

Darwin Initiative/Darwin Plus Projects Half Year Report (due 31st October 2021)

Project reference	28-004
Project title	Halting biodiversity declines through enhanced community wellbeing in Indonesia
Country(ies)/territory(ies)	Indonesia
Lead organisation	Yayasan Inisiasi Alam Restorasi Indonesia (YIARI)
Partner(s)	ASRI
Project leader	<i>Karmele Llano Sanchez</i>
Report date and number (e.g. HYR1)	<i>31 October 2021, HYR1</i>
Project website/blog/social media	

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 end September).

The project start date is 1 October 2021, so this report will mainly respond to queries received in the feedback letter.

1) Clarifying the link between livelihood interventions and biodiversity outcomes (“e.g. just selecting loggers for livelihood interventions does not guarantee that they will stop logging”)

- *In Batutegi Forest, livelihood interventions for community farmers will be carried out at the same time as community-led patrols and socialisation of the ‘Anggaran Dasar/Anggaran Rumah Tangga’ (AD/ART) which are the local laws and regulations for farming groups.*
- *Patrols are mandatory for members of the farming groups. In addition to ensuring active participation and a more thorough understanding of how the forest is managed and what uses are permitted, they also provide added security to the local area. Until now the patrols have not been carried out systematically or effectively. The project will support customary governance structures where democratically elected leaders socialise customary law and deal with violations of the farming law through sanctions (there is often a warning system depending on the severity of the crime). If the matter cannot be dealt with internally, the heads of the farming community will hand the case over to Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan (KPH – Provincial Forest Management Unit) or the police.*
- *In Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (BBBR NP) buffer communities, YIARI is currently providing employment opportunities for 100 community members (70 permanent and 30 part-time) who were previously involved in logging. Target communities benefit from employment opportunities and livelihoods support but are also supported to enhance skills, literacy and are given access to reduced cost health-care and free family planning. They receive support from the project because they have voiced or shown the willingness to disengage from illegal activities within the National Park borders when given a chance. Many community members have made it clear in the past that given the choice they would*

rather abandon illegal logging activities due to the harshness of working conditions. Loggers often spend weeks at a time in the forest, cutting down a few large trees per day. They haul logs out to the river along a wooden track on a makeshift two-wheel dolly, sometimes on their shoulders, to transport downstream. For their efforts, they earn roughly US\$ per day.

- Monitoring is carried out by “Forest guardians” to ensure logging is not carried out (more details in the following section)

2) Better explaining the healthcare component

- In 2015, YIARI conducted comprehensive social assessments in numerous villages surrounding BBR NP as part of understanding the site’s suitability for orangutan reintroductions. The villages of Nusa Poring and Mawang Metatai were selected as most suitable. Identified challenges included healthcare issues such as lack of access to trained midwives and high infant mortality, a need for birth control and immunizations, and poor hygiene, especially in terms of drinking from contaminated water sources. While illegal logging and animal trafficking were occasionally identified as livelihood strategies locally, there was also evidence that people embraced these livelihoods as a “last resort” because of lack of opportunities, widespread poverty and sometimes because of having to pay for expensive healthcare.
- YIARI and ASRI recognise that affordable healthcare is firstly essential to local wellbeing and secondly an effective incentive system to gain trust and facilitate behaviour change. The model has been trialled in 21 villages around Gunung Palung National Park. Through the healthcare–conservation exchange intervention project in BBR NP, ASRI’s clinics (one in Mawang Mentatai, and one in Nusa Poring) will offer tiered healthcare discounts to 6 sub-villages that decrease illegal logging and hunting activities in the NP, based on monthly monitoring by ASRI Forest Guardians (9 local guardians from the local community whose job it is to monitor illegal activities in the forest). Accountability is at the sub-village level and loggers and hunters are therefore subject to peer pressure to stop illegal activities so that the whole sub-village is able to enjoy the benefits of low-cost healthcare. Higher performing sub-villages receive the largest discounts (the highest tier is green - 70% discount, followed by yellow - 50%, and red - 30%). The health clinic also provides alternative payment options for what’s left of the treatment cost including bartering options (seedlings, manure used in conservation activities, plastic waste and also ‘Chainsaw Buyback’ where chainsaws are surrendered to the clinic to pay for the remainder of their health care balance).
- ASRI has a good track record in implementing the “healthcare for conservation behaviour” model. This project will provide an opportunity for comparisons between ASRI’s project sites – Gunung Palung National Park (where ASRI reported an 89% decrease in illegal logging through healthcare provision, skills development and employment) and BBR NP. YIARI and ASRI started their collaboration in BBR NP in 2019.
- In its first year (2020) both clinics in the BBR NP area combined had 741 visitations from 216 individuals from Mawang Mentatai village and 854 visitations from 457 individuals from Nusa Poring village with 20 chainsaw units being used as health care payments. Furthermore, through the health care–conservation exchange intervention project, 70 YIARI Forest Guardians (who are employed to facilitate orangutan reintroductions and monitor wildlife) are benefit from free healthcare at the ASRI clinic.

3) Clarify what proportion of the forest-edge community will be engaged

- In BBR NP the project will engage approximately 30% of forest edge communities (~350 households out of ~1,000 estimated).
- The project will engage 100% of farmers active in and around the area bordering Batutegi Forest’s protected zone (Block Inti). The focus will be on the area managed by three farming groups (Gapoktan) in Batutegi that covers the entire border of the protected zone within Batutegi. There are around 470 members in each Gapoktan, so an approximate

total of 1,400 farmers will be engaged and the project aims for at least 50% of those engaged to report positive impacts (~700).

- *Community farmers will be engaged through the implementation of the system to protect habitat (patrols, border demarcation, installation of information boards etc). The key members of the groups (37 people) will be actively involved in the organisation and ensuring the implementation of activities, but many more will be involved through day to day activities.*
- *In terms of livelihood interventions/sustainable farming practices, the project will aim to support community stakeholders in supporting several farming group representatives from each group (a total of 20 people) that will be trained and provided with demonstration plots that the other farmers can learn from.*

4) Where does the 10% income uplift come from?

- *The project is aiming to improve the quality and the variety of crops grown in target villages through capacity building and working alongside farmers.*
- *One of the main barriers faced by farmers around BBR NP is accessing transport to bring their harvest to local markets. Through the provision longboats, the farming community will be able to transport its crops to market more easily and cheaply. We expect farmers to be able to reach markets more frequently and in shorter timeframes, thereby being able to sell more, higher-quality produce at better prices.*
- *The project will monitor the number of households from Nusaporing village reporting an increase in income through selling vegetables and sugar cane at traditional markets in Menukung and Serawai.*
- *The project will also support rice farmers to use unproductive, already cleared land in Nusaporing Village.*

5) There is an assumption that the market analysis has been done to inform the products for market but it is not clear what this is based upon

- *We are not sure we understand the question, but there has not yet been a systematic market analysis. The project is adopting approaches similar to those described in BEAM (Building Effective and Accessible Markets) Exchange <https://beamexchange.org/market-systems/>*

6) Explaining the role of this Darwin project in terms of previous, long-running work in the area, on which this project builds;

- *In 2008, YIARI conducted a biodiversity survey in Batutegi Protected Forest which confirmed the forest's high biodiversity value, and the existence of Sumatran tigers in the area (Sánchez et al. 2010). The detection of tigers in Batutegi was particularly significant, as they had previously been considered extinct. This find helped to reinforce the need to protect this unique ecosystem in terms of both the wildlife and the humans that depend on its ecological services. Consequently, a Conservation Action Plan was produced, which included recommendations for the management of the area. The Provincial Forestry Service (Dinas Kehutanan Lampung) implemented these recommendations and established a new Forest Management Unit, KPHL, who was charged with managing and protecting the area. In 2009, YIARI signed a MoU with the Dinas Kehutanan and KPHL for the collaborative management and implementation of the Conservation Action Plan. Since 2009, YIARI has assisted KPH in biodiversity monitoring, education and awareness of local communities, capacity building of KPHL staff, reforestation, agroforestry, and the reintroduction and post-release monitoring of seized primates.*
- *In 2015, YIARI conducted habitat suitability analyses, orangutans nest survey and socio-economic survey confirming BBR NP as a suitable long-term orangutan reintroduction programme. In the following years, YIARI reintroduced/released 51 orangutans (21 males and 30 females) into this NP (at the time of the original proposal 46 had been released and 5 were released in August 2021). We have also undertaken post-release monitoring of these individuals and the habitat through biodiversity and phenology surveys and*

carried out community-based work to encourage local buy-in of the programme. On the evaluation of these results, YIARI garnered support from the local communities and the NP authorities to not only conduct science-based orangutan reintroductions but to also support the development of sustainable livelihoods, increase education levels and encourage the links between culture and conservation. So far, YIARI employ over 70 local people from the communities for fieldwork, provided job opportunities for a further 30, assisted in capacity building, carried out a series of educational activities, workshops and outreach, conducted participatory mapping and feasibility studies to identify livelihood opportunities, and has piloted a number of activities to support and engage local farmers in sustainable livelihoods, such as organic farming and agroforestry.

- *Based on the lessons learned in this landscape, we know that illiteracy and low levels of education more generally are major limiting factors to the success of our community-based conservation efforts. Therefore, in this project, YIARI will focus on expanding our community education and literacy programmes to reach a greater number of people — mainly children and women — and provide them with essential skills for their future, while debating environment and wildlife issues and conservation alternatives. The Darwin Project will build on these efforts and take a Planetary Health approach — by helping to reinforce the linkages between the health of people, animals and the environment.*
- *Southeast Asia is a hotspot region for the emergence of infectious diseases due to substantial changes in population growth and agricultural practices aligned with climate conditions and biodiversity richness. These factors increase the contact between wildlife, domesticated animals and humans, favouring the emergence of novel pathogens and re-emergence of known diseases, such as malaria and dengue. To lower chances of another pandemic and ensure that wildlife is not further threatened by reverse zoonoses, in the Darwin project we will expand our educational project to reach a higher number of local people in the landscape through an integrated approach, ensuring forest-edge communities (i.e., hotspots for emerging zoonoses) are aware of the risks that human-wildlife interfaces pose to their health. Using the current pandemic as an awareness window, YIARI will work with the target communities to raise awareness and improve health standards to reduce the risk of zoonosis transmission, further engaging the communities in conservation through a Planetary Health approach, whilst simultaneously building the capacity of village ambassadors and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project.*
- *Furthermore, YIARI has forged good relationships with KPHL and BBR NP officials, cultural leaders and other stakeholders in both BPF and BBR NP, and are now ideally placed to facilitate a more participatory and collaborative approach to the local governance, sustainable management and protection of biodiversity.*

7) Co-finance update:

8) Clarifying the numbers of beneficiaries in the Outcome and Output statements with those in the Indicators

- *From a total of ~3,000 women, men and children beneficiaries we expect that by the end of the project about 20% (600 will report an income increase) and 50% (1,500) report improved non-monetary wellbeing from access to increased access to education, skill development, knowledge, healthcare and opportunities to participate in local governance).*
- *Our targets aim at directly benefitting 2,000 people through low-cost access to health care, 600 farmers through capacity building and direct assistance for improved livelihoods, 700 farmers through governance, 20 people through direct employment, 100 women through access to literacy courses, 20 children via the scholarship programme. Some of the recipients of low-cost healthcare will also benefit from employment, capacity building, education and awareness raising etc. Although our partner ASRI is preparing to provide healthcare to approximately 2,000 people, likely, the number of people benefiting*

from healthcare in our two main target villages is closer to 1,500. The remaining 500 are still for villagers bordering BBBR but unlikely to be for our target 2 villages. This has now been corrected in the log frame. We also attached a simple table with this report to clarify numbers of beneficiaries.

- We are unsure how much overlap there will be between beneficiary “types” at this stage, but the project will as far as possible try to ensure the largest number of local community members can benefit from the project.
- The project will pay particular attention to avoiding any form of elite capture.

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.

The project has just started, however, because most of the key project staff either live locally or within driving distance, we don't anticipate severe delays or disruptions.

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.

We take precautions – wear masks at all meetings, conduct meetings outdoors and keep meetings small (up to 30 people), but field operations are otherwise continuing as normal. At this stage, we do not foresee any substantial changes to either budget or timetable.

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:

No

Formal change request submitted:	No
Received confirmation of change acceptance	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 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 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 Darwin-Projects@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: 25-001 Darwin Half Year Report**