

Funding Concept:

Assessing and reducing the threat of poaching to Banteng on Java: To investigate the methods, extent, and threat of Banteng poaching at the five priority populations on Java and to establish the infrastructure to prosecute offenders.



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Rationale:

The Banteng (*Bos javanicus*) is a species of wild cattle found across South-East Asia, and its survival is threatened by many factors that include hunting and habitat loss. While the Banteng is fully protected under Indonesian law, the current scale and threat of illegal poaching is poorly understood and lacks quantitative data, although the level of poaching is believed to be high in at least some key areas and may constitute the most immediate threat to the survival of Banteng in those areas. Improved knowledge about poaching is required to improve the effectiveness of management activities and assessing and reducing poaching was identified as a very high priority in the IUCN's Regional Conservation Plan for South-East Asian Wild Cattle and Buffalo and in the Indonesian Banteng Action Plan (both to be published in the near future).

Aims:

- To conduct overt and covert interview-based investigation in villages surrounding five key Banteng populations on Java to quantify the scale and identify the methodology of illegal poaching.
- To conduct field-based investigations to seek corroborating evidence for the results of the interview-based investigation, focusing on two key populations.
- To develop a database of suspects and potential informants suitable to initiate a crackdown on illegal poaching in collaboration with law enforcement agencies.
- To publish the results and recommendations to all relevant management authorities and publish the results and recommendations.

Project Details:

The proposed duration of the project is initially six months. Village-based surveys will be conducted at between five sites in Java (see Cost, below) while field-based surveys will be targeted in two sites (see Cost, below). Both the village- and field-based components will be conducted by experienced wildlife crime investigators, operating with the full collaboration of law enforcement agencies (primarily police and national park authorities). Village-based surveys will be conducted at the following sites (in priority order): Baluran NP, Alas Purwo NP, Meru Betiri NP, Ujung Kulon NP, and Cikepuh–Cibanteng NR. Field-based surveys will be conducted at Baluran and Alas Purwo. Between 2–4 weeks will be spent at each site. A dossier of information collected during the surveys will then be prepared in collaboration with law enforcement agencies as the basis for a crackdown on illegal poaching activities at each site.

Cost:

Village-based surveys at a single site are budgeted at around EUR 900 (\$1,222) (2 weeks' duration). Field-based surveys at a single site are budgeted at around EUR 2,500 (\$3,395) (2 weeks' duration). Conducting both village and field-based surveys at two priority sites would cost in the order of EUR 6,800 (\$9,243). Conducting village-based surveys at all five priority sites and field-based surveys at two key sites would cost in the order of EUR 9,500 (\$12,919).