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# LESTARI: IMPROVED CONSERVATION AREA MANAGEMENT

USAID LESTARI operates in six key landscapes located in northern Sumatra, Central Kalimantan, and Papua. Embedded within these landscapes are 7 Conservation Areas (CAs) that are home to a rich array of natural forests and biodiversity.

These natural assets are under threat from encroachment, poaching, and illegal logging. In partnership with CA managers, LESTARI supports the implementation of a range of innovative, data-driven tools and approaches to mitigate these threats and improve CA management.

Landscape	Conservation Area
Leuser (Aceh)	Gunung Leuser National Park
	Singkil Nature Reserve
Katingan-Kahayan (Central Kalimantan)	Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park
	Sebangau National Park
	Tangkiling Ecopark
Lorentz Lowlands (Papua)	Lorentz National Park
Cyclops (Papua)	Cyclops Nature Reserve

## MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS TRACKING TOOL

The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) was developed by the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF) and The World Bank to track and monitor the effectiveness of protected area management. It provides a rapid and replicable assessment designed to reveal trends and aid in adaptive management.

METT takes the form of a scorecard questionnaire that is completed by park management authorities. The questionnaire quantifies performance based on a 4 point scale. It encompasses 6 key elements:

- Context – where are we now?
- Planning – where do we want to be?

- Inputs – what do we need?
- Process – how do we go about it?
- Outputs – what were the results?
- Outcomes – what did we achieve?

LESTARI supports the implementation of METT in CAs across its landscapes. Following a METT baseline score assessment, CA managers were facilitated to develop action plans to improve the score. Joint annual work plans have been signed with CAs to synergize LESTARI support. LESTARI also engages in policy dialogue at the national level aimed at institutionalizing METT adoption. More broadly, LESTARI strives to provide programmatic support for CAs in implementing key aspects of management plans and establishing effective partnerships with communities, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders.

## SMART PATROLS

Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) is an application that can be utilized for managing an integrated, real-time database by forest rangers in the field. The system is connected to a smartphone so that it can be effectively used in managing data from the field. It allows park rangers to target their patrols in the most strategic locations. This is crucial given the vast size of CAs as well as the severe budget and human resource constraints facing CA authorities.

Together with LESTARI team member Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and CA management authorities, LESTARI supports the training and implementation of SMART-based patrols in all CAs within its landscapes. These teams have been instrumental in catching and deterring illegal activities, with several cases currently being processed in the local courts.

## WRU/WCU TEAMS

In conjunction with SMART patrols, LESTARI supports a Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) to gather information about wildlife crimes and methods to reduce human-wildlife conflict mitigation. The WCU has successfully thwarted attempts at ivory and tiger skin smuggling in the Leuser Landscape, as the perpetrators are currently being prosecuted in the courts.

A Wildlife Response Unit (WRU) is engaged in raising community awareness on the importance of and methods for biodiversity conservation in villages buffering CAs. The focus is on preventing and responding to crop-raiding by orangutan and constructing tiger-proof enclosures for livestock.

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