

BERBAK

A REDD+ demonstration project to
conserve a Sumatran tiger landscape

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In partnership with:



Berbak peat swamp forest



Berbak is a 2,500 km² area of intact tropical peat swamp forest, home to unique biodiversity including the endangered Sumatran tiger and 23 IUCN Red List species. Its deep peat soils are rich in carbon, laid down over thousands of years by the forest. Urgent action is needed to prevent this massive carbon store being released as greenhouse gases into the atmosphere through fire, peat drainage, logging and farmland encroachment. The Zoological Society of London (ZSL), in partnership with the Berbak National Park office, has assessed the feasibility of using the UN's Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) mechanism to conserve this threatened landscape. With approval from the Government of Indonesia, ZSL and partners are now ready to build a unique REDD+ demonstration project that harnesses the value of stored carbon to finance conservation and ensure food, water, energy, health and livelihood security for local communities.

Building the case for a REDD+ project

The peat swamp forests of Berbak National Park (BNP) and its neighbouring protection and production forests are threatened by encroaching farms, illegal logging, drainage canals and fires.

To address this problem and with funding from the UK's Darwin Initiative, ZSL worked with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry's Department of Conservation (PHKA) to create the Berbak Carbon Initiative (BCI) to study the potential for a REDD+ project that conserves a key tiger landscape, reduces carbon emissions and promotes sustainable local livelihoods.

Biodiversity benefits

Berbak is a RAMSAR wetland site of global importance for biodiversity. Working closely with BNP office, ZSL has trained local rangers to carry out regular biodiversity surveys. These surveys have also established Berbak as a priority landscape for the conservation of endangered Sumatran tigers.

Climate benefits

Studies by ZSL and our partners, including the London School of Economics, have estimated that Berbak's peat soils and trees store hundreds of millions of tonnes of carbon. The climate benefits of securing this carbon store far outweigh the costs.

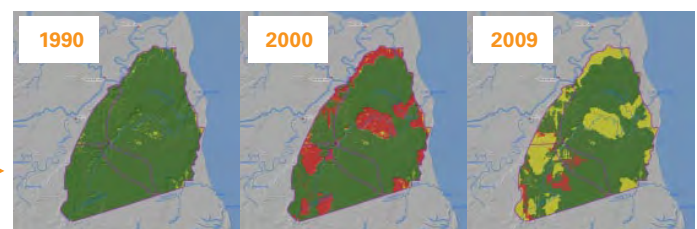
Community benefits

Almost 60,000 people living around Berbak depend on the forest for food, timber, water and medicines. ZSL and local NGOs including Gita Buana have shown the potential for sustainable activities such as community-based natural resource management.

Without urgent action, Berbak's peat swamp forests will continue to be degraded and deforested (as shown by two decades of satellite data).



▲ Berbak contains four forest classes: the National Park, two protection forests and a production forest. Red triangles show villages.



Designing a landscape-scale REDD+ project

With approval from the Ministry of Forestry, during 2013 the team of international and Indonesian organisations — led by ZSL and BNP office — will carry out a range of preparatory activities, focusing on stakeholder engagement and partnership building, project planning, and fundraising to reach the £10m implementation budget.

The planned REDD+ Demonstration Project — to run 2014–2017 — will involve five main activities, aimed towards securing long-term financing to scale-up REDD+ across the whole landscape from 2018:

1. Build institutional capacity:

Establish a transparent forest management body and a trust fund to receive future REDD+ funds.

2. Design and test ecosystem-based activities:

- Create a fire early-warning system;
- Re-wet peat by blocking drainage canals;
- Replant and rehabilitate degraded forests;
- Create community-based enterprises;
- Promote certified and legal timber operations.

3. Benefit-sharing mechanisms:

Work with stakeholders to design and test incentives for conservation action and climate-compatible development.

4. Generate verified emissions reductions:

Develop a system to monitor the project's success, in line with the Verified Carbon Standards (VCS), Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards (CCB) and Indonesian social and environmental safeguards.

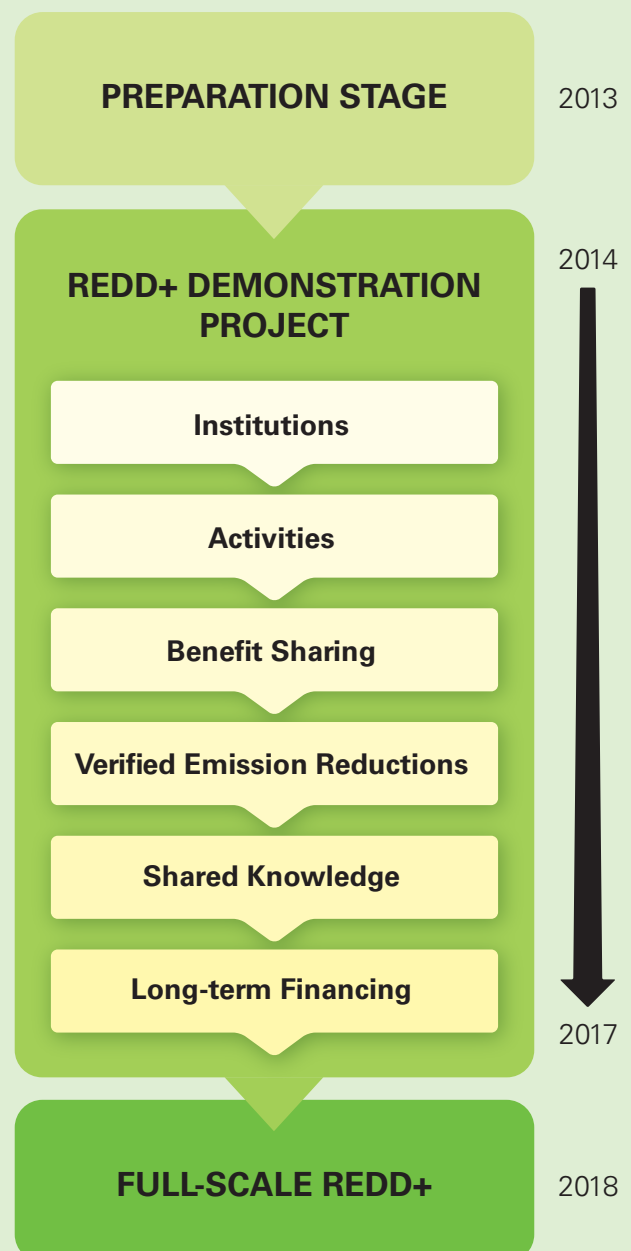
The site's importance for the Sumatran tiger – and other IUCN Red List species – means that the project will aim to meet the CCB Gold standard.

5. Share knowledge and best practice:

Build local capacity to run the REDD+ project over the long-term and share lessons with national and international REDD+ stakeholders.

The path to implementation:

The Berbak REDD+ Demonstration Project will focus on five demonstration activities aimed at delivering long-term, sustainable financing for the peat swamp forest landscape from 2018.



Building partnerships for sustainable development



A cornerstone of ZSL's approach in Indonesia is to work with stakeholders across production landscapes, including local communities, palm oil growers and timber operators in order to ensure the future of the Sumatran tiger as a flagship species. In Berbak, ZSL is engaging communities, private enterprise and government.

Community engagement

With funding from the Clinton Climate Initiative, ZSL and our local NGO partner, Gita Buana, are raising awareness of climate change and REDD+ among the 32 villages surrounding Berbak. This is the first step in a process of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) which will strengthen the communities' ability to choose whether and how to engage in REDD+.



Private sector engagement

Globally, deforestation and forest degradation are increasingly being driven by private enterprise. The Berbak landscape is no exception, with planned expansion of timber and oil palm production. The REDD+ project will help enterprises shift to certified sustainable production and create new forest-friendly businesses.

Government engagement

ZSL and BNP office are working in collaboration with two District governments, the Jambi provincial government and the national REDD+ Task Force to ensure that the project is 'nested' within sub-national and national REDD+ legal frameworks and spatial plans. Jambi has been selected as a Pilot Province for the Norway-Indonesia REDD+ agreement.



ZSL – supporting conservation in Indonesia

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL), founded in 1826, is a world-renowned centre of excellence for conservation science and applied conservation with field programmes in over 50 countries around the world. ZSL has been active in Indonesia since 2001 and operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry. Initial surveys of Berbak National Park (BNP) in 2008 found a substantial tiger population as well as a range of other endangered species.

Since then, Berbak has become one of ZSL's key conservation sites, with a field team stationed at a purpose-built forest station supporting the National Park authority to carry out conservation activities. ZSL has also helped to establish and coordinate a multi-stakeholder, government-staffed Berbak Wildlife Conflict and Crime Response Team, which patrols the borders of the national park to reduce human-wildlife conflict, in collaboration with community ranger support units.



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