

Darwin Initiative for the Survival of Species

Half Year Report Form

Project Title	Conservation of the Paguyaman Forest in North Sulawesi, Indonesia.
Country	Indonesia
Organisation	Imperial College London
Project Ref. No.	09/012
Report date	30 th September, 2001

1. Outline progress over the last 6 months against the agreed baseline timetable for the project.

The key milestones itemised in the revised project implementation timetable were as follows:

- March – May: Curriculum materials prepared for local school-children and local undergraduate training courses. Visitor guiding and reserve guarding training programmes prepared. A twelve-page illustrated children's booklet featuring conservation games, poems, a dictionary and information on the Paguyaman Reserve has been prepared by Lynn Clayton. Other parts of this milestone have not yet been implemented.
- June – August: Visitor guiding and reserve guarding training courses started. This milestone has not yet been implemented.
- August: NGO constituted and first meeting held: All necessary preparation work for the formulation of this NGO has been completed. Final registration of NGO will be completed with Gorontaloese lawyers in early October.
- Mobile anti-poaching patrol established and is operational hereafter: This was established in December 2000 and has conducted two anti-poaching operations to date. Further operations are planned in the next few months.
- Reserve boundary marking carried out: This milestone was implemented in November 2000, earlier than anticipated. Boundary maps were finalised by local government departments in April 2001.
- Research and monitoring programmes continue: Weekly monitoring of numbers of babirusa and other protected wildlife on sale in local markets has been carried out continuously throughout this period. Other research work at Paguyaman has begun and is ongoing.
- MSc student: An extremely committed Gorontaloese student has been identified, but a problem remains over his lack of English language.

Additional milestones achieved:

- Two international television features: Lynn Clayton and project assistants worked with BBC television filming babirusa at Paguyaman for the new David Attenborough series "Mammals of the World" (12th–27th May) and with Japanese television (NHK) on a 45-minute documentary on this project (18th Aug.–17th Sept.). The support of the Darwin Initiative will be fully

acknowledged in both films.

- Local awareness: The Assistant Governor of Gorontalo province visited this project (30th July); he gave talks to local communities and school-children, and observed babirusa and other wildlife first-hand. This visit was featured on Indonesian television (TVRI) news.

30 video-CD copies of the award-winning Indonesian television documentary on the Paguyaman Forest were made and distributed to local stakeholders; 1000 exercise books featuring conservation message on cover made and distributed to local primary school children (July); 30 desks and benches (each seating three pupils) made and donated to local primary school (July); twenty articles on project featured in local newspaper.

BBC cameraman Martyn Colbeck gave a talk at this primary school and wrote a children's story about the wildlife of the Paguyaman Forest. This has been translated into Indonesian and an artist is currently being sought to illustrate this book.

Illustrated video presentations on project given to provincial parliament (DPR) and to one secondary school in Gorontalo, and regular meetings held with Gorontalo University, local NGOs, Paguyaman district government, local and provincial police to discuss project work.

Project stand at exhibition in Gorontalo manned by local NGO colleagues showed project videos and gave talks about the Paguyaman Reserve (23rd – 29th Aug.).

Indonesian President Abdul Rachman Wahid visited Gorontalo and specifically mentioned the importance of this project in his presentation (July).

- Local parliament: Three hearings were held in the provincial parliament on this project. Lynn Clayton (LMC) and project counterpart Mr. A.H. Mustari (AHM) gave presentations at these on the importance of the Paguyaman Forest and work of this project. Following this six senior local parliament members made two-day field visit to this project (12th – 13th July). All parliament members saw babirusa and held an outdoor meeting at project base camp attended by all local stakeholders, at which a declaration giving full support for conservation of the Paguyaman Forest was agreed after open discussion. This event was covered by Indonesian television and local newspapers, and the declaration published in full there. It resulted in dramatically increased support for this project.
- Forest protection activities: Forest protection activities at the Paguyaman Reserve have continued throughout this period. Six special forces soldiers have been deployed continuously at the project base camp, supported by five project assistants. Continued vigilance is essential. During August an illegal timber dealer was detained within the reserve in the process of rafting 30 cubic metres (90 massive blocks) of illegal timber downriver. Legal proceedings are currently being brought against the illegal loggers with support from project staff. Project staff also continue to monitor illegal logging outside the reserve, and throughout Gorontalo province, which continues at an alarming rate.

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 effect the budget and timetable of project activities. Have any of these issues been discussed with the Department and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?

The project faced a major challenge in June in the form of a hearing organized by illegal loggers

and land clearers in the provincial parliament. The purpose of this was to destroy the project in order that a small number of persons with vested interests within the reserve could pursue logging and land clearance there. Numerous inaccurate accusations were made against the project at this hearing, and these were reported in a widely-read local newspaper (“Harian Gorontalo Post”).

Project staff were able to turn this serious threat into a major benefit for the project. All matters were clarified by LMC and AHM in the parliament at two subsequent one-day hearings. Six senior politicians made a two-day field visit to the Paguyaman Reserve with LMC and AHM to observe the situation first-hand. This was extremely successful (details in section 1). LMC and AHM gave interviews and articles to this newspaper, resulting in publication of fifteen positive features on this project. Extensive new contacts with senior politicians and local NGOs, and considerably increased local awareness about the importance of this reserve, resulted.

Preoccupation with this unforeseen challenge resulted in slippage of some agreed milestones. These will be implemented in the next six-month period.

A further problem encountered concerns the decision of the People’s Trust for Endangered Species not to provide the anticipated matched funding for this project. This matter has already been discussed with the Department. The outcome of an application for funding support to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is currently awaited.

3. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin’s management, monitoring, or financial procedures.

No.

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