

# Sumatran Educators refresh their learning : HECx Refresher Workshop

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*Introducing each other by 'tracing your face' activity*

A refresher workshop in Human Elephant Coexistence was conducted as a continuation of the earlier HECx Workshop, "Getting Along with Elephants" held in December 2009 in three Sumatran provinces. The "refresher" is a short HECx workshop focused on evaluation of what had been achieved since the first workshop. Also in this workshop participants could learn some new techniques not covered in earlier training and also give participants an opportunity to share some of their experiences with one another. They could also discuss constraints in delivering conservation education, especially dealing with a controversial topic like living in harmony with elephants.

The HECx Refresher course (7-8 June 2010) was held in Tangkahan, North Sumatra in Green Lodge on the bank of Batang Serangan river, adjacent to Gunung Leuser National Park. It was a quiet and beautiful place for such a course. It was organised by Zoo Outreach

Organisation (ZOO) in cooperation with Fauna & Flora Sumatra Elephant Conservation Programme as local host as well as some local organisations and schools. The workshop was

supported by a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Asian Elephant Conservation Fund.

Participants came from Tangkahan and Sei Lengan (North Sumatra) and 3 people from Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam who were educators having already attended the previous workshop. Rengasamy Marimuthu, Senior Education Officer from Zoo Outreach Organisation led the training assisted by Harmita Desmerry from FFI-SECP.

Refresher course objectives were

- 1) Feedback from participants about their own workshops,
- 2) New games and activities,
- 3) Presentations on attitudinal changes which participants experienced from their own target groups after delivering HECx education and
- 4) building educator network in future.



*Participants sharing their follow-up HECx education activities*

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***Dramas created by participants on HECx themes-Human Elephant confrontation***

A number of activities such as introduction by games, filling in survey feedback forms, slide show, live presentation, interactive discussion, practicing the making of properties, sharing experiences, were utilized to strengthen the HECx teaching. For this course we continued to use the HECx teaching guide and packet and new games were introduced.

Participants learned how to make properties for the drama easily from materials available in their surroundings, which were cheap and user-friendly, and eco friendly materials also. They designed their own drama scenarios, rehearsed and then performed their drama near the elephant paddock, an interesting place to conduct a drama lesson. Each drama was about the current issue of human-elephant conflict and human elephant coexistence. Also, some energizers also practiced between programs to raise the participants' spirit.

The participants were enthusiastic, active and creative, so that made the workshop 'live'. They also paid full attention and were actively involved in the workshop. They were all given

an opportunity to present their experiences with other participants. They performed what they had done with HECx in their home places and related their progress, and expectations. The following are summaries of the presentations given by our participants :

- Three teachers from SD 057217 Wonorejo (Tangkahan area), Ibu

Manisem, Asmayani and Hamidah showed photos of HECx activities conducted in their school from December 2009 to January 2010. They conducted an activity every Saturday with games which conveyed a message of love of other creatures, a drama for Grade 4-6 about elephants who disturbed the people's plantation with a message to permit them, because they were actually grazing in their own habitat. They also performed with finger puppets using scenarios from our Guide Books and marching around the school to the village chanting verses on "Getting along with Elephants."

- Lembaga Pariwisata Tangkahan, an institution that plays an important role in Tangkahan ecotourism and forest distributed the HECx materials to the community in Tangkahan while conveying the message about its content, especially about knowledge of plants that are disliked by elephants.

- SD 050696 Namu Unggas. Bapak Raskita from this school already conducted an Elephant Drama during January 2010. There was enthusiasm from the students, although his teacher



***Dramas created by participants on HECx themes-rescuing and treating elephants with the help of Forest Dept.***

colleagues were not too interested in this matter and did not support him. He also conveyed the HECx lesson to his family gathering that live in HECx area, giving message not to cultivate plants liked by elephants. He then stated the students wish to visit CRU Camp to learn directly about elephant in this near future. The schools also wish to conduct greening (reforestation) around the clearing area of Gunung Leuser National Park.

- Lembaga Permata Rimba Damar Hitam. Syahnuridin, people's representative from a local organization, conveyed that he delivered the lesson to a different target than teachers. He taught the old people in his village who deal with human-elephant conflicts everyday. This lesson was conveyed through religious events (called "wirid") conducted weekly. He used different methods through socialization. In one example he demonstrated a good method to drive the elephant back to the forest. In his village, he explained, the elephant is not regarded as a pest. People respect the elephants and call them "Datuk" (respected old man). He worried whether people in this village would lose patience due to severe encroachment in this area done by refugees from Aceh. It is the most crucial and urgent current issue in this area. The community hoped habitat improvements could take place soon in this area. This problem has become a national problem now and they hope FFI can help them with it.

- Aceh Team. Dasliana from FFI Aceh conducted some of that the following activities:
  - School visit to SD (Elementary School) in FFI working area
  - conducted Elephant Respect Day, on May 2010 at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Syiah Kuala University, Aceh.
  - conducted "Elephant Respect Day" on May 2010 by holding colouring competitions on elephant and presentation.



**Energizers related to elephant's behaviour**

- CRU. Budiman from CRU related the HECx lessons he shared with his family at home. In daily activities with CRU he and the team taught HECx lesson and conservation message to tourists and the community in the ecotourism area. When bringing

problems and any topic dealing with HECx.

- SD Afdeling VIII Rohayuningsih, a teacher from the nearest school in Tangkahan, also conducted several activities dealing with HECx lessons,



**One of the group presenting planning an education programme for a short time**

people trekking to the jungle, the CRU team explained about elephants, habitat, their

mostly through games, but the main message was environmental issues. In her experience, she found that

students knew better than her as they live near elephants' area and Tangkahan ecotourism destination.

- SD 058424 Glugur. Because Pak Togar replaced Pak Edi Rianto who attended the previous workshop, he just gave input and suggestions; he said that we should respect elephants since they could live together with human being, live in harmony if we respect them. Elephant have very good instincts. He suggested us (ZOO or FFI) to make a good film about elephants containing complete info of their anatomy, habitat, etc.
- SD 058115, Afdeling X: Students had practiced drama, game of Pigeon and Eagle, almost the same with SD Wonorejo, but did not make a report.

### Presentation notes

Many participants did not take photos or make reports, so they did not have 'evidence' of their activities. Next time they agreed to take notes and photos of their activities. All of the agenda was done successfully and participants enjoyed all class.

### Methods

As in the previous workshop, we taught active-learning methods which are very interesting and effective method of delivering education as it is very lively and fun. Because when we used this method people were not bored and they could remember the lesson better. Such activity, games or drama helps participants remember it for a long time and it will be easier for participants to convey same to their own target groups. There were no

boring lessons in this refresher course in Tangkahan.

### Evaluation

The evaluation of the previous workshop was conducted in the first day as the first activity before others. Here are some behavioural changes reported by participants.

### Behavioural Changes

Hamidah Nasution from SD Wonorejo described that her students love elephant more than before and are not so afraid.

Syahnuridin from Lembaga Permata Rimba Damar Hitam say the changes of this community behaviour are that they are more aware of elephants but before most of them wanted to retaliate elephants. Dasliana from FFI Aceh reported changes in people's behaviour with regard to elephant with HECx in Sampoinit Aceh Jaya and other venues. Earlier they were angry if elephants entered their plantations but now they reasonse that by establishing gardens in elephant's area they brought the problem to themselves. Some of them have moved their garden to an area that is not passed by elephants.

Budiman from CRU Tangkahan conducted HECx education for ecotourism visitors and communities. He now has better knowledge in responding to HEC in the area. CRU team assisted in HEC accidents around the area but HECx training gave them more information about ways to mitigate HEC ...methods, equipment, etc. and most importantly, how to save life in a conflict and how to live in harmony with elephants...all passed on to people around CRU working area.



*Trainers and participants of the HECx Refresher Course*