

Darwin Initiative

Half Year Report (due 31 October each year)

Project Ref. No.	13 - 028
Project Title	Establishment and Management of Nantu National Park, Gorontalo Province, Sulawesi
Country(ies)	Indonesia
UK Organisation	University of Oxford – Wildlife Conservation Research Unit
Collaborator(s)	Yayasan Adudu Nantu International (YANI), Gorontalo University, Bupati and Gorontaloese local government
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Project website	http://earth-info-net-babirusa.blogspot.com

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – September) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project :

The *agreed milestones* for this period were:

Two guard posts constructed (original date Aug. 2004, revised April 2005): This milestone was partly achieved. One guard post was constructed at the remote eastern corner of the Nantu Reserve, positioned to deter illegal loggers from this area.

Schools program continuing (original date Oct. - Dec. 2004, revised June – Aug. 2005): This milestone was achieved. Nantu scholarships were established for two children from Pangahu village (on the boundary of the Nantu Forest) to attend secondary school in Gorontalo city. The children achieved high grades at Pangahu primary school but their families who would not otherwise be able to afford secondary schooling. Rofika Kalihawa and Tonis Gole began secondary school on 14th July and are progressing well. Funds have been awarded from Singapore Zoo for a children's film on the babirusa to be made by local children; this was the result of a presentation at Singapore Zoo by LMC (May). A children's conservation library has been established at Pangahu primary school with the provision of 40 books on wildlife and conservation topics (July); 80 children's books on wildlife, English language and general topics were also donated to the Gorontaloese city library. A Nantu Forest children's colouring competition was held in Gorontalo by YANI and the Gorontaloese local government to co-incide with National Environment Day (6th June) in which fifty children from schools throughout Gorontalo district participated.

Follow-up to potential development partners (June – Aug. 2005): This milestone was achieved. Liaison continued with the Canadian International Development Agency, the European Union and the World Bank. A presentation was given to Singapore Zoo, resulting in US\$ 30,000 being awarded for a series of three educational films on the Nantu Forest (for children, general public and policy makers) (May) and submission of a proposal for further funding for this project (currently under review).

Training needs assessment carried out (June – Aug. 2005): This milestone has slipped. It will be carried out during the next six-month reporting period.

National Park gazetted (original date 2004, revised 2005): a national government team visited the Nantu Forest to assess its suitability for gazettement as a National Park (15th-19th Nov). The team comprised members from Forestry and Environment departments and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences. Darwin

project staff accompanied the team throughout its visit, providing scientific information, logistical support and accommodation at the Darwin field station. The team will now submit its recommendations for National Park gazettement to the Minister of Forestry.

Law enforcement unit and village Nantu Protection Teams established and operational (Sept. 2005): This milestone was partly achieved. Key personnel for the law enforcement unit have been identified; these police officials and judges have worked together with the Nantu Protection Unit on four cases of forest law enforcement during this period. Three of these cases resulted in cautions, and one in a completed prosecution against illegal rattan collection within the Nantu Forest. Village Nantu Protection Team establishment is being hindered by the fact that villagers from the immediate boundaries of the reserve remain highly vulnerable to intimidation and bribery from outsiders.

Additional outputs and activities were:

Cessation of transmigration project, Tangga village: Darwin project partners and staff accompanied a national-level Forestry department team visit to this site (29th April – 1st May) and submitted information on this project to a World Bank review of the Indonesian Forestry sector (June). As a result of Darwin project efforts this project has, to date, stopped. Some already constructed one-roomed houses have been occupied by local people.

Social research: PhD research on local stakeholders' perceptions of biodiversity conservation in Gorontalo province was carried by Ani Kartikasari (Lincoln University, New Zealand and CIFOR, Bogor, Aug.-Oct.). One hundred and thirty key stakeholders have so far been interviewed for this study.

Seminar on Islam and Conservation: A two-day seminar entitled "The Role of Islam in Conservation in Gorontalo Province" was facilitated by this project at Gorontalo State University (30th-31st July). Four key speakers from West Java (Indonesian Institute of Sciences, World Bank/Alliance of Religions and Conservation, Garut Islamic Boarding School) and forty invited religious leaders, academics, local government and NGO representatives from throughout Gorontalo province participated. Religious leaders from all settlements bordering the Nantu Forest attended. Key outputs were the provision of informal training for local Islamic leaders on their role in Conservation and development, and the formation of a task-force to promote this relatively new subject in Gorontalo province, 90% of whose population are Muslim. The four invited speakers from West Java also made a field visit to the Nantu Forest (1st-2nd Aug.).

Islam and Conservation: project partner Mr. Idrus Labantu attended a national seminar on Islam and Conservation at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Jakarta (8th June) and gave a sermon at Tangga village mosque, Nantu Forest, on this topic (24th June).

Wildlife trade: weekly monitoring of North Sulawesi's bushmeat trade continued throughout this period and analysis of this data began.

Nantu Protection Unit: this unit was active against illegal logging, slash-and-burn forest destruction and illegal rattan collection at Nantu Forest, conducting daily patrols at the Nantu Forest throughout this period.

Nantu Management Authority: liaison with the Gorontalo government on the structure of this body continued throughout this period.

Training: six local assistants and a total of 20 special forces police personnel received "on-the-job" training in reserve protection and management at Nantu throughout this period as NPU members. This activity began in December 2004 (the first month of the project). Seventy local farmers received one days training on cocoa growing (April).

Stakeholder forum: a draft format for this body has been prepared, in collaboration with local partners (July). The forum comprises provincial and district government planning and forestry offices, local University, parliament and police representatives, village heads and youth representatives and YANI.

Income-generating activities: Sixteen thousand five-hundred cocoa seedlings were handed over to local settlers at Tangga and Pangahu villages for planting as a bufferzone crop on their own land (April); two one-day training days in cocoa planting held for local farmers, one at each village (April); development of all plants monitored in June.

2. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments 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.
None

Have any of these issues been discussed with the Darwin Secretariat and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement? N/A

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: no

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: none

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures? no

Response to annual report review:

The suggestions of the reviewer provided valuable assistance to ongoing project planning. The review identified two critical issues needing to be addressed if the project was to achieve its overall purpose: the formal gazettement of the Nantu National Park and the likely impact of the transmigration settlement. Recent progress has been made on both these issues: a national government team has visited the site (part of the Ministry of Forestry's assessment procedure for proposed National Parks) and is currently submitting its recommendations to the Minister. As a result of Darwin project efforts the transmigration project has, to date, been stopped and no Javanese settlers have been moved to the site. Transmigration officials are not therefore currently represented in the stakeholder forum, although they would be invited to join should this project go ahead.

Training of local assistants in reserve protection and management began in December 2004 (the first month of the project) and has been continuous since that time.

Social research as recommended in the final report review of Darwin project 162/09/12 has begun with PhD field research on local stakeholder perceptions of biodiversity in Gorontalo (July – Oct. 2005).

Selection of other research topics and participants for the field research programme is scheduled for October 2005. All outputs and milestones have been advanced by eight months against the original schedule as Darwin funding for this project became available in November 2004.