



Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund Half Year Report

(due 31st October 2019)

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| Project reference: | IWT048 |
| Project title: | Tackling the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Muslim Communities in Sumatra |
| Country(ies): | Indonesia |
| Lead organisation: | WWF UK (Replacing 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, 2019; HYR2 |
| Project website/blog/social media: | http://ppi.unas.ac.id/important-defra-grant-to-work-with-muslims-in-indonesia-to-reduce-illegal-wildlife-trade/ |

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).

Output 1. By end of Yr 3, 8,000 (49%) people in 11 buffer zone villages understand the fatwa’s prohibition on IWT and provincial IWT laws, and relate wildlife conservation to their core religious values:

During this grant period we made great strides in disseminating the fatwa’s messages in the landscape through a great variety of communications tools. These included:

- 7 Friday community radio shows to date featuring representatives of the Conservation Clerics Forum (called ‘Forkodas’). During this ‘talk show’, clerics from the Forum speak for an hour about Islam and wildlife protection based on the fatwa’s teachings. Excerpts from the shows are posted on the Forkodas social media pages:
<https://www.instagram.com/forkodas/>;
- 2 public service announcements were released on state-owned radio in Riau province, reaching target villages in the landscape;
- We produced several short awareness videos that will be aired by the beginning of November. This was planned for earlier but postponed due to the toxic haze in Sumatra. They will be used during our trainings with clerics, and as awareness tools when working with villagers in the landscape. Please see:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kb3-qOLd68s&t=13s>
- We produced and disseminated a fatwa comic book aimed at youth in the landscape:

They Praise God (Mereka Juga Bertasbih). This and all publications and resources on the fatwa are open access materials on the Centre for Islamic Studies (UNAS) website: <http://ppi.unas.ac.id/islam-and-environmental-conservation-publication/>

Output 2. By end of Yr 2, 750 households (25% of population; 20% women) in 6 of the 11 priority villages have capacity to pursue diverse and sustainable livelihood activities:

Yapeka, in coordination with UNAS and WWF representatives, continued outreach in local villages in the landscape to ensure smooth relationships and open communication about project strategy and activities. At this point we feel relations are strong between project partners and village government, religious leaders, and adat/customary leaders including Muslim women's community groups. We have held community meetings about the project to answer any questions and to promote discussion.

In 5 of the 6 villages targeted for livelihoods support (Aur Kuning, Pangkalan Serei, Ampalu, Tanjung Medang, Batu Sasak) we have signed agreements with the village chiefs, community leaders, community representative bodies, and women's groups in support of the project. We are finalising agreement with the remaining village (Kuntu), expected in this quarter but now in the next quarter due to delays from the toxic haze in Sumatra. However, in the meantime all 6 villages are participating in agricultural activities led by Yapeka to boost the skills and capacities of local villagers to support their livelihoods through alternatives to hunting and trade.

Sustainable agriculture demonstration plots are being used in Tanjung Medang, Ampalu, Aur Kuning, Pangkalan Serei, Batu Sasak as learning sites for agroforestry, vegetable gardening, and biogas. Vegetables are already being harvested, and slurry from the biogas is being used as organic fertilizer for paddy, vegetable, and agroforestry plots. Planting of dragon-blood trees, more valuable than oil palm, and orange trees, has already benefited more than 90 households. Yapeka has held several trainings on sustainable agriculture, as well as providing on the ground support to farmers, and have organised community feedback discussions. The trainings and discussions have helped villagers gain knowledge and skills that will help them reduce their expenses or add to their income. In the last quarter, women made up over 60% of participants. We also engaged one known poacher family who were interested in garden optimisation.

Output 3. By end of Yr 3, minimum 30% rise in income in 750 households in 6 villages resulting from switch to diversified and sustainable livelihood activities:

We are already seeing benefits to local households from our livelihood support in the targeted village. For example, through garden optimisation villagers have planted and sold in local markets vegetables such as water spinach, long-beans, cucumbers and ridge gourds. Vegetables are also harvested for family consumption, reducing their household expenses.





Distribution of Dragon-blood trees in agroforestry community project

Output 4: By end of Yr 3, >50% of the 12 poachers identified in RBWR buffer zone stop hunting and shift to alternative livelihood activities: Some six poachers have been approached to encourage their engagement in alternative livelihood activities rather than hunting. Three have committed to stop poaching we are in discussion with the other three.

Output 5: By end of Yr 3, wildlife crime monitoring in 11 target villages strengthens formal law enforcement detection efforts: WWF's wildlife crime teams have been investigating 10 wildlife poachers including the ones mentioned in Output 4 within the 11 target villages. The teams are also monitoring 14 middlemen, brokers/dealers, and ivory craftsmen and 26 bird hunters in the Rimbang Baling landscape. Our investigations have confirmed that in this period the dealers have not received any tiger parts.

Output 6: By the end of Yr 3, research results and best practices are consolidated and shared by ARC and partners for replication in other wildlife trade areas:

Monitoring & Evaluation: Through our partnership with researchers at the Oxford Martin School's Wildlife Trade Unit, we now have a baseline report against which to measure the impact of our work. A total of 592 respondents were surveyed across the 8 intervention and comparison villages in February, 2019. The design of the survey instrument and framework, the carrying out of the surveys and the analysis have been funded through our match funding. Match funding will also cover a similar end of project evaluation to compare against this baseline report.

Sharing at international level: In July 2019, at the global meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) that took place in Malaysia, the Religion & Conservation Biology Working Group (RCBWG) of the SCB presented a 6-minute video introducing the field of religion and conservation during one of the plenary sessions. This was accompanied by a panel of 4 religious leaders speaking about the role of religion in conservation. One of the speakers was a representative of the Indonesian Council of Ulama (MUI), one of our main partners. Chantal Elkin, Project Lead, is President of the RCBWG and was one of the main organisers of the film and plenary session. The video highlights our work in Indonesia as an example of how religious and conservation groups can effectively partner. It was seen by hundreds of people attending the plenary, and has been distributed across the RCB, IUCN and partner organisation social media sites. We have had much positive feedback on the film and questions about our work in Indonesia as a result. Please see:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eM3SXHTJ7_k&feature=youtu.be

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.

One major unforeseen development was the toxic haze that covered Sumatra due to forest and peatland fires during this last quarter. Fires started in August and persisted until late October. Some of the work to be done by the UNAS team, which needs to travel from Jakarta to Sumatra, was delayed until November as a result. This was mainly related to conducting some more awareness raising activities with target villages and clerics, as well as organising some monitoring and evaluation surveys. Some of the agricultural extension work with villagers and monitoring of demonstration plots was also put on hold until November. Trainings will resume then as well. However, the Indonesia team does not feel there was a major hold up in activities and the time will be made up beginning in November.

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

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| Discussed with LTS: | No |
| Formal change request submitted: | 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.

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?

During the last quarter, the switch has been made from the management of this grant by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC) to WWF UK, as agreed previously with DEFRA. This was due to ARC closing in June 2019 and its Indonesia programme being transferred to WWF as of July 1, 2019. Chantal Elkin, ARC's Wildlife Director, also moved to WWF to head a new programme on Values & Beliefs, an international programme within WWF but officially hosted by WWF UK. However, the paperwork is still being updated and we are awaiting completion of this move from DEFRA's side.

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 IWT-Fund@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: IWT001 Half Year Report.**