

Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31 October 2016)

Project Ref No	23-029
Project Title	Investing in agro-forestry options for forest restoration in Indonesia
Country(ies)/Territory(ies)	Indonesia/ Hutan Harapan in Sumatra
Lead Organisation	Burung Indonesia
Partner(s)	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), Restorasi Ekosistem Indonesia (PT REKI), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), University of Kent, University of Edinburgh
Project Leader	<i>Mangara Silalahi</i>
Report date and number (e.g., HYR3)	<i>HYR1</i>
Project website/ Twitter/ Blog/ Instagram etc	
Funder (DFID/Defra)	<i>DFID</i>

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) 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 to end September).

The Project started on 1st August 2016 and this report covers activities for a period of 2 months (1st August – 30th September 2016). An initial project kick-off meeting of all partners was hosted by Burung Indonesia in Bogor in early September and was followed by a field trip to Harapan.

1. Develop several gender-disaggregated survey instruments for household livelihoods, farms systems and economic games. (Outputs 1.1, 1.4, 1.7 and 1.10)

The project team visited the communities of Simpang Macan (indigenous Batin Sembilan), Tanding, Mitrazone and Gelingding, which have signed an MoU with PT REKI. The communities of Bato and Kapas Tengah along the Kapas River were also visited; where rubber has been planted. The team also visited Kunangan Jaya, a community which historically has been in conflict with PT REKI. At each location, the team discussed the current farming/forestry practices, activities done by women, future aspirations of residents and the potential for developing agro-forestry schemes in partnership with PT REKI. These discussions served two purposes: to provide background information to aid in the development of the household livelihood survey; and to gauge interest in establishing agro-forestry schemes on their own land in partnership assistance from PT REKI.

2. Develop models for agroforestry options (Output 2.1)

Three systems of agro-forestry were discussed for Harapan, and they include: (i) Simple agroforestry (rubber + 1 or 2 species); (ii) Multi-species agroforestry (rubber + 6 or more species, including some timber species); or (iii) Complex agroforestry (rubber + timber species / NTFPs + natural regeneration). The choice of agro-forestry system would be made by the communities in the collaboration zone or by PT REKI for the “rubber band” buffer and the production zone. Almost all the communities interviewed were interested in developing their land but did not have the required investment; short-term cash crops provided the solution by generating incomes in less than a year. Discussions are now ongoing with the communities to establish demonstration plots for the agro-forestry system to trial which system would suit the different communities.

The two most obvious cash crops are cassava (i.e. tapioca) or citronella. PT REKI could establish partnerships by providing competitive short-term returns for the communities and revenue for the company to pay for the broader uptake of agro-forestry across the cleared areas. This could be achieved by providing access to markets and adding value to these products, i.e. through the production of tapioca flour or citronella oil. It would require capital investment for processing facilities and transport systems, but for both of the crops, the facilities could be developed at a small scale at first and up-scaled as necessary.

PT REKI have also held discussions with the communities at Simpang Macan Luar and Mitrazone to determine the location of the demonstration plots and the polygon for the planting of the agro-forestry crops, and the types of crops to be grown. Management/ farmer teams were also formed at Simpang Macan Luar. Effort was also made during this period to engage the existing farmer groups (particularly those in Kunangan Jaya 1 and 2) in discussions with rubber and cassava factories in the vicinity, in an attempt to upscale the agro-forestry initiatives at Harapan.

3. Baseline remote sensing analysis of focal areas and HRF as a whole (Output 2.6)

The project team has been in contact with colleagues at the University of Göttingen-Gemany to initiate collaboration to test the quality of remote sensing classifications, including secondary forest, oil palm and rubber. The University of Göttingen has in the past conducted ground validation surveys across Jambi province, including at Hutan Harapan. We expect to be able to leverage their data and expertise in our analysis, and discussed with these colleagues cutting-edge ways in which rubber cover can be separated from secondary forest, by using multi-temporal information to identify the time of forest clearance and of leaf-off periods for rubber. Initial steps have been taken to begin the analyses using Google Earth Engine.

4. Sharing of lessons learnt (Output 3.3)

An abstract for a paper entitled *Using Rubber Agro-forestry for Forest Conservation in Indonesia* was accepted and presented at the Sustainable Rubber Conference, which was held in Xishuangbanna, China in October, to share plans on the planting of a rubber buffer at Harapan to address encroachment, increase the livelihoods of local people and create business opportunities for the concession. Initial draft documents of the agro-forestry systems being trialled at Harapan have also been collated and will be revised according to observations from the field.

5. Project Management

An implementation plan for the Project was drafted during the initial project kick-off in Bogor. The meeting was also an opportunity for an informal workshop with other partners on agro-forestry implementation in Sumatra to discuss initial ideas for agro-forestry development at Harapan. Sub-contracts for all the partners were also drafted during this period. Interviews were also held to find suitable candidates; a community participation supervisor is due to start in November, and other positions are also being filled to help with the implementation.

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/ lessons learnt 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.

There are currently no notable problems/ unexpected developments or lessons learnt to report.

2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

Discussed with LTS:	Yes/No
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Formal change request submitted:	Yes/No
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Received confirmation of change acceptance	Yes/No
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3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (e.g., more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?

Yes No Estimated underspend: £

3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully. Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project please submit a rebudget Change Request as soon as possible. There is no guarantee that Defra will agree a rebudget so please ensure you have enough time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

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

There are currently no issues relating to project management, monitoring or financial procedures that we wish to raise.

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/ work plan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request.**

Please send your **completed report by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.uk . The report should be between 2-3 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message e.g., Subject: 22-035 Darwin Half Year Report**