Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2010)

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 2010

Report No. (HYR

1/2/3/4)

HYR4

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 whole of the site. Camera trap surveys have generated large datasets for a number of important species and these data are being analysed for publication. No new bird or mammal species additions have been made to the site lists. Photographic records continue to be collected for butterfly species. Identification of these may now be possible through a new project partner, The Nature Society of Singapore. In August 2010, The Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) conducted a rapid survey of Lepidoptera and Coleoptera. This is part of their UNESCO project on the mitigation of climate change using arthropods as bioindicators. The results of this will be provided to the project.

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. Camera traps follow two basic survey designs: one for occupancy analysis and one for density estimation. Written guidelines for monitoring biodiversity beyond the Darwin project are being drawn-up. These will consider areas of different restoration activities within the site.

Focused ecological research – Additional funds have been raised for studying sun bears (habitat association; the second project specifically for sun bears). Basic habitat requirements of sun bears are being surveyed using a number of habitat plots both with and without indirect signs of bears. These data will be combined with camera trapping data to gain a better understanding of the distribution of sun bears within the site. The previous projects focusing on gibbons and hornbills have now finished and the end of project reports were submitted in September/October 2010. Presentations on the gibbon surveys and camera trapping of sun bears and tapirs were given at the Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation 2010 international symposium.

Training and capacity-building – The permanent team of five research assistants conduct all biodiversity surveys currently operated, having received full training in mammal, bird and habitat surveys. The project is now focusing on developing their theoretical understanding of the practical activities, including how the information is used and disseminated. In September 2010, the Wildlife Conservation Society – Indonesian Programme led an 8-day training course

on surveying elephants, including conducting the first surveys specifically for elephants in the site. All research staff participated in this alongside eight forest patrol staff. In October 2010, LIPI conducted a one-week training course in invertebrate surveying for project and external trainees – this is part of their UNESCO project (see above). Seven project staff joined this training alongside trainees from the national parks network.

Training centre – Members of LIPI's zoological division have visited the project site to conduct invertebrate surveys, as part of their UNSECO project. The project has begun a voluntary programme through which two graduate volunteers at a time join the research team for three months to receive training in a range of survey activities. They will receive a reference, certificate and stipend. The project has an informal arrangement to take under-graduate students from the Agricultural University in Bogor (IPB) to support important research areas. The project maintains a strong link with the provincial wildlife protection office. Members of Goettingen University visited the site in August 2010 to discuss the possibility of conducting collaborative long-term experimental monitoring of reforestation and forest processes.

Comments from review of last annual report to be addressed – 'Develop and put into practice a plan for increasing communication with the [Ministry of Forestry] MoF to maximise the possibility that the project's recommendations for improving monitoring of ecological restoration concessions may be acted upon'. We are trying to increase communication through more frequent discussions with the MoF but feel while the results of any improvements they are willing to make will take place as a result of this project's effort, this will happen after project completion.

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.

There have been some difficulties in securing labour to assist in preparing survey sites, which meant one set of surveys could not be completed; this delayed all planned surveys by one month. No other developments have had any negative influence on the project over the last six months. Recent expansion of the management staffing of Harapan Rainforest should increase support of project activities.

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

No changes have been discussed or made to the original agreement in the reporting period

Discussed with LTS: no/yes, in....... (month/yr)

Formal change request submitted: no/-yes, in......(month/yr)

Received confirmation of change acceptance no/-yes in.....(month/yr)

3. Do you expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?
Yes No X
If yes, and you wish to request a carryforward of funds, this should be done as soon as possible. It would help Defra manage Darwin funds more efficiently if you could give an indication of how much you expect this request might be for.
Estimated carryforward request: £

4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's 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 <u>planned</u> modifications to your project schedule/workplan or budget should <u>not</u> be discussed in this report but raised with LTS International directly.

Please send your **completed form by email** to Eilidh Young at Darwin-Projects@ltsi.co.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: 17-075 Darwin Half Year Report