

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

Project Ref. No.	18-007
Project Title	Collaborative Conservation of Critical Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP) Buffer Zone Forest
Country	Sumatra, Indonesia
UK Organisation	Fauna & Flora International (FFI)
Collaborator	Lembaga Tiga Beradik (L-TB)
Project Leader	Anna Lyons
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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).

Using the Village and Customary Forest schemes, the project will secure 49,812.5 ha of critical tiger habitat in Merangin and Sarolangun Districts, Sumatra, from the threat of conversion to plantation, logging or mining concessions. In Merangin District FFI and local partner L-TB are focusing on seven Village Forests and one Customary Forest. In Sarolangun, the successful model is being replicated with the Sarolangun Forest Office and G-CinDe in nine villages, six villages will establish Village Forests and three villages will replicate the Customary Forest model. Progress is listed by activity.

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

- Merangin, Participatory Mapping Training completed in one village (six participants).
- Sarolangun District, Participatory Mapping Training run by G-cinDe with facilitators from FFI, WALHI and Sarolangun Forest Office (17 participants).
- Facilitated one person each from Merangin and Sarolangun Forest Office to attend training for prospective heads of Forest Management Unit (FMU), Bogor.
- Facilitated local partner (L-TB) on Finance & Management Training (eight participants).
- Two trainings for Plan Vivo. In Merangin (38 participants) and at national level, Bogor (33 participants).

Activity 1.4: Participative mapping and agreement of Village Forest boundaries:

- In Merangin District, land-use mapping completed in two villages and 80% complete in one more by September. One further village starts in October. The other five villages will be implemented in stages with match-funding. Where land-use mapping is complete, the results will be communicated to the Government of Merangin District and pushed to be included in the "**District Spatial Plan**".
- In Sarolangun, the Mapping Team completed field-based mapping exercises in one Customary Forest in May. Currently, the data is being used to develop the Customary Forest Area Map for the village.

Activity 1.5: Establish and implement forest management framework: participatory development of forest management guidelines, village laws (PerDes), collaborative patrol teams:

- In Merangin, two Village Forests have a General Work Plan (GWP) and Village Forest Management Group (VFMG). The Customary Forest now has a GWP and a Customary Forest Management Group (CFMG). For the Village Forests, the GWP and VFMG are used to apply for the "Village Forest Management Rights (VFMR)" licenses to the Governor of Jambi. Two villages will be verified by the Provincial government in October and five villages are still preparing the GWP and VFMG.
- In Sarolangun the three Customary Villages held four community Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) each, followed by a joint agreement between the villages and District Head. The forest boundaries are now mapped, and checked by a Sarolangun District Forestry Office team. One village has its GWP and elected its CFMG board, and the village head is preparing a draft decree on the purpose and functions of the board. The plans and institutions are established through 'village regulation' (PerDes) with the board of the CFMG democratically elected and established by the Village Head. The Head of District is expected to sign the decree for the establishment of all the Customary Forests by December.
- During 2012, the monitoring patrol team (TMP2H) carried out four surveys, responding to evidence of coffee plantation encroachment and gold mining in Village and Customary Forest areas.

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 Sarolangun, partner L-TB formalised a new NGO called "Village Love Movement Foundation (G-cinDe Foundation)" in May 2012 to facilitate Village Forest development.
- In Sarolangun, nine villages are in the process of getting legal recognition from government. The Village Forests will submit proposals to the Minister of Forestry; and the Customary Forests to the District Head in October 2012. G-cinDe Foundation formalised the "Working Team of Village Forest in the Sarolangun District", (TIMJA HD) with relevant stakeholders.
- In Merangin and Sarolangun Districts, Forest Management Unit (FMU) were established through the Decree Head of District in 2011 and 2012 respectively, however the FMU have limited authority at this

level. The project is facilitating the FMU to be strengthened by establishing a District Regulation (PERDA) which enables the FMU to be an independent institution with a budget allocation and greater authority, now in the process of public consultation for the draft PERDA. The FMU will have a major role and responsibility in the management of forest areas in the Merangin and Sarolangun District.

Activity 1.7: Create formally recognised Village Forest Management Council In process.

Activity 1.8: Fundraising for sustained management post-Darwin support:

- The project has continued to secure match-funds, exceeding original targets, allowing scaling-up of activities, including increase in the total project area and the number of partner communities. Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (DWCF) gave USD 300,000 for two years 2012-14, and M.A Cargill Foundation has approved USD 1,245,008 for 2012-15.

Activity 1.9: Document and disseminate Village Forest model:

- Eight leaflets for High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF), one for each of the eight villages in Merangin District, and one leaflet about the three Customary Forests in Sarolangun District.
- Project activities received coverage in the Indonesian press in relation to facilitation of sustainable land-use planning (Customary Forest in Sarolangun District).
- A book on the NTFP kepayang for local and national audience will be launched in November 2012.

Activity 2.2: Partner capacity-building / training:

- FFI led training activities including participatory mapping and forest inventory and sustainable financing for forest management (REDD+). As well as building capacity of target communities in the area these activities also build the capacity of staff from NGO and local government partners.

Activity 2.3: Establishment & collaborative management of GIS for KSNP buffer-zone;

- FFI and L-TB are developing an online GIS resource (Web Resource) hosting data about the Kerinci Seblat National Park buffer zone, with a focus on the project area and surrounding landscape.

Activity 3.1: Rapid High Conservation Value Forest assessment:

- Botanical specimens and biomass data are currently being analysed and will support development of Village Forest management plans and generate baseline estimates for Village Forest carbon stocks as an essential input to the facilitation of community-based REDD+.
- A grant from PlanetAction provided eight high resolution SPOT satellite images of the project area to support land-use planning and estimation of carbon stocks. The images allow classification of vegetation cover, extrapolating biomass data from sample plots to generate carbon stock estimates for the whole area. Participatory forest inventory phase II will be conducted in October 2012 in one village.

3.2 Climate change and REDD training for civil society and local Government partners

- Two training series to introduce the Plan Vivo standard for REDD+ and PES (mentioned above)

Activity 3.4: Environmental services payment system / REDD feasibility study for project area

The project made a number of significant steps in assessing the feasibility of REDD+, including:

- Assessment of *additionality* of community-based forest conservation activities in the project area, which confirmed that the activities are additional and are therefore eligible for REDD+.
- Assessment of interest among communities in the project area to develop a community-based approach to REDD+, as described under activity 3.2 above and is the first stage of the Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, which is central to REDD+ development.
- Assessment of existing recognised REDD+ standards and identification of most appropriate standard for the project area. Plan Vivo identified as the most appropriate to the project context as a proven mechanism for establishing small-scale community-based PES projects on lands where communities have both tenure and management rights.
- The project team will support selected first mover villages to verify their Village Forests to the Plan Vivo Standard to mobilising a flow of sustainable, performance-based income to those communities.
- DWCF has committed to allocate the budget for the PES scheme for one village in mid-2013.

3.5 Development of REDD+ Project Identification Note (PIN) for selected villages;

- Development of REDD+ Project Identification Note (PIN) for Durian Rambun in Merangin in progress.

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: In 2011 the District of Kerinci submitted a proposal to the Minister of Forestry to construct three 'disaster evacuation' roads from the District, each bisecting core zones of KSNP. One route would have a large negative impact on the ability to protect forests in the project area. During 2011 FFI and project partners took a number of steps to address the issue, requesting independent evaluation and raising the issue with the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Paris. Unfortunately the road threat is not resolved. There are many powerful interests involved, the project continues to monitor and provide data on potential impacts, to influence decision-making.

2. Illegal encroachment by in-migrant coffee farmers: This continues to be a threat in the forest block west of the project area. Collaborative forest patrols continue to be important in the immediate project area, but some forest monitoring resources have also been allocated to support mediation between encroacher groups and District Government to support these stakeholders to focus on constructive solutions that will ensure that 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.

Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? No
Discussed with LTS: No
Formal change request submitted: N/A
Received confirmation of change acceptance N/A
3. Do you expect to have any significant (e.g. more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year? No
Estimated carryforward request: £0
4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? No.