

From Data to Action: Curbing Wildlife Crimes in Sumatra, Indonesia



The Wildlife Conservation Society – Indonesia Program

Contact: Dr Noviar Andayani

Wildlife Conservation Society - Indonesia Program

Jalan Pangrango No 8.

Bogor, 16151, Indonesia.

Email: nandayani@wcs.org

Webpage: www.wcs.org

Interim Report: June 2005

Summary

This report details activities in the period until June 2005. We give details of progress towards each objective and its outputs. WCU activities have concentrated on monitoring and investigation (with support for prosecution on an opportunistic basis) and on awareness activities. Behind the scenes WCS-Indonesia has been reassessing and consolidating its strategies for Tiger conservation and wildlife crime prevention in general. An outline of the new strategies are given below and will be a major focus to our work in the coming years.

Progress by June 2005

The project has four major objectives: A narrative summary of progress against each is given below:

Objective 1: To monitor, patrol, and facilitate law enforcement against Sumatran tiger sales.

The Lampung Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) conducted monitoring and investigation work throughout Lampung in the project period and exchanged information with similar groups and projects in other regions.

WCU investigations identified three poachers near Way Kambas National Park and a further two collectors in Ranau and Kota Agung, near Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. These poachers and collectors were also involved in illegal trading of ivory and rhino tusk. However, further investigation suggested that while Lampung and its parks continued to be a source of Tigers, the operation itself was being driven from elsewhere with the trade being conducted outside of the province including in Palembang, Medan, Jakarta, and Bali. This was further supported by the monitoring of 31 gold shops in Bandar Lampung between January and May 2005. Despite careful undercover investigation, no tiger parts were found being traded.

Wider investigation in the province suggested that on average only around two pieces of tiger skins were being traded locally every three months or so; less depending on supply. Small sections of Tiger skin around 10 cm² could be sold for around USD \$20-40 per piece, while a complete skin could fetch USD \$1,000. Besides skins, WCU made one record of tiger bone being traded in September 2004.

Since during the project period WCU was only operating in Lampung province, persuading traders and collectors across provincial borders was very difficult. However, WCU is seeking in late 2005 to expand its network and cooperation with authorities to adjacent provinces of South Sumatra, Bengkulu and Jambi, and if funding is successful, to the major trading hubs of Jakarta and Medan. See further details below.

In addition to patrolling and monitoring of trade the WCU also sought to actively prevent poaching and illegal killing of Tigers. This took two forms, firstly through the support and cooperation of the International Rhino Foundation's Tiger Patrol Unit, which was financially supported by WCS in early 2005 (funds from another project), and through a campaign to tackle human-Tiger conflict in villages adjacent to Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. Human-Tiger conflict can result in the killing of Tigers (whose parts then may enter trade) and can also act as a cover for deliberate poaching.

Between June 2004 and May 2005, the WCU team conducted eight patrols in potential areas for tiger-human conflicts around BBSNP. Those areas were Talang Enim, Padang Cermin, Pringsewu, Lampung Barat, Pulau Panggung, Batuteji, Merpas (Pekon Bukit Indah), and Kecamatan Neglasari Tanggamus. During that period, the WCU facilitated twelve consultative village meetings involving around 500 villagers who lived near the park boundary. These meetings were used to introduce wildlife conservation ideas and to promote alternative resolutions for wildlife-human conflict. Through a consultative process, we helped them developing simple low cost methods to drive out tigers which accidentally entered the villages.

As a preventive measure, we also encourage the villagers to built and design their livestock cages in places which are safe from tiger attacks.

The success of this Human-Tiger conflict work will now be pursued further under funding from Save the Tiger Fund. This will include more awareness work in more villages and the establishment of Tiger Ambassadors in each to continue to promote conservation and Human-Tiger conflict mitigation methods. A rapid response team has also been formed with local NGO partners and park staff to be able to quickly respond to any incidents.

Objective 2: Support the prosecution of poachers and traders.

In the period of June 2004-May 2005, WCU has supported BKSDA in processing five illegal cases, four of which involved wildlife smugglers and the remaining case related to an ivory collector in Bandar Lampung. A total of 135 life animals were confiscated from those operations, 26 of which were protected species. The animals were sent to a rescue and rehabilitation center in Sukabumi. Prosecution of the suspects is still in process.

Objective 3: To promote public awareness of tiger trade prohibition.

The WCU has been highly successful in raising the awareness and profile of Tiger conservation in the region. Through the WCU's collaboration with journalists, more than 30 articles have been published in local and national newspapers bringing tigers conservation and other protected species to a wide audience. The articles covered patrolling and law enforcement activities carried out by WCU during June 2004 to May 2005 to combat wildlife trades in Lampung. Details are given in Appendix 1 and cuttings can be provided on request.

In addition to the printed media, stories on legal processes against tiger poachers were broadcasted nationwide three times to all Indonesia by the nations leading TV stations (SCTV, RCTI, Indosiar, TV7, and Trans TV). Similarly talk show programs have been hosted on local radio stations.

The success of this media campaign has had a significant effect in strengthening the resolve of the local enforcement agencies, particularly the forestry department. As media articles jointly credit the agencies with the project achievements it has increased both their motivation and

pride. The success of this has led directly to our intention to adopt this media partnership approach at the national level as part of our new strategy.

Further awareness campaign activities have included the production of various education products, including posters, leaflet, pins, tiger footage, and a children's book story. Our campaign targets have included people living around protected areas and cities, government officials, judges, politicians, NGOs, and students. Over 20,000 campaign products have been distributed in Bandar Lampung, and other cities across the province. To introduce our efforts to stop tiger killing into a larger audience outside Lampung, we have participated in various conservation exhibitions in Bandung and Bogor. Additionally, at the time of this reporting, four WCU newsletters have been published, with one special edition on the Sumatran tigers.

The primary target for our tiger campaign is students at elementary schools around Bandar Lampung. In collaboration with DAUN (Lampung Institute for Conservation), a local NGO focusing on environment education, we have visited 14 elementary schools around this area. Through films, stage show, games, and interactive discussion, we have brought Sumatran tiger and its conservation needs into the attention of at least 700 students. We aim to reach 2,500 students in 50 elementary schools across Lampung by the end of June 2005.

We have prepared a CD-ROM with photos and film of some of the awareness activities. These will be sent by post together with examples of the awareness material itself.

The WCU is now currently preparing for a province-wide 'Tiger Day' for the beginning of June. This will include a host of activities in major cities (concentrating on the largest – Bandar Lampung). It is hoped that the Tiger Day will be opened by the Governor of Lampung and will include exhibitions, competitions and other entertainment. The production of the Tiger day has partly been enabled by the establishment of the 'WCU Friends' society, that currently includes 130 willing volunteers, mostly college students, who will help to host the event.

The Tiger day will be used to further distribute awareness material as will other WCS projects being conducted in Lampung, including CANOPI, under which information centers will be established in four towns and cities around Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. We are also hoping to arrange coordination meetings with other major Tiger conservation projects in Sumatra to pool the awareness resources we have each developed and to coordinate our strategy for greater effectiveness. We hope to hold these meetings (funding permitting) in late 2005.

Objective 4: Creation of a long-term program at a regional or national scale to stop illegal sales of tigers and other key wildlife species.

WCS Indonesia has reviewed and reassessed its work in tackling wildlife crime in general and the conservation of Tigers in particular over the last few months. Through consultation with partners this has led to the development of new interrelated strategies for both. These strategies will guide our work over the coming years.

Work is still underway in finalizing the accompanying documents (which will be sent on completion) but in summary the approaches recognize the major problems facing the abolition of wildlife crime and of Tiger conservation and the action needed to address it. These are shown in Appendix 2. In summary an outline of the strategies are given below:

Wildlife crime

We intend to build on the work establishing the Lampung WCU, kindly funded by 21st Century Tiger, to other other regions and the national scale. This will be achieved by four main simultaneous themes of work in Indonesia and two further themes internationally (not detailed here):

To build the national lobby for wildlife crime abolition.

The Government of Indonesia has recently shown a commitment to tackling illegal logging through the adequate resourcing of a central coordination agency, but failed to address wildlife hunting and trade under the same initiative. By working in collaboration with other partners and media we hope to mount a national media and lobby campaign to raise the profile and impact of wildlife crime and seek a presidential decree to add wildlife crime to the illegal logging initiative or to create a new adequately resources lead agency role. It is hoped this work will be initiated in late 2005 under initial funding from UNDP-GEF.

To build national coordination and authority

Simultaneously to lobbying for greater national coordination, we intend to work with the most likely lead agency, the Department of Forestry, to develop their capacity to provide that coordination. We hope this will be done in partnership with TRAFFIC and with funding initially from UNDP-GEF. We will focus on the capacity of the law enforcement section of Department of Forestry and also on the relevant sections of the judiciary. A possibility being investigated

now includes the tackling of wildlife crime through money laundering and financial crime legislation and talks are underway with the USAID Financial Crime Team about potential collaboration.

To build regional coordination and enforcement

We intend to build on the success of the Lampung WCU to promote similar low-cost collaborative approaches to law enforcement in other provinces. We intend to make visits in late 2005 to adjacent province authorities and to pilot a information database and network to enable cross-province coordination. It is our hope that as national coordination increases the national lead agency will be able to feed into and feed from these regional networks. We hope to fund this work under a variety of sources, including UNDP-GEF and smaller donors. We will seek to build on and integrate with other partners where they have already developed such networks locally, notably TRAFFIC.

To reduce national demand for illegal wildlife

By awareness raising activities, primarily through national media, we hope to bring about a cultural shift in peoples attitudes to wildlife crime. Though a tall order, we are undaunted. We intend to couple this activity in the first instance to the national media campaign, but to develop it further in the next two years through a national-level education campaign.

Tiger Conservation

We intend to build on the work of our current and previous projects and to integrate them into a coordinated plan of work, working to a single goal. We also intend to collaborate far more closely with other Tiger conservation projects operating in Sumatra, a process we have begun already. In outline our strategy for Tiger Conservation will include the following elements:

To address the illegal killing of Tigers

We recognize deliberate hunting and human-Tiger conflict as the main sources of illegally killed Tigers. We intend to tackle deliberate hunting through our Wildlife Crime strategy outlined above. We intend to tackle human-Tiger conflict through the development of our existing initiatives in Bukit Barisan and expansion initially to adjacent provinces. We hope to start this process in late 2005 by arranging workshops with key stakeholders in these provinces to map areas of conflict and to work with other Tiger conservation projects to pool our knowledge of the

best solutions. We then hope to take conflict awareness activities to hot-spot areas, coupled with other activities outlined below.

To address the destruction of habitat and unsustainable hunting of Tiger prey

As with human-Tiger conflict, we hope to first expand our activities from Lampung to adjacent provinces and to work with the existing stakeholders in those provinces to pool our knowledge and resources. We hope to initiate activities in late 2005 to identify Tiger distribution in southern Sumatra and highlight potential remaining populations. This will be followed, funding permitting, by rapid surveys (coupled to awareness and conflict mitigation work as above).

Simultaneous with this we intend to meet with other Tiger conservation projects to pool knowledge about ecology, management and monitoring to allow local solutions to be developed for any areas highlighted as important and not currently the subject of conservation measures. In developing such solutions we will draw on the successes of others and of WCS's own experiences in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park.

To tackle the illegal or unsustainable hunting of Tiger prey we will couple awareness raising activities with human-tiger conflict and site survey work and link the initiatives to new provincial WCU-like collaborative law enforcement teams.

Conclusions

We feel the project period reported here has been highly successful in many regards but thrown challenges for the future in others. We hope our period of reflection has strengthened our strategy for the conservation of Tigers in Indonesia and towards the goal of eradicating Wildlife crime. We are optimistic and excited about the future.

Appendix 1

List of articles published by WCU in local and national media to date (cuttings or translation available on request). Those indicated in bold are national newspapers.

- Berdesakan, 2 Ekor Kera Sitaan Mati, Lampung Post, 5 June 2004.
- BKSDA Amankan 52 Satwa Langka, Radar Lampung, 5 June 2004.
- Bawa Satwa Dilindungi, Seorang Nenek Ditangkap, Lampung Post, 6 June 2004.
- **Illegal logging, Poaching, Threaten Sumatran Elephants, The Jakarta Post, 10 July 2004.**
- Lagi, Nenek Bawa Puluhan Satwa di KA, Lampung Post 19, July 2004.
- **Bawa Satwa Langka, Seorang Nenek Ditangkap, Republika, 20 July 2004.**
- Bawa Satwa Dilindungi, Nenek Ditangkap, Lampung Post, 25 July 2004.
- Nenek Pedagang Satwa Liar Ditangkap Aparat BKSDA Lampung, 25 July 2004.
- BKSDA Sita Siamang di Pendopo, Lampung Post, 7 August 2004
- BKSDA Lepas 18 Kura-kura dan 15 Perhutut, Lampung Post, 11 August 2004.
- BKSDA Perketat Pengawasan di Stasiun KA, Lampung Post, 15 August 2004.
- Harimau Sumatera Dikirim Ke BKSDA, Lampung Post, 26 August 2004.
- Aneh, Kain Jins di Perut Harimau, Lampung Post, 6 September 2004.
- BKSDA Amankan Satwa Dilindungi, Radar Lampung, 22 September 2004.
- **Mengawasi Bakauheni, Menekan Teror, Kompas, 22 September 2004.**
- BKSDA Sita Hewan Dilindungi, Lampung Post, 22 September 2004.
- Lima Satwa Sitaan Mati dan Hilang, Lampung Post, 24 September 2004.
- BKSDA Limpahkan Kasus Pengrajin Gading, Lampung Post, 5 October 2004.
- BKSDA Diminta Tindak Pedagang satwa, Lampung Post, 9 October 2004.
- BKSDA Usut Perburuan Kera, 21 Radar Lampung, 21 October 2004.
- Lindungi Hutan Kita Sekarang, Radar Lampung, 21 October 2004.
- **SBY Didesak Peduli Lingkungan, 21 October 2004.**
- Kepunahannya Tinggal Menghitung Hari, Lampung Post, 22 October 2004.
- Berkas Perajin Gading Sampai Ke PN, Lampung Post, 23 October 2004.
- Perlu Dikaji Ulang Rencana Kebun Binatang dan Atraksi Gajah, 25 October 2004.
- Rencana Kebun Binatang Terus Menuai Kritik, Lampung Post, 1 November 2004.
- Lima Gajah PLG Dipindah Ke Taman Wisata Batuputu, Lampung Post, 10 November 2004.
- Hakim Tanyakan Barang Bukti 102 Pipa Gading, Lampung Post, 2 January 2005.
- Atraksi Gajah FWK Dinilai Penyiksaan, Lampung Post, 7 January 2005.

- Selamatkan Harimau Sumatera, Radar Lampung, 29 March 2005.
- WCU – DAUN Roadshow Harimau Sumatera, Lampung Post, 29 March 2005.
- **Harimau Di Lampung Puhah 2010, Kompas, 29 March 2005.**
- Konflik Harimau Vs Penduduk Meningkat, 2 May 2005.
- Cuma 2 Bulan Penjara Bagi Perajin dan Pemilik Pipa Gading, Newsletter WCU, July 2004.
- Harimau TNBBS Mati, Kain Jins dan Sandal Ada di Perutnya, Newsletter WCU, September 2004.
- Kisah Gila-Gilaan Kebun Binatang Lampung, Newsletter WCU, December 2004.
- Konflik Harimau Vs Manusia, Siapa Yang Menjadi Korban?, Newsletter WCU, Mei 2005.

Appendix 2

