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# LESTARI

## Fast Facts on its biodiversity conservation work



### The LESTARI approach

Indonesia's 17,493 tropical islands contain some of the highest levels of biological diversity across the globe, making it a Tier One priority country for USAID biodiversity funding. As such, LESTARI operationalizes USAID's Biodiversity Policy in its activities and approaches on the ground, especially with regards to the Conservation Co-Management related work. LESTARI deploys a dynamic array of tools and approaches involving community engagement and data-driven monitoring and enforcement to effectively reduce incidences of poaching, wildlife trafficking, and other activities destructive to biodiversity occurring in and around Protected Areas. This approach has been instrumental in conserving key charismatic species such as the orangutan, tiger, elephant, and rhino.

Such tools will ultimately be amplified and adapted in PAs across LESTARI's landscapes, thereby scaling up LESTARI's impact and helping to achieve its ultimate target of at least 8.42 million hectares of primary or secondary forest, including orangutan habitat, under improved management.



### LESTARI thematic areas

**1. Forest and Land Use Government and Advocacy** – supports effective forest and land use governance practices while building strong constituencies that can advocate for their communities' rights and interests. LESTARI implements a range of strategic approaches to support this theme and foster a shared vision for sustainable land use. This includes increasing media, government, and local level awareness; improving spatial plans and other government planning instruments so that they integrate Low Emissions Development Strategies (LEDS); and enhancing environmental governance practices at the district level.



**2. Conservation Co-Management** – the main thematic area in support of biodiversity conservation, contributing to success at the landscape level through effective management of PAs and other critical areas. Both PA and critical area co-management target the preservation of high-carbon, biodiversity-rich forests as well as wildlife habitat of charismatic megafauna.

This approach is especially crucial in LESTARI's Leuser Landscape in northern Sumatra, which is home to 2.6 million hectares of tropical lowland rainforests and the last place on Earth where globally valued species such as the Sumatran Orangutan, tigers, rhinos, and elephants coexist in the wild. One of LESTARI's early successes has involved supporting PA monitoring and enforcement through patrols using the *Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART)*.

Working with LESTARI team member Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), LESTARI has supported Leuser National Park management staff to conduct strategic patrols that have helped to secure the park from illegal poaching, logging, and wildlife trafficking. LESTARI has also engaged directly with communities to understand their challenges and help to design strategies for reducing human-wildlife conflict. Such collaboration has been



instrumental in constructing tiger-proof enclosures, which have successfully protected community livestock from tiger attacks. This has significantly reduced the incentive on the part of communities to hunt tigers.



Moreover, LESTARI works with communities living in the buffer zone of PAs to engage in conservation initiatives by providing incentives to adopt sustainable livelihood practices and promoting a more inclusive approach in the decision making involved with Protected Area management. For instance, LESTARI has supported a series of public consultations to ensure that communities are able to provide inputs for the Protected Areas' long-term management plans.

**3. Private Sector Engagement** – an integrated approach to the development of livelihoods, responsibilities for environmental governance, and shared roles in co-management of natural resources. This theme is executed by supporting green enterprise development, adoption of Best Management Practices, and innovative financing. Through establishing public-private partnerships for green enterprises, LESTARI supports alternative livelihoods while reducing pressure on forest resources. LESTARI also engages with timber concessions, palm oil plantations, and other private sector actors operating in its landscapes to apply practices focused on reducing impacts to forests and the key species that they harbor, improving efficiency and acquiring sustainability certification.







## Specific tools and approaches in LESTARI include:

*SMART*—a spatial data-driven tool for measuring, evaluating, and improving the effectiveness of wildlife law enforcement patrols and site-based conservation activities. *SMART* helps to detect threats to biodiversity and direct resources to where they are most needed. It consists of desktop and smartphone applications, training materials, and patrolling standards. In Aceh, LESTARI supports 4 *SMART*-based patrol teams in Leuser National Park and 3 in Singkil Wildlife Reserve. Each team consists of 3-4 PA staff members and one LESTARI team member. Training for the patrols consists of a three-pronged approach to educating team members on techniques for data collection, data input, and data analysis. Based on their success, LESTARI is amplifying *SMART* application to other Protected Areas in Central Kalimantan and Papua.

### *Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool*

*(METT)* – a replicable tool that quantifies the overall effectiveness of Protected Area management across a range of key indicators. *METT* allows park managers to identify needs, constraints, and priority actions to improve management. LESTARI supports capacity building for *METT* implementation while also encouraging the incorporation of *METT* score improvement into the PA management plan. LESTARI supports *METT* implementation in Cyclops Nature Reserve and Lorentz National Park in Papua, with plans to amplify this tool in PAs in Aceh and Central Kalimantan.

*Wildlife Response Unit (WRU) / Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU)* – LESTARI supports *WRU* teams to engage directly with local communities on awareness raising regarding the importance of biodiversity conservation and methods for human-wildlife conflict mitigation.



In addition, WCU teams conduct strategic patrols aimed at detecting and reporting wildlife trafficking and other related crimes in cooperation with relevant government authorities. WCU teams have already helped to capture and prosecute illegal wildlife traders and traffickers implicated in ivory and tiger skin smuggling in Aceh.

***Partnerships for Biodiversity Conservation*** – LESTARI builds strong partnerships with organizations in its landscapes to mobilize resources and leverage local-level knowhow for biodiversity conservation, especially in support of the globally valued yet endangered orangutan. In Aceh, LESTARI supports the Orangutan Information Centre to enhance the capacity of communities to mitigate human-orangutan conflicts as well as to actively engage with communities on collaborative Sumatran Orangutan conservation initiatives. In Central Kalimantan, LESTARI supports the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation to rescue orangutan from fire and haze-affected regions and release them into safer environments in Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park. The

Foundation will also facilitate the development of partnership agreements with private sector entities that operate around the national park to adopt practices in support of orangutan conservation in the area.

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