

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report

Project Ref. No.	13-028
Project Title	Establishment and management of Nantu National Park, Gorontalo Province, Sulawesi
Country	Indonesia
UK Organisation	University of Oxford – Wildlife Conservation Research Unit
Collaborators	Yayasan Adudu Nantu Internasional (YANI, local NGO), Gorontalo University, Bupati and local government in Gorontalo district
Report date	31 st October 2006
Report No	HYR 2
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:

MSc student begins course (original date Sept. 2005, revised Sept. 2006): This milestone has been achieved. Mr. Rachmad Djaba began an MSc course in Conservation at Gorontalo State University.

Project website completed (original date Dec. 05, revised Aug. 2006): This milestone was partly achieved. A project website is in existence and will shortly be further updated.

All programmes continuing (2006):

Schools' programme: Nantu scholars made good progress during this period, Rofika Lihawa achieving 2nd prize in her class at the end of her first school year and Tonis Gole 7th place. A highly popular Nantu Forest colouring competition was organized with the Gorontaloese local government to coincide with National Environment Day: 50 children and their parents attended this event, which was held at the Grand Tower, Limboto. Awards were presented to the winners at the National Environment Day ceremony in Gorontalo (17th June). The commentaries for Nantu educational films were also prepared by script-writer Ilsa Sharp.

Training programme: a three-day residential public awareness and training event was organized and held at the Darwin training centre (9th-11th June). It was attended by 45 local participants, including villagers, local parliament members, provincial police, village heads, transmigrants, village school-teachers and Gorontalo University students. It also included small group discussions, leading to recommendations on boundary marking and participatory management. A meeting of the Nantu stakeholder forum was convened on 11th June to coincide with this event.

Participatory management plans: Preparatory work for this milestone was carried out. The team to prepare these plans was selected. One hundred and twenty households located along the entire southern boundary (20 km) of the Nantu Reserve were visited by a team of Darwin staff, Gorontalo University students, and local wildlife department staff (Aug.). This activity encompassed both local and transmigration areas. Discussions were held at each household about local participation in reserve protection, specifically regarding participation in protecting the section of boundary nearest to their house. This door-to-door approach was well received;

no burning whatsoever has taken place inside the reserve within the dry season, in stark contrast to most other forested areas in Indonesia.

Participatory research programmes: Steps towards this milestone were: hosting of Harvard University botanist Dr. Cam Webb seeking a secure, pristine forest location to establish a long-term forest monitoring plot (June). Data analysis by Ani Kartikasari continued on Local perceptions of biodiversity conservation in Gorontalo, including preparation of conference papers for planned presentations at Macquarie University, Australia and Waikato University, New Zealand. Weekly monitoring of North Sulawesi's bushmeat trade continued throughout this period and analysis (in collaboration with Dr. E.J. Milner-Gulland) is ongoing.

Nantu Protection Unit: this unit was operational throughout this period, conducting daily patrols to protect the Nantu Forest from illegal logging, slash-and-burn clearance and wildlife poaching. As a result of project activities the Nantu Forest was safe from destruction throughout this period.

Boundary marking completed: (original date 2005, revised 2006): This milestone was partially completed. A survey of the entire southern boundary of the reserve was conducted (June) by a team of Darwin staff, Gorontalo University students and local wildlife department officials, to check the condition of the boundary. A colour poster to publicise the reserve's boundary was prepared and twelve framed copies were distributed to key village, transmigration and government offices. This poster was used by the Bupati to publicize the reserve boundary to villagers during a visit to Pangahu (Sept).

Income-generating programmes with partners begin (original date 2005, revised 2006): Further funds have not yet become available from other partners to expand the project's income-generating programmes.

Additional outputs and activities were:

French television documentary: This project hosted a team of 16 persons from French television who filmed project work at the Nantu Forest (April). This TF1 "Ushuaia Nature" documentary will be screened in 2007 and the Darwin Initiative will be acknowledged on this.

Funding applications were made to the UNDP "Equator Prize" and to the NGO WildAid.

Health needs: Two American medical doctors visited the Nantu area (17th - 20th June) as part of an Indonesia-wide survey for a site to establish a hospital, where medical assistance would be linked to forest conservation. Their visit was facilitated by this Darwin project.

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
in..... (month/yr)	
Changes to the project schedule/workplan:	no in.....(month/yr)

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