

# FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

## I. BASIC DATA

**Organization Name:** Wildaid

**Project Title:** Assessment and Strategy for Protecting Wildlife and Timber Resources in the Gunung Leuser Ecosystem

## II. OPENING REMARKS

***Provide any opening remarks that may assist in the review of this report.***

In early 2003, WildAid received a grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to develop an assessment and strategy for protecting wildlife and timber resources in the Leuser Ecosystem in northern Sumatra, Indonesia. The project was originally to be a joint effort between WildAid and Conservation International (CI). CI withdrew from the project in September 2003 and WildAid received permission from CEPF to continue independently.

In addition to conducting considerable background research, members of the WildAid assessment team (Project Leader Steven Galster, Mark Bowman, John Boyd and John Gavitt) made several trips to Sumatra and other areas where illegal trade in wildlife and timber from the Leuser Ecosystem takes place. From April 21-26, 2004, three assessment team members carried out a reconnaissance effort in North Sumatra. Its main purpose was to explore options, such as the possibility of establishing a multi-agency Task Force for combating illegal activity in the Leuser Ecosystem.

As the Leuser International Foundation (LIF) is the sole non-governmental body authorized to manage the Leuser Ecosystem, WildAid worked to include its staff in all phases of the assessment. A final group discussion with the Leuser Management Unit (LMU), the body responsible for implementation of decisions of the LIF, resulted in the development of a potential structure for the Task Force. Visits were also made by team members to local wildlife markets in Medan, the port of Balawan, and to the Ecosystem boundary.

From June 8-25, 2004, three team members carried out the first phase of the assessment in North Sumatra, Aceh and Jakarta. The trip entailed meetings with the LMU (Medan, Banda Aceh); LBH – Human Rights NGO (Medan); the Agency for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (BKSDA) – (Medan and Banda Aceh); Forest Department (Medan); Undercover and Criminal Investigation Unit (Medan, Banda Aceh); Customs Department (Balawan Port); Courts (Medan); Australian Consulate (Medan); US Consulate (Medan); and US Embassy (Jakarta). An aerial survey of the Leuser Ecosystem was conducted with the Indonesia Navy to assess the area, terrain and illegal activities occurring in and around the Leuser Ecosystem.

Finally, a three-man WildAid assessment team traveled to Indonesia in November 2004 to interview LIF staff on the results of a workshop on protection of the Leuser Ecosystem. The WildAid team closed final gaps in background information and discussed preliminary recommendations with the relevant NGOs and law enforcement agencies. The team also traveled to Malaysia to discuss illegal wildlife trade in Sumatra with TRAFFIC officials.

It should be noted that assessment team members have been hampered in their access to important areas and contacts due to the continuing unrest in Aceh and other security concerns. In addition, the political situation in Indonesia and several delays outside of WildAid's control caused problems with timely completion of the assessment.

Budgetary and time constraints prevented WildAid from hosting a stakeholder workshop and conducting a series of meetings with recently appointed political figures. WildAid believes it would be more appropriate to complete these activities when funding is available to implement the proposed strategy contained in this document. However, as noted above, assessment team members did meet with LIF staff members to obtain as much information as possible about the workshop that was held recently with government officials on protection of the Ecosystem.

The most important goal for this project is that of implementation of a protection strategy for the Leuser Ecosystem. WildAid will be grateful for any assistance that the CEPF can provide to set the stage for achieving this goal.

The recent tsunami off the coast of Sumatra, resulting in terrible devastation and human losses there and in other countries in the Region, will undoubtedly delay steps for implementation of a strategy to protect the Leuser Ecosystem. However, the re-building of Aceh province alone will require extensive use of timber and other local resources. Therefore, the need for management and protection of the Leuser Ecosystem is even greater now than in December 2004, when the assessment was completed.

### III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

**Project Purpose:** Trained, equipped and financially supported actors are effectively protecting the Leuser Ecosystem and this strategy is replicated in other areas in Sumatra.

#### Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Purpose-level:</b>	
1.1 Protection strategy implemented and in place in at least one other core area of Sumatra within 2 years after completion of the project.	Purpose-level targets have been delayed. These targets were not the responsibility of WildAid under this Project. WildAid's responsibility was limited to providing an assessment that contains a strategy for implementation that is achievable with additional funding.
1.2 An effective team of park rangers and other actors, as specified in the strategy, are implementing at least 75% of the articulated elements of the strategy (implementation of priority elements begun by the end of 2004). *The term "Park Rangers" or "Rangers" refers to any enforcement officers involved in protection efforts within the Leuser Ecosystem.	See 1.1
1.3 Initial elements, as defined in the strategy, are fully funded by the end of 2004 – amount to be determined by the strategy.	See 1.1

***Describe the success of the project in terms of achieving its intended impact objective and performance indicators.***

WildAid has successfully completed a threats- and needs- assessment of the Leuser Ecosystem. In its report, WildAid included a 5-year strategy for strengthening the protection of the Ecosystem, focusing on three main areas:

First and foremost, the strategy calls for development of a **Leuser Protection Task Force** at the national level to combat significant environmental crime within the Ecosystem for a three-year period. The Task Force would contain several sections that would provide specialized logistical support during all phases of this law enforcement effort, ranging from intelligence-gathering to prosecution. There would also be a section on public affairs to help ensure public understanding of, and support for Task Force activities. Under the proposal, WildAid would offer on-site technical support in establishing Task Force policy and procedures, coordinating specialized law enforcement training and monitoring law enforcement activities. The LIF would be responsible for all areas of Task Force administration.

Second, WildAid recommends the creation of a **Leuser Protection Committee System** to more effectively utilize existing law enforcement agencies responsible for Ecosystem protection at the National, Provincial, and District levels. These Committees would identify significant threats to resources within their particular areas and recommend to enforcement agencies ways to address such threats. The Committees would also be a valuable source of information to the Task Force, which would be available to respond in cases of significant resource destruction and where local officials are unable or unwilling to take action.

Third, WildAid recommends a **Malacca Straits Working Group on Environmental Crime** to address international smuggling of timber and wildlife from the Ecosystem and other areas in the region. The Malacca Straits region - encompassing Indonesia (Aceh, North Sumatra), Singapore and the west coasts of Malaysia and Thailand - is a hub for illegal trade. The Working Group would enable Customs officers and other key enforcement personnel to meet on a regular basis, share intelligence and take enforcement action within their respective agencies to address illegal trade.

Although WildAid has included an action plan and budget for implementation each of these three initiatives, it should be emphasized that these are concepts only. Further consultation with all stakeholders concerned should precede any formal discussions for funding any of these initiatives.

***Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?***

Assessment team members have been hampered in their access to important areas and contacts due to the continuing unrest in Aceh and other security concerns. In addition, the political situation in Indonesia and several delays outside of WildAid’s control caused problems with timely completion of the assessment.

**IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS**

**Planned vs. Actual Performance**

Indicator	Actual at Completion
<b>Output 1:</b> Pre-Assessment information gathering completed (April 30, 2003).	Information from CI was requested until it withdrew from the project in <b>October 2003</b> .
1.1 WildAid requests background information on the	WildAid received information from CI Indonesia until

Leuser Ecosystem from CI Indonesia. Please refer to logframe or performance tracker for subject list. This list removed due to Excel limitations.	its withdrawal from the project in October 2003. Receiving permission from CEPF to move forward independently, WildAid continued to develop seek information through other sources.
1.2 WildAid receives response(s) to its request for background information from CI Indonesia. After April 30, 2003 WildAid is kept current by CI Indonesia of events that may affect the reconnaissance mission and assessment.	See 1.1
1.3 As responses are received from CI Indonesia, project leader distributes response(s) from CI to members of the assessment team.	See 1.1
1.4 CI Indonesia and WildAid meet to develop project strategy. Please refer to logframe or performance tracker for discussion areas list. This list removed due to Excel limitations.	WildAid met with two CI Indonesia representatives in Bangkok <b>in July 2003</b> . In addition to providing information useful to the project, CI worked with WildAid in developing an assessment strategy.
<b>Output 2:</b> Reconnaissance mission(s) completed (October 30, 2003).	WildAid requested an extension to the project due to several earlier delays in project implementation outside WildAid's control, including the unstable political situation in Indonesia. On <b>June 23, 2004</b> , CEPF approved a time extension for the project from <b>February 28, 2004 to December 31, 2004</b> .  Reconnaissance missions by WildAid took place from <b>March 31 - April 3, 2004</b> and from <b>April 21-26, 2004</b> .
2.1 WildAid, using the background information provided earlier and the objectives agreed upon between WildAid and CI, completes its plans for reconnaissance mission(s).	WildAid completed its plans for reconnaissance missions in <b>March 2004</b> .
2.2 Prior to on-site travel, WildAid receives a letter of introduction from CI Indonesia/CEPF, with terms of reference for the WildAid reconnaissance and assessment teams.	A letter from CI/CEPF was no longer applicable due to CI's withdrawal from the project.
2.3 Reconnaissance mission takes place October 15-30, 2003. Please refer to logframe or performance tracker for list of possible objectives. This list removed due to Excel limitations.	During a pre-reconnaissance visit to Sumatra <b>from March 31 - April 3, 2004</b> , WildAid obtained important information about the political situation in Aceh and efforts by LMU to build capacity of the Leuser International Foundation (LIF) and local NGO's. WildAid also learned about structure of the LMU, and the draft management plan for the Leuser Ecosystem and the business plan for the LIF.  From <b>April 21-26, 2004</b> , WildAid carried out a reconnaissance in the Leuser Management Unit in Medan, North Sumatra Province, Indonesia. The main purpose behind the trip was determine stakeholder support for establishing a multi-agency Task Force to combat illegal activity in the Ecosystem, including a final group discussion with the LMU about the potential structure a proposed Task Force.
<b>Output 3:</b> On-site assessment carried out (November 1 – December 5, 2003)	From <b>June 8-25, 2004</b> WildAid carried out the first phase of the assessment in North Sumatra, Aceh and Jakarta. The second phase of the assessment took place from <b>November 5-12, 2004</b> in North Sumatra Province and Malaysia.
3.1 Upon arrival, reconnaissance team briefs WildAid assessment team.	With one exception, members of the reconnaissance team were also members of the assessment team. As reconnaissance and assessment took place during different time periods, the one member of the November assessment team who had not participated in reconnaissance missions was briefed verbally or via e-mail by reconnaissance team members prior to assessment activities.

<p>1. 3.2 WildAid and CI-Indonesia assessment teams carry out on-site assessment. (See logframe or performance tracker for full details. These details were removed due to Excel limitations.)</p>	<p><b>From June 8-25, 2004</b> WildAid carried out the first phase of the assessment in North Sumatra, Aceh and Jakarta. The trip entailed meetings with LMU (Medan, Banda Aceh), LBH – Human Rights NGO (Medan); BKSDA – (Medan and Banda Aceh); Forest Department (Medan); Serse and Criminal Investigation Unit (Medan, Banda Aceh); Customs Department (Balawan Port); Courts (Medan); Australian Consulate (Medan); US Consulate (Medan); and US Embassy (Jakarta); An aerial survey of the Leuser Ecosystem was conducted with the Indonesia Navy to assess the area, terrain, and illegal activities occurring in and around the Leuser Ecosystem.</p> <p><b>From November 5-12, 2004</b> WildAid traveled to Medan and other areas in North Sumatra Province, closing gaps in the assessment by meeting with current and past LIF/LMU/LDP staff and officials from Forestry, Customs, and various agencies under the National Police. The team also traveled to Malaysia to discuss illegal wildlife trade in Sumatra with TRAFFIC officials.</p>
<p>3.3 WildAid and CI-Indonesia conduct one-day workshop with key stakeholders.</p>	<p>The workshop did not take place because WildAid was not funded for this initiative and the LIF had hosted a similar workshop with key stakeholders recently.</p>
<p><b>Output 4:</b> Proposal for three-year strategy drafted, reviewed and finalized (February 28, 2004).</p>	<p>WildAid distributed a draft report to the CEPF, LIF, TRAFFIC and CI on <b>November 18, 2004</b>, with a deadline of <b>December 20, 2004</b> for response. WildAid received comments from other WildAid staff and the LIF. As a new President had just been elected in Indonesia, WildAid felt it was important to complete the assessment and to provide a final report as quickly as possible, so that efforts to obtain political and financial support for implementation of the project's proposed strategy could move forward in the early stages of the new Indonesian administration.</p>
<p>4.1 WildAid prepares a draft report of the threats and needs assessment and a three-year strategy for protection and sends it to CI Indonesia for comment (January 15, 2004).</p>	<p>This indicator was no longer applicable due to CI's withdrawal from the project. However, a draft report was sent to CI on <b>November 18, 2004</b> with a request for comments by <b>December 20, 2004</b>.</p>
<p>4.2 CI Indonesia provides its comments on draft report and submits them to WildAid (January 25, 2004).</p>	<p>CI did not comment on the draft provided by WildAid.</p>
<p>4.3 WildAid incorporates comments from CI Indonesia and sends second draft to CI Indonesia (February 5, 2003).</p>	<p>See 4.2</p>
<p>4.4 CI Indonesia submits final comments on joint report (February 15, 2003).</p>	<p>See 4.2</p>
<p>4.5 WildAid and CI Indonesia submit joint report to CEPF (February 28, 2004).</p>	<p>See 4.2. WildAid submitted its final report to the CEPF on <b>December 20, 2004</b>.</p>

***Describe the success of the project in terms of delivering the intended outputs.***

In spite of several setbacks, WildAid was successful in independently completing its project responsibilities by presenting a threats- and needs- assessment of the Leuser Ecosystem and a proposed strategy to strengthen the protection of that Ecosystem.

***Were any outputs unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?***

The lack of an on-site partner reduced the level of stakeholder involvement in the assessment. The stakeholder meeting did not occur for the reasons stated in indicator 3.3 above.

## V. SAFEGUARD POLICY ASSESSMENTS

***Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.***

Not applicable.

## VI. LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE PROJECT

***Describe any lessons learned during the various phases of the project. Consider lessons both for future projects, as well as for CEPF's future performance.***

A "point person" or coordinator for each organization involved in a project partnership is absolutely essential to a project's success.

Delays in project implementation inevitably result in even further delays due to work schedule conflicts.

It may be better to implement a strategy through a manageable body that has a clear mandate from high levels of government than to try to foster change through existing government bureaucracy.

***Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/failure)***

The project design was valid in the following areas:

- 1) One organization with expertise in law enforcement partnering with an on-site organization with broad knowledge of the current situation in the area concerned.
- 2) A step-by-step process in obtaining information through extensive background research, followed by reconnaissance and assessment missions.
- 3) Submitting draft findings and recommendations for comment before submitting the final assessment.

One aspect of the design that may have created unrealistic expectations was the Project Purpose (Trained, equipped and financially supported actors are effectively protecting the Leuser Ecosystem and this strategy is replicated in other areas in Sumatra). This might lead the reader to believe that the current project includes activities for implementation of the proposed strategy from the assessment. WildAid believes it would have been clearer to limit the Purpose to the assessment only, as activities surrounding strategy implementation were not covered by the budget.

***Project Execution: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/failure)***

The project was executed in professional manner, but not in as timely a manner as desired. Planned activities were delayed several times for reasons outside of WildAid's control. Adjustments to the Project took place on a regular basis, requiring significant flexibility on the part of everyone involved. Once reconnaissance missions took place, several months elapsed between activities by the assessment teams. This created problems in keeping up with current events in the area concerned and background information becoming dated.

## **VII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The recent tsunami off the coast of Sumatra, resulting in terrible devastation and human losses there and in other countries in the Region, will undoubtedly delay steps for implementation of a strategy to protect the Leuser Ecosystem. However, the re-building of Aceh province alone will require extensive use of timber and other local resources. Therefore, the need for management and protection of the Leuser Ecosystem is even greater now than in December 2004, when the assessment was completed.