

Project Update: June 2016

I thought I would give you an update on the status of my project here in Sumatra. I am now halfway through the registration process in Indonesia and hope to be done by the end of this month or early next month before I can get into the field. I have finished my work at the office of the Ministry of Research and Technology (the international research permitting authorities), the National Police, Immigration and Home Affairs in Jakarta. I am now in the process of completing the requirements to conduct research in the Provincial Offices - in my case, in the city of Banda Aceh, as I will be working in Aceh Province. The documents provided by the central government in Jakarta are being processed at the provincial offices and through Syiah Kuala University (my local counterpart). I now have an appointment on 22nd June 2016 to get my Temporary Residency permit (KITAS) which will also serve as an identify and will allow me to open a bank account here in Indonesia. As soon as I have these details I will let you know.

In the meantime, I have been discussing various aspects of the project with my collaborators including the local provincial authorities (BKSDA) who are responsible for the protection of wild animals. Because the rise in the human-elephant conflict in Aceh, BKSDA have urged Syiah Kuala University (through this project) to help with this issue and so the University's Research Centre has organised a meeting on 20th June 2016. Besides discussing strategies to conduct this research project and how we can help mitigate the Human Elephant Conflict, BKSDA and Syiah Kuala University want to discuss a collaboration for long term research. This is really good news as we will now have the university fully involved.

