

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2018)

Project reference:	IWT048			
Project title:	Tackling the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Muslim Communities in Sumatra			
Country(ies):	Indonesia			
Lead organisation:	Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC)			
Collaborator(s):	WWF Indonesia, Universitas Nasional Indonesia, Yapeka			
Project leader:	Chantal Elkin			
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1):	October 31, 2018; (HYR1)			
Project website/blog/social media:				

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed project implementation timetable (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to the end September).

a. Project Coordination:

ARC spearheaded project coordination through several Skype calls with our Indonesian partners to discuss the way forward. Grant activities were on hold until we received the grant funds from DEFRA, which arrived in ARC's bank account in mid-September, so we had a late start.

In the meantime, at the WWF Indonesia office in Jakarta, UNAS, Yapeka and WWF had a series of initial coordination meetings to discuss the action plan going forward, to agree on roles and responsibilities, and to develop financial reporting and administration systems between the partners. In particular they discussed the initial community research and assessment needs in the 11 villages of the Rimbang Baling Wildlife Reserve Landscape.

b. Fatwa Training for Muslim Clerics in Sumatra:

UNAS began preparing the fatwa training kits and to print the fatwa guides, sermon handbooks, posters and leaflets in anticipation of the upcoming fatwa trainings for religious leaders. Dr. Mangunjaya also began writing a new module on Islam and conservation to add to the training kit, designed a new appendix to the fatwa guidebook, and updated it with the new list of species protected under national law according to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) Decree, P 92.2018. UNAS also began organising the pre and post questionnaires for training participants.



c. Field Activities:

In September 2018, Yapeka conducted the first outreach visits in the project landscape, to two villages of Aur Kuning and Pangkalan Serei. In Pangkalan Serei village, 21 villagers attended these 'project socialisation' meetings, and in Aur Kuning village, 39 people attended. They included representatives of women's groups, youth groups, traditional leaders, religious leaders, and village officers. The Yapeka team shared with them news of the project, its purpose, and how it relates to wildlife and livelihood issues. The community representatives welcomed the programme and expressed their hope that it will assist the local community to optimize their gardens and agricultural production, increase their income and reduce their monthly costs. The community representitives also asked questions and gave their suggestions for including agroforestry and discussing which vegetables they would like to grow.



Stakeholder meeting participants, Aur Kuning



Stakeholder meeting participants, Pangkalan Serei

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Community representative signatures for meeting participation

d. International Discussions:

ARC participated in the UK government-hosted Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in London in mid-October 2018. ARC hosted a side event on religion and culture and highlighted this project in our panel and discussions, which raised significant interest from the session's participants. In addition, we are currently in discussion with the Oxford Martin School to assist us with the monitoring and evaluation of this project.

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.

- As the grant started late and we only received funding in mid-September, our grant activities in this first period were not as advanced as we had expected.
- Looking ahead, there are parliamentary and presidential elections in Indonesia beginning in September 2018, until mid-April 2019. We will keep in mind how this might impact community dynamics during this upcoming period. In anticipation, our field staff will keep in close touch with developments in the landscape and adjust dates and approaches for our field work as necessary.

Some important election dates include:

- 23 September- 13 April 2019: campaign period for parliamentary and presidential elections
- 14-16 April: campaign break prior to election
- 17 April: national election day
- 22 April 22 May 2019: election result

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:	No
Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	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.

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 IWT Challenge Fund management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

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 R4 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 Victoria Pinion at <u>IWT-Fund@ltsi.co.uk</u>. 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: IWT001 Half Year Report.**