

## **Midterm Progress Report submitted by Semarak Cerlang Nusa to WRRC at WLUML<sup>1</sup>**

(English version)

Project Title, SCN CREST – IWE: Support of selected local groups in exploring and developing strategies for asserting women’s land rights in diverse contexts

Original Schedule: March – November 2010

Project Objectives:

1. Identification of local groups in selected contexts who are concerned with women’s land rights and who may be engaged in struggles over these rights;
2. Joint exploration, analysis and evaluation of strategies;
3. Further develop of strategies for greater effectiveness, particularly in relation to the development of women’s collective interest over land;
4. Mutual learning between different groups from different contexts;
5. A comparative compendium of strategies.

Semarak Cerlang Nusa – Consultancy, Research and Education for Social Transformation (SCN - CREST) and The Institute for Women’s Empowerment (IWE)

Period of activities: April – August 2010 (including preparation in June 2009)

Reported: 7 October 2010

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<sup>1</sup> Consultation with the Mentor

**I. Which activities have been undertaken during the last six months (this reporting period) by your working group?**

**1.1. June 2009**

To develop a paper ‘mapping of the strategies undertaken by women in Indonesia in order to fight for women’s rights to inheritance and ownership of land and other property’.<sup>2</sup> This paper was prepared for presentation at the WIPR WG meeting on June 7-9, 2009 at Dakar Senegal. The places mapped are the areas where the previous work was done by the program Women’s Empowerment in Muslim Contexts (WEMC), in which SCN was also involved; i.e. Padang – West Sumatera, Palu – Sulawesi and Cianjur – West Java.

**1.2 March 2010**

Communicating the WIPR WG meeting result to three institutions, i.e. (1) WEMC – SCN CREST partners (a women’s group in Padang, West Sumatera, and RAHIMA; (2) LBH APIK NTB (Women’s Legal Aid, Nusa Tenggara Barat); (3) Solidaritas Perempuan (SP). Finally, WRRRC WIPR - SCN CREST selected two partners; i.e. (i) the women’s group in Padang Pariaman - West Sumatera Province; (ii) a group of customary, religious leaders and paralegals who are stakeholders of LBH APIK NTB.

Signing the contract with WLUMML for the project

**1.3 April 2010**

Translating and communicating SCN’s capacity building project (i.e. terms of reference and workplan) to stakeholders and project participants in simpler, readable and easily understood Bahasa Indonesia

**1.4. May 2010 continuing to the fourth week of July and the first week of August 2010**

A series of discussions was conducted with potential stakeholders in the selected project sites, i.e. Lombok - Nusa Tenggara Barat Province and Padang - West Sumatera Province.

These discussions were organized for the following purposes:

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<sup>2</sup> Wee, Vivienne and Dini Anitasari S., ‘Strategies for enabling women’s empowerment over rights to inheritance and property in Indonesia: A mapping document by the Institute for Women’s Empowerment (IWE) in collaboration with Semarak Cerlang Nusa (SCN) and Solidaritas Perempuan (SP) for discussion by the WIPR WG’. Mapping meeting, 7-9 June 2009, Dakar

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- (1) To identify the local groups from which participants of the WIPR project would be drawn in Lombok – Nusa Tenggara Barat Province and Padang – West Sumatera Province:
  - a. In Padang – West Sumatera Province, a local women group, which consists of 15 women with WIPR cases, was identified as a group which be helped to solve their members' cases by using collective strategies
  - b. In Lombok – Nusa Tenggara Barat Province, 15 people, consisting of customary leaders, religious leaders and paralegals, were identified as a local group which is supporting and assisting women with WIPR cases by referring to progressive interpretation of religious laws, customary laws and state laws. As a result of this identification process, this local group formed a new forum called “*Kelompok Silaturahmi Tokoh Adat-Agama-Paralegal isu Waris dan Hak-hak Kepemilikan Tanah Perempuan*” (Forum of Religious Leaders, Customary Leaders and Paralegals on Women's Inheritance and Property Rights)
- (2) From early September to mid-October 2010, this newly formed Forum discussed, with the field coordinator from LBH APIK NTB, various strategies to support women in order to gain their rights of inheritance and ownership of land and others property in the context of progressive interpretations of religious laws, customary laws and state laws, for example, through:
  - 1) Efforts to re-interpret values of religious, customary and state laws especially on women's rights to inheritance and ownership of land and other property;
  - 2) Advising women with WIPR cases when they come to consult any one of the Forum members, with such advice derived from progressive interpretations of customary laws, religious laws and state laws;
  - 3) Disseminating information about progressive re-interpretations of the values of customary laws, religious laws and state laws especially in contexts of women's rights to inheritance and ownership of land and other property;
  - 4) Building friendship and solidarity between customary and religious leaders who are not yet members of this Forum on issues of women's rights to inheritance and ownership of land and other property in the context of progressive interpretations of customary laws, religious laws and state laws;

### **1.5 June 2010: The WIPR International Workshop**

SCN WIPR personnel (including those involved in this project Support of Selected Local Groups) were very involved in organizing the WIPR Working Group's Capacity Building Workshop, held on 14-17 June 2010 in Jakarta. SCN's gave presentations of its 3 WIPR projects. An evaluation of SCN's projects was conducted by the WRRC Programme Manager on 18 June 2010. At the WIPR Working Group meeting on 18 June 2010, the WIPR Working Group appointed Vivienne Wee as mentor for SCN's 3 projects.

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## 1.6. July 2010

Development of the Work Plan

The goal to be achieved is effective support of women in their efforts to claim their rights to inheritance and ownership of land and others property .

### 1) Lombok - Nusa Tenggara Barat Province

Priority issue: There is support and assistance to women to handle their WIPR cases by 15 people (customary leaders, religious leaders, paralegals) who joined in 'Kelompok Silaturahmi Tokoh Adat-Agama-Paralegal Isu Hak Waris dan Hak Kepemilikan Tanah Perempuan'.

Project participants: 15 people consisting of customary leaders, religious leaders and paralegals.

Indicators of success:

- (1) Formation of a Forum that includes religious leaders, customary leaders and paralegals especially for the promotion of women's to inheritance and ownership of land and other property in the context of progressive interpretations of religious laws, customary laws, and state laws;
- (2) Strategy to support women to gain their rights of inheritance and ownership of land and others property in the context of progressive interpretations of religious laws, customary laws and state laws was developed by Forum;
- (3) The women who have WIPR cases receive support and assistance from Forum members;
- (4) The process of support and assistance by Forum members is documented;

No	Activities	Linkages between activities and indicator of success
1	Workshop on the formation of <i>Kelompok Silaturahmi Tokoh Adat-Agama-Paralegal isu Waris dan Hak-hak Kepemilikan Tanah Perempuan</i> " (Forum of Religious Leaders, Customary Leaders and Paralegals on Women's Inheritance and Property Rights)	(1); (2)
2	Supporting and assisting women who have WIPR cases by Forum members (religious leaders, customary leaders and paralegals) strategically using progressive interpretation of religious laws, customary laws and state laws.	(3)
3	Documentation of the whole process of support and assistance	(4)

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	<p>The information documented includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) What has been done in order to help women resolve their WIPR cases?</li> <li>(2) What has been done in order to disseminate progressive interpretations of religious and customary laws on WIPR issues? ;</li> <li>(3) Who are the victims?</li> <li>(4) Who are the perpetrators?</li> <li>(5) What are the obstacles?</li> <li>(6) What are the challenges?</li> <li>(7) How to address the challenges and the obstacles?</li> </ol>	
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## 2) Padang – West Sumatera

Priority Issue: The selected women’s group in Padang – West Sumatera is assisted in handling their WIPR cases by using collective strategies in the context of progressive interpretations of customary laws, religious laws and state laws.  
Project participants: 15 women who have WIPR cases.

Indicators of success:

- (1) At least 3 cases are handled by using collective strategies in the context of progressive interpretations of customary laws, religious laws and state laws;
- (2) There is assistance from the WIPR field coordinator to handle the WIPR cases in Padang region, step by step, by using the collective strategies;
- (3) The process of assistance by field coordinator documented;
- (4) There is learning and improvement through a process of reflecting on the cooperation between project participants and field coordinator in Padang;

No	Activities	Linkages between activities and indicator of success
1	The field coordinator was assisting the project participants to formulate a series of collective strategies to handle 3 selected cases	(1); (2)
2	Documenting the whole process of assistance as it occurs;	(3)
3	Communication process (discussion-consultation), through various media, i.e. phone, email, YM, between the field coordinator and the WIPR program coordinator (SCN CREST/Dini Anitasari) on ways to help the women to handle their WIPR cases collectively;	(1);

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4	<p>Conducting meetings, which included evaluation and reflection of the assistance provided by the field coordinator, including handling cases where project participants have used collective strategies in the context of progressive interpretations of customary laws, religious laws and state laws.</p> <p>The information documented includes:</p> <p>(1) How do the project participants feel during the process of handling WIPR cases? ;</p> <p>(2) What obstacles and challenges that have been faced?</p> <p>(3) How to address the challenges/obstacles? ;</p> <p>(4) What strategies are effective?; Why?</p> <p>(5) And which ones are ineffective? Why?</p> <p>(6) In the future, what should be improved? ;</p>	(4)
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### 3) SCN CREST

Priority issue: To analyse the model of support to local groups in two sites (Padang and NTB), and other support models which have been done by other institutions in order to handle WIPR cases.

Project participants: two local groups in two sites (Padang and NTB)

Indicators of success:

- (1) There is support to two local groups (Nusa Tenggara Barat Province and Padang West Sumatera Province). Forms of support include inputs for handling WIPR cases by using collective strategies in the context of progressive interpretations of religious laws, customary laws and state laws;
- (2) There is analysis of the WIPR cases which happened in Padang and NTB during the project. This analysis associated with progressive interpretation of religious laws, customary laws and state laws. These interpretations are used by project participants in choosing effective strategies to handle the cases;
- (3) A systematic process of implementing collective strategies to handle the WIPR cases in Padang documented;
- (4) Documentation of the process of assistance to women who have cases by forum member (Member of 'Kelompok Silaturahmi Tokoh Adat-Agama-Paralegal Isu Hak Waris dan Hak Kepemilikan Tanah Perempuan') in Nusa Tenggara Barat ;
- (5) Midterm and Final reports submitted

No	Activities	Linkages between activities and
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		indicator of success
1	Giving inputs to WIPR partners in Padang and Nusa Tenggara Barat related with all SCN's WIPR project activities	(1)
2	Doing analysis on WIPR cases occurring in two sites – Padang West Sumatera Province and Nusa Tenggara Barat Province	(1); (2)
3	Documenting all the processes of WIPR project activities, i.e. including WIPR findings, progress reports of partners, formulation of strategies, etc.	(3); (4)
4	Midterm and Final Reports	(5)

### 1.7 August 2010 (see above number 1.4)

## II. What measures have been taken to ensure that the achieved results will be sustained?

- 2.1. The key achieved result of this WIPR project at this stage is the commitment of stakeholders and local teams in the two project sites, Nusa Tenggara Barat and Sumatera Barat. Measures taken by SCN CREST to ensure sustainability of this achieved result are:
- o Lombok – Nusa Tenggara Barat – LBH APIK NTB will continue to support the forum (local group) which was formed by the WIPR project in LBH APIK NTB program, especially using a non-litigation process to handle WIPR cases;
  - o Padang – West Sumatera: The 15 women who have experiences on handling WIPR cases by using collective strategies could transmit their experiences to other women who have similar cases;
- 2.2. A potential achieved result that may inspire other women (also other local groups) is the findings of the WIPR project, especially related with identifying effective strategies in the two project sites to handle WIPR cases in the context of progressive interpretations of religious laws, customary laws and state laws.

## III. Are these activities according to the annual budget and plan approved in June 2009 meeting? If the answer is No please answer the following questions:

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No

- a) **What changes have occurred?**
- b) **Why did these changes occur?**

The fall in the value of the Euro caused a delay in team formation as local field coordinators did not think that the amounts allocated to their project sites were adequate for the planned activities. As a result, a longer time than expected was taken with negotiations about the budget.

#### **IV. What have been the impacts or outcomes of these activities?**

The activities carried out from May to August are very important, especially the process of identifying of potential stakeholders.

- (1) For LBH APIK NTB, the stakeholders who are part of this project are customary leaders, religious leaders and paralegals. They have been working with LBH APIK NTB since 4 years ago. Now, their knowledge has increased through this project, and they have the opportunity to be involved in handling WIPR cases in LBH APIK NTB;
- (2) For Padang West Sumatera, in the process of discussion they expressed their feelings. They said that they do not feel alone any more because this project will help them to solve their WIPR cases. Now, they also became aware that the cases faced will never be resolved if they do not try to solve these. The cases can be resolved more satisfactorily by improving the women's capacity to become brave and persistent in handling their cases.

#### **V. What have been the challenges? Did you have to change your implementation plan due to these challenges?**

The challenges include the following:

1. As mentioned by the local field coordinators, it is sometimes not easy to maintain the morale of project participants and to keep encouraging them to fight for their rights. Some women have court cases that have dragged on for years with no useful results at the end of the legal process. So they may feel that it is hopeless to keep struggling for their land rights.
2. To keep up the spirits of the village women, it is necessary for the field coordinator and other team members to maintain communication and good relations with them,

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including visiting their homes. In other words, the relationship of trust has to be fostered continuously. However, this takes time, energy and financial resources. So even though the team members are trying their best, they also face constraints because of the lack of time, the need to do multi-tasking, and the limitation of financial resources to hire sufficient people to do different things.

3. The field coordinators also need to have their morale kept up with communication by the project coordinator and other members of SCN from Jakarta through email, online chatting and telephone calls. In addition, the capacity of the field coordinators also needs to be developed through the contribution of information and readings about women's inheritance and property rights, including discussions about such issues.
4. Because the project is coordinated in Jakarta, certain assumptions about urban experiences shaped the development of the workplan, which was then found to be inappropriate for the villagers in the two project sites. This caused a delay in project implementation because the villagers could not attend any WIPR meetings or workshops during the fasting month of Ramadhan (9 Aug - 9 Sep) and the celebration of Lebaran (10 - 20 Sep). Even the last 10 days of September were not possible for them, because they themselves had so many work duties and other responsibilities to attend to after Ramadhan and Lebaran.
5. The fall in the value of the Euro limited financial resources available to hire a sufficient number of fieldworkers for implementing the project in the villages and also professional technicians for producing capacity building materials. As a result, a few people now have to do many things, which also slows things down. However, SCN is nevertheless trying its best to fulfill all deliverables, including developing a capacity building methodology and producing capacity building materials, by having its own members and associates do all the necessary tasks by themselves

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