

UPKKL

Environmental Conflict and Crime Unit of Berbak Ecosystem

*'Unit Penanggulangan Konflik dan Kejahatan Lingkungan Wilayah
Ekosistem Berbak'*

Interim report to 21st Century Tiger

Zoological Society of London

Indonesia Programme

Summary

As a result of funding received from 21st Century Tiger and the USFWS, a wildlife crime unit designed to deal with tiger poaching, illegal trading and other wildlife conflict has been established in Province of Jambi, Sumatra. The focus of the “Unit Penanggulangan Konflik dan Kejahatan Lingkungan” (UPKKL) in the first year is to have tangible and effective presence in the area, including establishing an informant network essential for its operation in the field, the team’s initial objectives are:

- To create a team sourced from Berbak National Park (BNP) forest police and Nature Conservation Agency (Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam (BKSDA)) forest police who will be on secondment to the unit.
- To undergo intensive training from the Kerinci Seblat Sumatran Tiger Protection and Conservation Team (PHSKS) on various aspects of wildlife crime and conflict management.
- To establish and build network across the Berbak region of local stakeholders and informants, to report any wildlife conflicts or crimes are observed.
- To ensure that the unit is able to act upon any wildlife crime or conflict reports.
- To initiate and undertake at least one major wildlife crime investigation based on substantiate reports and evidence.

During the first 6 months of funding the team received a month’s basic training from the Kerinci Seblat Sumatran Tiger Protection and Conservation Team (PHSKS) in Kerinci. This initial training focused on conflict mitigation protocols and models adopted by PHSKS, further ‘case-study’ led training is planned later in the year. After the UPKKL training was complete, the unit identified two specific areas to address; wildlife conflict and crime mitigation through socialisation and practical field operations.

Wildlife conflict issues were addressed in several meetings and consultations involving relevant institutions and law enforcement agencies, the key objective was to gain the cooperation and build relationships. Once in the field, the UPKKL team established networks within local communities, in areas specifically targeted due to their high frequency of known wildlife conflicts. The network to date includes twelve resident village rangers who will, in the future on occasion join the team and participate in selected field operations. An undercover informant from one area has also been recruited by the team, with the view to provide sensitive information on wildlife poaching, and illegal trafficking.

To re-enforce this network, periodic information meetings are being held with these communities and regular forest patrols in TN Berbak. As direct result of the communities’ involvement with the UPKKL, the unit has been informed of several tiger conflicts, which they have responded to, investigated and taken steps to mitigate any further conflicts. This commitment to resolve conflicts between tigers and the community has engendered respect for the team and their work across the region. Therefore although newly created, the unit has already proven to have worked efficiently and effectively in achieving their objectives, with sustained commitment to continued professional development to improve their performance.

Launching the Unit

In early February 2010, a wildlife crime unit '*Unit Penanganan Konflik dan Kejahatan Lingkungan*' (UPKKL) was created to deal with wildlife crime and conflicts in the Sumatran Province of Jambi. The unit main goal has been to establish a team created from government enforcement agencies, operating within the successful model created by the Kerinci Seblat Sumatran Tiger Protection and Conservation (Pelestarian Harimau Sumatra Kerinci Seblat (PHSKS)). For the first year, UPKKL is expected to accomplish five key objectives:

1. To source at least four members from the Berbak National Park (BNP) forest police and the Nature Conservation Agency or Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam (BKSDA) forest police to form the core of the Berbak wildlife crime unit.
2. To send the unit candidates and ZSL staff member on a two month training exercise with the PHSKS.
3. To facilitate an 'information network' across the Berbak region to ensure that reports of wildlife crime and conflict can be easily transferred to the unit.
4. To record and respond to all wildlife crime reports and possible conflicts within the grant period (within reason).
5. To initiate and undertake at least one major wildlife crime investigation.

To date UPKKL consists of a team leader Pak Nurazman (BKSDA) and a further two members from BKSDA Jambi and BNP and a member of the Forestry Department of Jambi (Dinas Kehutanan Muaro Jambi). The size of the unit was expanded to effectively staff the team, whilst allowing its members to continue with their work commitments. The unit attended wildlife conflict training conducted by highly successful PHSKS team in Kerinci National Park for a month, this training will continue for a further month once the UPKKL team has become established in Jambi

Establishing the informant network

The UPKKL decided upon two key strategies to deal with wildlife crimes and conflicts in Jambi. Firstly,



prevention activities which included communicating with related institutions, such as provincial police (POLDA), military (KOREM), the attorney general (Kejaksaan), conservation and forestry agencies and local communities. Meeting these agencies and people living in villages located in districts of Muaro Jambi, Tanjung Jabung Timur and Tanjung Jabung Barat, where frequent wildlife conflicts occurred was vital in establishing effective networks, both in the provincial capital and in the field.

To date the team has coordinated four meetings with POLDA, Secretary of Jambi governor, Dinas Kehutanan Muaro Jambi, and BNP introducing its program. This has produced very positive reactions with valuable relationships being formed, relationships which to date have resulted in wildlife conflicts occurring in their administrative areas, being immediately reported to the team.

Also a result of these links, UPKKL has already received calls from the chief police of Tanjung Jabung Timur and a military officer in the region, regarding separate tiger conflicts. The team has recorded five conflict reports from local communities and a palm oil plantation located near Berbak National Park, which may have illegally caged a tiger. In addition, the team has distributed tiger conflict posters through the district aimed at improving public awareness at the community level.

An undercover informant has been recruited by UPKKL to facilitate the gathering of intelligence relating to the illegal trade and poaching of endangered species. Volunteer community rangers from Muaro Jambi and Tanjung Jabung Timur, have been selected and will under go training prior joining the team.

Responding to wildlife conflicts

UPKKL has responded to two separate tiger conflicts both during March, which involved the severe wounding of one local villager and the death of another. The first confrontation occurred near Sungai Aur, Muaro Jambi where the victim was saved by fellow villagers and immediately rushed into a local hospital. The team carried out a hospital visit to the victim where he as interviewed about the nature and location of the attack. The UPKKL team has followed up this case by setting up a tiger trap in Sponjen for two weeks even though there was no tiger caught. The second case which resulted in the death of the victim occurred near Sponjen, Muaro Jambi, where the team has previously found evidence of the attack but not further signs of tiger presence. Procedures and equipment were put in place near the attacks in case the tigers returned, so that they could be targeted for capture and relocation.



UPKKL replied to three further tiger conflicts in local villages. During these conflicts four livestock were killed and several houses damaged by escaping livestock. Separately, the team responded a wildlife conflict in the village of Pandan Lagan Tanjung, Jabung Timur where a sunbear entered a home. In Rantau Rasau, Tanjung Jabung Timur, the team discussed with head of village regarding the conflict and instructed the community in the use of tiger scaring devices.

The team responded to tiger conflicts reported by two separate palm oil companies located in Mekar Sari (PT. Puri Hijau Lestari) and Sakeyan ((PT. Era Sakti Wita Forestama Saken) in Muaro Jambi. These conflicts did not result in human fatalities, but damaged property.

Patrolling forest territory

UPKKL conducted periodic forest patrolling in areas of Berbak ecosystem starting from Rantau Rasau to



Telago Limo where a snare used by poachers was found and removed. The team discussed with local community regarding tiger conflicts and shared constructive ideas on mitigating such conflicts effectively.

Patrol routes varied and adjusted to current field situation, to ensure the maximum amount of the park was covered and to increase the potential for poacher encounter. The team has undertaken action where necessary, which has included the removal of snares and the dismantling of a confirmed poachers hut.

Conclusions

Consisting of forest polices from BKSDA, BNP, and DK Muaro Jambi, the UPKKL team has worked successfully in dealing with wildlife conflicts in eastern part of Jambi. Although it is newly created and trained by PHSKS, it has built important partnerships with related institutions and local community. It has successfully approached law enforcement and forestry offices to provide information regarding these conflicts and for assistance investigating possible wildlife crimes.

The team has begun to create an effective information network including identifying a suit with community living in the surrounding area of Berbak National Park. It has recruited an informant to collect intelligent data and identified community rangers for further assistance in the field. In the field, the team has responded several tiger conflicts that involved in human and livestock casualties and other wildlife issue occurring in the region. It has conducted periodic forest patrolling in the area to take necessary actions related to wildlife crime and conflicts. In order to improve its knowledge and skill in dealing with the conflict, UPKKL prepares to join the PHSKS team for the second training in Jambi. In addition, the team has been developing a standard operational procedure to guide it in the field. More importantly, the UPKKL team has begun to be widely respected by public in Jambi for its dedication in resolving wildlife conflicts and crime.

Future work

In the following 6 months of funding the unit will continue to build upon sustaining and increasing the network of informants and channels of communication by advertising the role of UPKKL in the community including a poster campaign. At the governmental level a workshop will be held on 31st August, to which the country coordinator of ZSL Indonesian Dolly Priatna and Laura D’Arcy, the Head of the National Park, Head of BKSDA Jambi, head of DINAS Muaro Jambi Forestry, and a representative from DINAS Kehutan Provinsi will meet to discuss the potential future activities of the unit and potentially explore recruitment from the various DINAS in the future. The coordinator of UPKKL Pak Nurazman Nurdin (BKSDA), will continue to produce monthly reports on the activities of the team and wildlife crimes that have been identified and potential area’s of conflict, these reports are to be distributed to the various department head and will now be translated into English. Regular patrols of the Berbak National Park and the surrounding areas, to reduce the opportunities for poachers will continue.

A focus on response to wildlife crime and conflict reports will be undertaken in the second part of the training the unit will receive from (PHSKS, with practical case studies taken from reports received by UPKKL. This will provide the training necessary to refine the unit’s investigative skills so that should any wildlife illegal activities occur in this time, that they will be investigated using the correct procedures with a view to duly ensure the pursuit of a conviction by the relevant government bodies where possible.

Expenditure break down

	Grant allocation	Qtr 1 (Jan-Mar)	Qtr 2 (Apr-Jun)	Total spend	Money remaining
Training					
Coordination meetings TNKS, TNB, BKSDA	69.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.00
Training fees	828.00	414.00	0.00	414.00	414.00
Honorarium	414.00	207.00	0.00	207.00	207.00
Food	1034.00	517.00	0.00	517.00	517.00
Transport	138.00	69.00	0.00	69.00	69.00
Investigation practice	517.00	0.00	134.00	134.00	383.00
Support visits by PHSTKS rangers	552.00	0.00	294.00	294.00	258.00
Salaries					
UPKKL honorarium & Performance bonuses	2331.00	237.00	711.00	948.00	1383.00
Information network					
Intelligence and information network costs	1241.00	134.00	340.00	474.00	767.00
Trialling Community Ranger candidates	345.00	115.00	230.00	345.00	0.00
Coordination and institutional lobbying	186.00	72.00	0.00	72.00	114.00
Field responses					
Field responses to information received	1324.00	166.00	296.00	462.00	862.00
Investigation costs	690.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	690.00
Field equipment	390.00	256.00	65.00	321.00	69.00
Total in GBP	10059.00	2187.00	2070.00	4257.00	5802.00