



Darwin Initiative Main/Post/D+ Project Half Year Report (due 31st October 2018)

Project reference	25-001
Project title	Preventing Borneo's peatland fires to protect health, livelihoods and biodiversity.
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead organisation	University of Exeter
Partner(s)	Borneo Nature Foundation
Project leader	Dr Frank Van Veen
Report date and number	October 2018 - HYR1
Project website/blog/social media etc.	BNF Website ; BNF Facebook ; BNF Twitter

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 first quarter of this project (July – September 2018) represented the inception and mobilisation phase of the project. During this period, we have achieved the following:

A. PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Log frame review: We have re-evaluated the logical framework and roadmap for this project considering the suggestions in the Darwin Acceptance Letter and updated conditions in the field, including making improvements to our indicators. [Please find the reviewed logframe with Track Changes attached for your consideration.](#)

Monitoring and Evaluation plan: We have started developing our M&E plan, including compiling baseline data to which the impact of our activities can be compared, and identifying areas in which baseline data is lacking. We have identified people in charge of completing the baseline data and the monitoring data collection. [Please find attached the M&E plan including reviewed key performance indicators \(KPI\) and baseline data.](#)

Roadmap: We have developed a detailed activities roadmap highlighting key milestones and associated risks. This document is currently being reviewed by the field teams and aligned with the annual work-plans. [Please find attached the 2018-2021 Roadmap.](#)

Stakeholders analysis: A detailed stakeholder analysis has been produced to develop a strategic view of the human and institutional landscape, identifying key partners, their influence, participation and engagement strategy. [Please find stakeholder analysis attached.](#)

Recruitment: We have re-organised our staffing related to this project and recruited three new members of staff with specific skills for the tasks required: a Community Liaison Officer, an Education Manager and an Education Staff. [Please find the associated paperwork attached to change the named personnel working on the project.](#)

B. FIRE FIGHTING ACTIVITIES

Supporting Community Fire-Fighting teams: To mobilise the teams, we provided operational funds and replaced/provided new equipment to the two Community Fire-fighting teams established in 2017. The teams conducted more than 37 fire-fighting interventions in the target areas during this three-month period.

Enhancing the Community Fire-fighting teams' partnerships: We have drafted and are currently discussing partnership agreements with each of the fire-fighting teams to define the terms and conditions for our collaborative agreement.

Fire-fighting coordination: BNF facilitated the coordination and integration of activities between the Community Fire-fighting teams and the Disaster and Fire Fighting Management Agency (BPBPK).

Drones for Conservation Workshop: BNF, in collaboration with University of Liverpool John Moores and the University of Palangkaraya/CIMTROP, organised a capacity-building workshop "Developing Local Capacity for Using Heat Sensors on Drones to detect and Monitor Peat Fires".

C. HABITAT RESTORATION

Community nurseries development: The first information/socialisation meeting was held in the target villages; a preliminary list has been drawn up of 2 Community nurseries (11 families) in Kereng village and 3 Community nurseries (22 families) in Sabaru village.

Women's group: First information/socialisation meeting held with a positive response towards the organic-bag crafting initiative to support the reforestation activities.

Canal Mapping: Two members of the CIMTROP Patrol Team are currently mapping the non-dammed canals in the Bakong area, where most of the non-blocked canals are found.

Dam Building and hydrology monitoring: Currently planning the dam building activities in Canal Ruslan and Adun, with the intention of building 14 dams by the end of October.

D. ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION AWARENESS

Environmental schools modules: For two months, from August to September, the BNF Education Team implemented ten formal environmental education modules in two schools (Sahabat Alam and SD IT Mujahidul Amin Kereng). 29 children and 4 teachers joined the course, finishing with a Field Trip in Sebangau Forest visiting the LAHG Research Camp.

Anak Sebangau Children's Community Group: 1 environmental activity per week implemented since July for the "Anak Sebangau group", which includes 20 kids from Kereng Bangkirai Village. The activities (using games and art) focused on the impacts of fires on human health and waste management.

International Orangutan Day (18 August 2018): BNF, together with the Indonesian Agency for Nature Conservation (BKSDA), organised an International Orangutan Day event in the village of Kereng Bangkirai; more than 500 people from nearby villages and towns attended.

Borneo Initiative Youth Festival (7th, 8th and 9th September): Students from two international and three local schools joined the Conservation Youth Festival co-organised and hosted by BNF and BCU School. More than 30 children from around the world joined the Youth Festival, as well as our Anak Sebangau Children's group.

E. FIRE PREVENTION: GOVERNMENT & STAKEHOLDERS LIASION

Sebangau National Park - MoU Development: 2 meetings held since July; the preliminary MoU document draft has been agreed and presented to the Directorate for Information and Natural resources conservation in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (PIKA – KLHK). Currently BNF and Sebangau National Park are working on revisions/corrections to these.

Disaster and Fire Fighting Management Agency (BPBPK) – MoU Development: Several meetings held since July; Preliminary MoU document drafted and currently under revision.

F. COMMUNICATION: Media/press release

BNF stories: [International Orangutan Day Festival](#) ; [New Community Fire Fighting Teams \(Gender inspirational story\)](#) ; [Forest Fires, haze and Community Teams](#) ; [Community participation in Fire Fighting activities](#) ; [Drones for Conservation workshop](#)

Newspaper articles: [International Orangutan Day Festival](#) ; [Community Fire Fighting activities](#) ; [Drones for Conservation Workshop](#)

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.

The lessons learned from the time leading up to the start of the project period and during this first quarter are as follows:

- The prices for wood in the area oscillate depending on availability and demand. This has potential to impact the budget for dam building as large amounts of wood are required at specific times of year when the water levels are high enough to transport the wood to the intended dam-building sites.
- Some problems with predisposition/availability of some key Stakeholders (i.e. the Agency for Prevention of forest and land fires BPPI Kalimantan) and limitations/barriers when attempting to coordinate work with them. This does not hold up our work but does mean that additional time has to be spent gaining trust in order to maximise the long-term impact of our work.
- Two of our education staff left the project this quarter, meaning we had to undertake unexpected recruitment to fill the roles. Both roles have now been filled; one member of Education Staff has already started working with us, and a new Education Manager will join in December 2018.
- From our experience, we need to anticipate timings for Governmental agreements carefully as these processes take longer than expected and can cause delays.

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

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

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.

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

None

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. Additionally, if you were funded under R24 and asked to provide further information by your first half year report, please attach your response as a separate document.

Please note: Any planned modifications to your project schedule/workplan 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**