

Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2009)

Project Ref. No.	162/16/005
Project Title	Biodiversity inventory and monitoring for conservation of threatened Sumatran forest
Country(ies)	Indonesia
UK Organisation	The RSPB
Collaborator(s)	Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew FORRU FORDA Bogor Herbarium
Project Leader	Jeremy Lindsell
Report date	31 October 2009
Report No. (HYR 1/2/3/4)	HYR3
Project website	www.harapanrainforest.org

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

Baseline biodiversity inventory – bird and mammal surveys continue, now as part of a systematic monitoring scheme covering the southern half of the site. Camera trap surveys have added three mammal species to the site list. Additions to the avifauna have also been made. Photographic records are being collected for butterfly species, with identification carried out by M. Davies of the RSPB.

Monitoring key biodiversity – methods used for surveying and monitoring birds and mammals are agreed and in use in site-wide biodiversity surveys. Each location is visited by the research team for bird, mammal and habitat surveys, and includes six mammal transects (direct and indirect surveys), 60-72 bird survey points and associated habitat plots, and 8-13 camera traps positioned for one month. Guidelines for monitoring biodiversity are being drafted.

Focused ecological research – Additional funds have been raised for studying sun bears (population study), gibbons (population study) and hornbills (nesting and feeding ecology). Sun bears are being surveyed using 21 camera traps and from line transects in study locations, gibbons are surveyed from listening points that overlap with bird/habitat plots in the study locations, while the hornbill work is about to get underway prior to the main breeding season, and will include a second tree climbing training course, further nest box construction, and commencement of a basic feeding ecology study of these important seed dispersers.

Training and capacity-building – A permanent team of five research assistants recruited from the project's forest patrol team now work for the research division of Harapan Rainforest. They have been trained in mammal (transects, signs, camera traps, gibbons), bird (transects), and habitat survey techniques. Training activities have introduced local staff to selected biodiversity survey techniques: each month, two forest patrol staff join the research team for 10-14 days for biodiversity survey training, working in the field alongside the team. Training courses are being planned to include staff from the provincial government wildlife protection office.

Training centre – members of Bogor herbarium have visited Harapan Rainforest to conduct botanical surveys, including surveys for *Gonystylus* spp. as part of the International Tropical

Timber Organisation-CITES project on international trade in CITES-listed timber species. The project is trying to develop a long-term research collaboration with IPB, and has developed a strong link with the provincial wildlife protection office.

Comments from review of last annual report to be addressed – Dissemination plan: revisions have been made to the standard output measures in the course of mid term review and dissemination plan has been elevated to full output status -see below. Update on fundraising: we are on the verge of securing a further 5 years of funding for the management of the site which will ensure ongoing monitoring work can be maintained on site. However, the sustainability of the Darwin work is invested in the resulting trained staff and the contribution to the development of operation of ecosystem restoration concessions under Indonesian forestry law, which is sustained irrespective of particular funding for this site.

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.

A change in the management structure/personnel at Harapan Rainforest has meant re-addressing some logistic issues, such as transportation support. These changes will not affect the budget but have delayed survey activities.

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

Proposed changes to the original agreement were discussed during a mid-term review visit by Pat Hardcastle. These changes have been agreed by both parties and made to the project outline. This includes revision to the standard output measurements table as raised in last review of annual report. One of the main outputs has now become an explicit dissemination activity, in order to influence the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry to alter the monitoring requirements for ecosystem restoration concessions since at present these are designed for extractive concessions and place an unreasonable mensuration burden on restoration managers. It now becomes a key output of the Darwin to develop suitable, efficient and effective alternative methods to be presented to the ministry at the end of the Darwin project but which will undoubtedly initiate an ongoing discussion with Harapan Rainforest thereafter.

Discussed with the DI Secretariat: ~~no~~/yes, in August 09 (P Hardcastle) (month/yr)

Changes to the project schedule/workplan: no/yes, 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?

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 or budget should not be discussed in this report but raised with the Darwin Secretariat directly.

Please send your **completed form email** to Eilidh Young, Darwin Initiative M&E Programme at Darwin-Projects@ectf-ed.org.uk . The report should be between 1-2 pages maximum. **Please state your project reference number in the header of your email message eg Subject: 14-075 Darwin Half Year Report**