

Name	Counterpart	Title
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Research Summary:

The conversion of natural forests into agricultural land uses has a potential for triggering Human Elephant Conflicts (HEC). This conversion can bring the Sumatran elephant population into a (compressed and) threatened situation. Conservation education training aims to provide knowledge on elephants to community households/families that live close to the elephant's range. At the same time, assessing communities' conservation knowledge before and after the training is imperative to measure to which extent the message has been received by the participants through pre and post-test of questionnaires.

A total of 79 community members have participated in the trainings and 57 of them responded to the pre and post-test questionnaires. These respondents came from communities that are located outside and inside Hutan Harapan and all of them are familiar with the elephants present in the area. The communities outside of Hutan Harapan are in Sarolangun District of Pemusiran Village (RT 19 and RT 17), and the communities inside the Hutan Harapan concessions are in Batanghari District (KM 40) and Musi Banyuasin District (Kapas Tengah and Bato).

The questionnaire data shows that the understanding of the participants towards conservation messages has increased after the training in each of the locations. The majority of the community members knows that elephants, tigers, sun bears, red deer, and sambar deer are protected species. Their attitude towards elephants is in general positive as most of them consider elephants as an endangered species and useful for forest restoration as a species that stimulates natural regenerations of the forest by seed dispersion. However, when it comes to mitigation techniques that they are familiar with and are used in implementing (results from the pre-test questionnaire), the most common response was making fires as well as guarding the farmland. The post-test result shows an improvement of their capacity, mentioning the establishment of electric fences and elephant trenches as options for mitigating the conflict which had not been previously considered. Whereas *jengkol*, *kemiri*, *karet* and oranges were mentioned the most as recommended alternative crops that were thought to be disliked by elephants. This information can be taken up in order to move forward with the establishment of a Managed Elephant Range in the Hutan Harapan landscape, offering a solution for mitigating the conflict mainly to those communities outside the concession that are directly impacted as they live within the elephant range.



Figure 1. Community conservation education activity at Pemusiran Village, Jambi, Indonesia