



**Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund
Half Year Report
(due 31st October 2020)**

Project reference	
Project title	Tackling the Illegal Wildlife Trade in Muslim Communities in Sumatra
Country(ies)	Indonesia
Lead organisation	WWF UK
Partners(s)	PPI-UNAS, YAPEKA, WWF Indonesia
Project leader	Chantal Elkin, WWF UK
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	HYR3
Project website/blog/social media	Websites: http://ppi.unas.ac.id/ https://yapeka.or.id/ https://www.wwf.id/ Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/PPIUNAS/ Twitter: https://twitter.com/ppi_unas Instagram : https://www.instagram.com/ppi.unas.ac.id/ Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfG0jEwjz7Z6-eaxUHOABdw/videos

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).

i. Livelihoods Support

Output 2 & 3. *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; 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.*

Since April and the new Covid restrictions that were put in place then, the Yapeka team has had less ability to work on this output. Through ground staff stationed near four of the six villages, however, the Yapeka team has supported villagers in these areas, but the remaining two villages were in red zones and outsiders have been unable to enter these villages. Yapeka local organisers continue to visit and advise target households and monitor activities. This is done by meeting villagers individually rather than in larger groups. Group trainings over this period could therefore not take place as planned.

As rates of Covid are still not declining, moving forward into the next grant period Yapeka will offer some online trainings and discussions with small groups of villagers if we can arrange for them to meet at an office in the local district that has good internet connectivity. Yapeka has applied for a permit to do so with the district government. As local conditions permit, ground staff will also do some training or small group activities in the villages, with physical distancing and in compliance with Covid protocols.

Some of the work that went forward in the last six months in the four villages includes coordination with farmer groups to support rice demo-plots, including planting techniques, rice seedling and land preparation, and use of organic fertilizer/slurry application; checking agroforestry demo-plots and preparing for planting (dragon-blood/*jernang*, coffee); coordinating with women's farmers group on medicinal plants growth; checking on and preparing vegetables demo-plots with women's farmers groups for chilli, water spinach, long bean; monitoring of biogas and slurry utilization; online coordination with

farmer groups and monitoring of land optimization through vegetable planting; and monitoring of composting with farmer groups for garden optimization.

ii. IWT Detection & Monitoring

Output 4 & 5. By end of Yr 3, >50% of the 12 poachers identified in RBWR buffer zone stop hunting and shift to alternative livelihood activities; By end of Yr 3, wildlife crime monitoring in 11 target villages strengthens formal law enforcement detection efforts

During this last grant period, wildlife crime monitoring and detection efforts were ongoing. During the height of the Covid outbreak, there were more serious restrictions on movement so the TPUs had some difficulty patrolling everywhere but for the most part WWF's TPUs have been patrolling across the eleven target villages in the landscape. Monitoring and detection has been most intensive, however, in those villages where former hunters are now acting as community IWT monitors. In those four villages, WWF's TPU teams are in regular communication with the four hunters who live there about poaching and other illegal forest activities occurring in these villages.

WWF continues to meet with and monitor the commitment of the four hunters who had committed to stop poaching. Two of the four hunters in particular have been working well with the TPUs as informants, and they have also helped approach other hunters who seemed willing to discuss cooperation with the TPUs. In addition, TPUs have been reaching out to hunters in two additional landscape villages. Due to Covid restrictions, the Yapeka team has yet to reach out in a more concerted way to the hunters' families to include more of them in the sustainable livelihoods activities, but they are exploring ways to do this in the next grant period.

During this period there have been no new reports of tiger hunting but the TPUs have followed up on a previous case of a tiger poached in the landscape (see Yr 2 report). The trade of its skin and bones was reported to the Riau Police's criminal investigation team and a middle man and poacher were identified. The WWF team accompanied the regional police to arrest the hunter but as he had been warned by someone of the arrest he could not be found.

In this last period, however, WWF's TPUs have gained a sharper picture of the bird trade in the RBWR landscape. In the last six months they identified about 20 people in the target villages who were poaching birds that they had not known about before. Based on data from local bird markets and from local collectors, the TPUs have assessed during this last period a rising trend in bird trade in the target villages, with collection happening inside the Rimbang Baling Wildlife Reserve. This aligns with personal communication by a member of our team with the NGO, the Flight Foundation, on the trend of rising bird trade in Sumatra. The TPUs also conducted an investigation into the Riau provincial bird trafficking chain, identifying intermediary actors and collectors in the sub-district capital of Kampar Kiri, and tracked them selling some of the birds to bird shop owners in the provincial capital city of Pekanbaru. As birds are more visibly and openly sold in Riau than other wildlife species, birds may be indicators for a wider trend in rising IWT levels during this last period as the pandemic has squeezed the economies of many villages. As some of Yapeka's staff are former bird hunters, in the next grant period they will confer with the TPUs and explore outreach to some of the known bird hunters in our target villages.

Overall the situation in the RBWR landscape and in the reserve itself at the moment is one of minimal enforcement capacity. Because of WWF's stalled relationship with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the slow repairing of that relationship and reinstatement of an MOU, the WWF-led TPUs are still not active inside the reserve and can only collect information in the villages in the buffer zone. They are unable to take enforcement action, but can report cases to the police only if the cases are very clear cut. And without WWF support, the BKSDA/ MOEF, which used to patrol 15 days per month inside the RBWR, now only patrol a few days a month if that. With so little enforcement capacity at the moment inside RBWR, combined with the economic pressures brought on by Covid and the dropping price of rubber, reports suggests that the trend is that more villagers are going into the Rimbang Baling Wildlife Reserve to log trees and opportunistically hunt to supplement their lost income.

iii. Religious Outreach

With these new developments in the last grant period of a noted rise in bird trade/ IWT, increased economic and social hardship due to Covid and dropping rubber prices, and in an overall context of minimal enforcement presence, our project team is placing more emphasis on providing as much livelihood support as we can in the target villages, monitoring and detecting hunting and trade, and working with the conservation clerics to reinforce Islamic fatwa-based messages on IWT.

In terms of religious outreach, since April and the onslaught of the Covid pandemic, it has not been possible to organise normal community gatherings at the mosques or in the villages to spread teachings about the fatwa and foster discussions and events related to wildlife trade. Six of the twenty clerics in particular who are involved in Forkodas regularly communicate and exchange information with the WWF team, and actively preach and counsel their communities on issues related to Islam and conservation. Some clerics are conducting online sermons, and Friday night prayers have now resumed at the mosques, with physical distancing, but dissemination of the fatwa's messages have been at a lower level than we would have seen without the pandemic. Our team continues to communicate with the conservation clerics through the Forkodas Forum that they organised themselves into during Year 2, which is now established as a foundation. Through our project support, we have legitimised this new body and increased their capacity to now communicate institutionally with local government and Islamic financial institutions to support their conservation work.

Over this next grant period we will be working with Forkodas and the MUI, Indonesia's national clerical council, to develop a specific sermon that clerics can use in their community fatwa outreach, highlighting the direct connection between Covid/ pandemics and IWT and forest loss. The MUI has information on their national website about the links between Covid and IWT but this message needs to be understood better locally and disseminated by local clerics. The clerics will also put a greater emphasis during the next period in their sermons on the importance of community-based reporting on IWT to the TPUs.

In terms of our work with the Islamic schools, (*pesantren*), we have produced an educational module on the fatwa and will soon be disseminating it through online learning and some in person teaching, Covid rules permitting.

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;*

In this period UNAS developed special pages on its website for all fatwa-related materials including: the fatwa booklet, Islam and environment books, sermon guides, pesantren module, comic book, posters, brochures and videos. Please see: <http://ppi.unas.ac.id/iwt-project-awareness-tool-2018-2021/>
<http://ppi.unas.ac.id/iwt-project-awareness-tool-2018-20213/>

2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments/lessons learnt that the project has encountered over the last 6 months (for Covid-19 specific delays/problems, please use 2b). Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

All unexpected problems have been related to Covid, as noted in the next section.

2b. Please outline any specific issues which your project has encountered as a result of Covid-19. Where you have adapted your project activities in response to the pandemic, please briefly outline how you have done so here. Explain what residual impact there may be on your project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.

This last grant period beginning in April was when the rates of Covid in Indonesia and Riau and West Sumatra provinces climbed to levels where the national and local level governments then implemented social restrictions, which meant that many in our team could not go to the target villages to carry out project activities such as field visits, monitoring and evaluation, meetings and trainings. By mid-September 2020, Riau had almost doubled the number of cases from August and Riau implemented additional local restrictions to slow the spread of COVID-19. We expect restrictions to remain high in these areas so we have been devising more creative ways to work with the situation as detailed above. Although we expect to largely meet the proposed timeline of the project, we are making adjustments regarding meetings and events with communities, such as some online gatherings, smaller in person group meetings, and a focus on selected villages. We will remain flexible with restrictions as they ease or tighten. At the moment we are reaching less people overall than we expected to at this point in the grant. As a team we will decide by December whether to ask DEFRA for a no-cost extension to the grant for an additional three months and how best to revise our expected targets.

2c. 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: possible extension of grant for one more quarter but we are still trying to determine how much we can accomplish by March 2021 under the covid restrictions

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. Please DO NOT send these in the same email as your report.

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to IWT Challenge Fund management, monitoring, or financial procedures?

No.

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/workplan can be discussed in this report but **should also be raised with LTS International through a Change Request. **Please DO NOT send these in the same email.****

Please send your **completed report by email to 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.**