the original agreement.

Discussed with LTS: Not yet

Formal change request submitted: In preparation

Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A

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

Yes.

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: £ 10,200

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

No – Darwin procedures are very simple and clear to follow, and communication via email is always very efficient and supportive.

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: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**