

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

I. BASIC DATA

Organization Legal Name: International Rhino Foundation

Project Title (as stated in the grant agreement): Continuation of the Patrolling Program (RPU) for Poaching Suppression, Rhino and Tiger Protection and Monitoring, and Ecosystem Conservation in Bukit Barisan National Park and its Buffer Areas, Sumatra, Indonesia

Implementation Partners for this Project: Indonesia Rhino Conservation Program

Project Dates (as stated in the grant agreement): Nov 1, 2006-May 31, 2007

Date of Report (month/year): August 9, 2007

II. OPENING REMARKS

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

This Project is part of a collaborative effort to continue Anti-poaching Units (Rhino and Tiger Protection Units - RPU/TPUs) in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBS) in Sumatra, Indonesia. BBS is one of the highest priority areas for Sumatran megafauna, and in particular, for the Sumatran rhino, the Sumatran tiger, and the Sumatran elephant. Approximately 60-85 rhino, 40-50 tigers, and about 500 elephants inhabit the Park. RPUs have been operating in BBS since 1995, and TPUs since 2001.

RPUs/TPUs are highly trained anti-poaching teams that intensively patrol the key areas of BBS to deactivate traps and snares and identify and apprehend illegal intruders, including poachers, and to investigate crime scenes, thus preventing or reducing the loss of wildlife to poachers. Each RPU/TPU is led by a qualified wildlife ranger who has qualifications of a civil investigating officer (*Penyidik Pegawai Negeri Sipil*) and has the authority to carry firearms and arrest suspected poachers. Other members are contracted from the local community. All RPU/TPU members receive rigorous training and evaluation before joining the program.

Originally, the BBS anti-poaching units initially had focused mainly on rhino, but now cover all the megafauna and habitats in both the southern and northern portions of the Park (rhinos occur only in the southern half), counteracting all forms of wildlife crime and habitat destruction, such as illegal logging and encroachment. This work is augmented by a law enforcement and advocacy program that facilitates prosecution of poachers.

RPUs/TPUs use standardized data entry forms to record their routes, activities and all relevant data on rhino, other threatened wildlife and instances of poaching, disturbance, encroachment and other illegal activities. All field reports are copied to the National Parks, and to the Program office in Bogor. Data entry from the field reports into the program database occurs either in the region, if qualified personnel are available, or at the Program Office in Bogor. From the program database, quarterly and annual reports

are compiled that provide detailed information on all the activities and findings of all the RPU/TPUs.

The northern half of BBS has only a very few rhinos surviving, but the populations of tiger and elephant are still good. Prior to the present grant, the northern half of BBS was only patrolled minimally once a year to monitor the developments. Eight anti-poaching units now operate in BBS (two TPUs and six RPUs), and regularly patrol the entire Park.

From 1 January 2003 through 31 December 2006, the BBS RPU/TPU program was fortunate to receive virtually full financial support for operations through a grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), and has received partial CEPF funding for the first part of 2007. IRF leads the funding coalition for this program, which now includes IRF, CEPF, the USFWS Asian Elephant Conservation Fund (AsECF), WWF (a long-term partner), and the Save the Tiger Fund.

III. ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECT PURPOSE

Project Purpose: *Reduction of poaching of megafauna, in particular rhino and tiger, and improvement of law enforcement for rhino and tiger conservation*

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Purpose-level:	
<i>No quantitative increase in poaching of rhino and tiger</i>	No cases of large mammal poaching in the BBS over the past 18 months.
<i>All cases of poaching processed and the majority leading to conviction</i>	All illegal activities are recorded and investigated. Evidence is collected and if possible the perpetrators are delivered to the Park Headquarters for further processing. During this period, five individuals were successfully arrested and prosecuted for illegal poaching and/or trade, and each received jail time and fines. Please refer to Section IV for a full description of all evidence gathered on illegal activities and all cases prosecuted.

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

BBS supports one of the highest densities of elephants in Sumatra and is one of the top three or four areas for both rhino and tiger in Southeast Asia. BBS also is home to many other threatened wildlife species. The activities of the RPU/TPUs in BBS have been crucial for preservation of the biological heritage of this area.

The economic and political situation that has prevailed in Indonesia since 1997, with the financial crisis and decentralization of responsibility for management of natural resources to district level governments has had a severe impact on the security of the wildlife and their habitats. The pressure on district governments to generate income has intensified, as has poverty in rural areas. At the same time, the motivation of the authorities to act against illegal and destructive activities has been in flux, if not decreased.

During the past 18 months, there have been no cases of large mammal (rhino or elephant in particular) poaching in BBS. Some illegal poaching/trade in Sumatran tiger has occurred outside patrol areas along with one incident of trade in elephant teeth, but were uncovered by the ILEU intelligence operation working outside of the RPU/TPU patrol routes. There are invasions of people for extraction of timber, non-timber forest products, fish, and meat from the Park. Proactive prevention of poaching, more so than apprehension of poachers after an attempt at or success with poaching protected wildlife, is the main objective of the RPU/TPU program. The ongoing presence of RPU/TPUs in the area increases the risks for potential poachers, while their chances for a good return are decreased. This deterrent has worked well over the past years, and once an area is regularly patrolled, normally no more poaching is detected and indirectly all other wildlife benefits from the presence of the RPU/TPUs.

In the next few years the type of preventive action that is provided by the RPU/TPUs will remain crucial for the survival of Indonesian megafauna. Since 2003, apprehension and prosecution of poachers and other violators has been successful, and many activities of the RPU/TPUs now are being directed to intelligence gathering for law enforcement. The cooperation with the authorities has been good, but law enforcement is costly in Indonesia. Proactive measures to prevent harm is, at this time, the best option for the future and this can only be achieved when there are dedicated and reliable teams in the field that can render poaching both unprofitable and risky.

The success of the RPU/TPU approach is widely acknowledged in Southeast Asia. Several other organizations are modeling similar anti-poaching units for other species of endangered wildlife, using the model of management and administration that has been developed in the IRCP, including inviting the IRCP as trainers for these units. Several Tiger Protection Units (TPUs) and Elephant Protection Units (EPUs) are in the process of being formed for Kerinci-Seblat and Bukit Tigapuluh, and Orangutan Patrol Units (OPUs) have been trained and are operating in Gunung Palung NP in West Kalimantan – Borneo and have been trained in northern Sumatra.

IV. PROJECT OUTPUTS

Project Outputs: Enter the project outputs from the Logical Framework for the project

Planned vs. Actual Performance

Indicator	Actual at Completion
Output 1: Operation of 8 Rhino and Tiger Patrol Units, including Management and Coordination.	
<i>Eight (8) anti-poaching teams continuously deployed in BBS</i>	All eight RPU/TPUs were deployed continuously in Bukit Barisan during the project period. Additional details on the patrols can be found below.
<i>At least 15 days per month on patrol in the field for each anti-poaching team</i>	From 1 October to 31 December 2006, RPU/TPUs were on patrol for 331 days (15 field days/person/month). From January 1 through March 31, 2007, RPU/TPUs were on patrol for 301 days (15 days/person/month) and from April 1 – June 30, 2007, 297 days were spent on patrol (14 days/person/month). During the most recent

	quarter, the average days on patrol per month was slightly less than the target of 15 days because several RPU/TPU members were on a short leave to train newly-established Orangutan Protection Units elsewhere in North Sumatra.
<i>Zero (0) traps permitted to be placed or to remain long enough to entrap rhinos or tigers in areas covered by the anti-poaching teams</i>	Traps are removed immediately upon discovery. No traps were found during Quarter 3, 2006. On the patrol from 5-16 December 2006, large mammal traps were encountered and removed in Lampung in the Kabupaten Kaur Bengkulu Selatan. A unit encountered and removed a wire snare during a patrol from February 20 to March 1, 2007 near Blimbing. On a patrol from March 25 – April 1, 2007, a unit found an elephant trap set in the main entrance to the Pangekahan area and removed it. No traps were found during Quarter 2, 2007.
<i>All poachers whose traps are located identified and reported to the local authorities for apprehension and prosecution</i>	All illegal activities are recorded and investigated. Evidence is collected and if possible the perpetrators are delivered to the Park Headquarters for further processing. Once a case has been moved into court, the program provides a fixed amount (Rp 800,000 or ~US\$90) to the Park for processing costs. Please refer to the text paragraph below for a full listing of suspects prosecuted.
Output 2: Enhancement of the BBS Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit (ILEU) to obtain reliable information from local residents that will facilitate prevention or elimination of poacher operations	
<i>Reliable and useful information collected from local residents around BBS leading to prevention of poaching and/or apprehension of poachers.</i>	The Intelligence and Enforcement Unit successfully obtained information from local residents regarding incidents of illegal wildlife trade and poaching, allowing us to investigate and to help apprehend suspects. Please refer to the text paragraph below for a full listing of all evidence gathered.

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

During this project, eight patrol units operated continuously in Bukit Barisan, averaging at least 15 field days per person per month on patrol. For each patrol, a detailed field report is prepared using a standard IRCP format. The reports record the routes traversed, the position of overnight camps, all signs of large wildlife encountered and all signs of encroachment, poaching and other illegal activities. All data are recorded with date/time/coordinates. A route map is included. Based on the field report for each patrol, the actual time on patrol (not counting travel time to and from the area and time spent in camp and during rests) and the duration of the patrol are calculated as a measure of performance.

As part of the RPU/TPU patrols, all incidences of sightings, including location and species, are recorded as part of the patrol records. To-date, no attempts to shoot or poison large megafauna in BBS have been discovered, and, in fact, very little human-megafauna conflict has been found with the exception of three rice paddies that were destroyed by elephants. (Although patrol units have not directly encountered poaching activities, we have, however, found evidence of megafauna used in illegal trade,

particularly tigers.) Patrol units also search for animal traps; these traps are removed immediately upon discovery.

In 2004, the IRCP established (and still operates) a special mobile Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit (ILEU) led by Arief Rubianto. This unit is separate from the RPU but the purpose is to assist the RPU/TPUs and the National Park in the detection and apprehension of poachers, to identify the routes used for the rhino horn trade, and to assist the prosecution of suspects till the time that the case is filed with the courts. Intelligence gathering is mainly through the use of informers recruited from the local people. Members of the RPU/TPUs may also attempt to infiltrate illegal operations in areas where they are not known. Intelligence is used to provide information on suspects, their movements, methods, and areas of operation. RPUs may arrest suspects in the act of committing a crime. They must then, and as soon as possible, hand them over to a civil investigator from the National Park, or the police. They may temporarily confiscate items (to be formally confiscated by the park or police) as evidence, and they must prepare a crime report for the civil investigator. Beyond this point they have no further rights, but will be called as witness if the case is brought to court. The National Park, along with the police, are the two bodies responsible for preparation of a case and formally charging suspects.

Illegal activities, including encroachment, timber theft, illegal hunting, and forest product theft were encountered during this reporting period. The RPU/TPU teams and the ILEU:

- Encountered indications of illegal poaching of elephant and deer in Suoh (3-11 November).
- Identified suspects holding elephant tusk and tiger skin on Pemerihan, Bengkunt, Pematang Langgar, Panji Wayang patrols This was part of an intelligence operation by ILEU (Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit). The Investigation was based on information from the local informant(s). The suspects were arrested in February 2007 and now are awaiting prosecution. (15-23 November)
- Discovered seven men in Way Haru keeping traditional gun (*locok*) for deer poaching as well as two elephant tusk collectors (7-14 December).
- Discovered remnants of illegal poaching in Bukit Pandan (5-17 December).
- Provided information and assistance to the Wonosobo police, resulting in the arrest of a suspected illegal logger (4 January – 12 January).
- Found evidence that people in Kecamatan Bengkunt were in possession of elephant tusks and pieces of tiger skin (21 -31 January).
- Obtained information on traditional gun owners in Penganan (16 – 26 February).
- Obtained intelligence that several local villagers had pieces of tiger skin available for trade in Muara Dua (20 – 28 March).
- Assisted police in arresting two suspects in Way Sesah for illegal poaching of tigers (with possession of tiger skin as evidence, 9 – 16 February).
- Discovered timber theft and forest encroachment in Leter U, Leter S, and Sumberejo (22 – 26 February).
- Encountered and confiscated evidence of illegal logging in Talan Enam (Way Bambang), including a chain saw and processed wood (6 – 12 March).
- Discovered timber theft in Rawa Salak, Way Pemerihan (22 – 28 February).
- Found evidence of forest encroachment (approximately 3 hectares cleared) in Tampang (22 – 30 January).
- Encountered evidence of forest encroachment in Krengseng area (21 – 28 January).

- Received 2 traditional guns from villagers of Tampang (12 – 22 April.)
- Obtained evidence of a villager storing a tiger skin in Pugung Tampak and a villager storing an elephant tusk, and obtained evidence on two timber theft suspects (24 – 30 April). All appropriate evidence was turned over to the authorities for prosecution.
- Received 8 traditional guns from villagers of Tampang Muda, Tampang Tua, and Kaur Gading (10 May – 19 May).
- Received 37 traditional guns from villagers of Tampang Muda, Tampang Tua, and Kaur Gading (28 May – 6 June).

The table below shows the cases of illegal trade of wildlife brought to court during this reporting period as a result of evidence gathered and arrests made by the RPU/TPUs and ILEU.

Case/Suspects	Evidence	Verdict
Illegal Trade <i>Herman bin Mat Hasan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 elephant teeth 	1 year in prison and 250,000 Rupiah fine
Illegal Trade <i>Masykur Rofiq bin Darmawan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 pieces of tiger skin • Portion of tiger “mustache” 	1 year and 6 months in prison and 250,000 Rupiah fine
Illegal Trade <i>Sukidi bin Katirin</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserved deer embryo 	6 months in prison and 250,000 Rupiah fine
Illegal Poaching <i>Gunawan bin Arafudin</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional gun • Ammunition • Pheasant feathers 	1 year and 6 months in prison
Illegal Trade <i>Sutrisna (Mang Entis)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drove car for transportation of illegal trade goods 	4 months and 15 days in prison and 250,000 Rupiah fine

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

All project outputs were successfully completed.

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.

Effective and efficient protection of endangered wildlife in a habitat that severely restricts one’s movement, observation and operational options, can be successful if sufficient resources, manpower and management are provided in a sustainable and stable

manner. The current RPU/TPU efforts are long-term and probably will need to continue for several decades into the future, and may need to be expanded once the depleted populations of the endangered target species recover and increase their ranges and numbers. If anti-poaching and other direct protection and prevention efforts of rare and endangered species with a high economic value cannot be sustained for as long as necessary, it will only give a temporary respite and will not prevent the target species becoming extinct. For the foreseeable future, current RPU/TPU intensive protection efforts will need to be continued while the threats from poaching, habitat degradation and habitat loss are resolved by means of public education, economic development and other long term civil processes.

VII. ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Provide details of any additional donors who supported this project and any funding secured for the project as a result of the CEPF grant or success of the project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Co-financing	\$50,000	Grant from the Asian Elephant Conservation Fund.
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Co-financing	\$35,000	Grant from Save the Tiger Fund.
Disney Conservation Fund	Co-financing & complementary	\$20,000	

*****The remainder of the project budget is funded by individual donations received by WWF and IRF.***

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

- A** *Project co-financing (Other donors contribute to the direct costs of this CEPF project)*
- B** *Complementary funding (Other donors contribute to partner organizations that are working on a project linked with this CEPF project)*
- C** *Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF project.)*
- D** *Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*

Provide details of whether this project will continue in the future and if so, how any additional funding already secured or fundraising plans will help ensure its sustainability.

As was described above, this project will continue into the future -- the IRCP will operate at least 8 RPU/TPUs and the Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit in Bukit Barisan for the foreseeable future. IRF and WWF will continue to support the program through individual donations whenever possible, and we will also fundraise for the program. We have already applied for (and will likely receive) another grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for this program, and plan to apply to the National Fish and Wildlife

Foundation for further funding, and are researching other potential funding sources as well.

VIII. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

VIII. INFORMATION SHARING

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned and results. One way we do this is by making programmatic project documents available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and by marketing these in our newsletter and other communications.

These documents are accessed frequently by other CEPF grantees, potential partners, and the wider conservation community.

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