



Sumatran Ranger Project Quarterly Report 4

December 2023, Leuser Ecosystem, North Sumatra

Executive Summary

The last quarter has been very productive and busy for Sumatran Ranger Project with construction of a predator-proof corral, and an elephant field hut in addition to patrols.

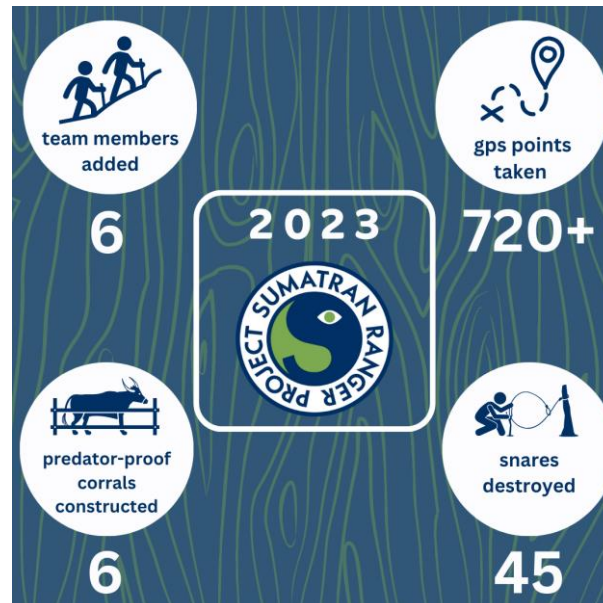
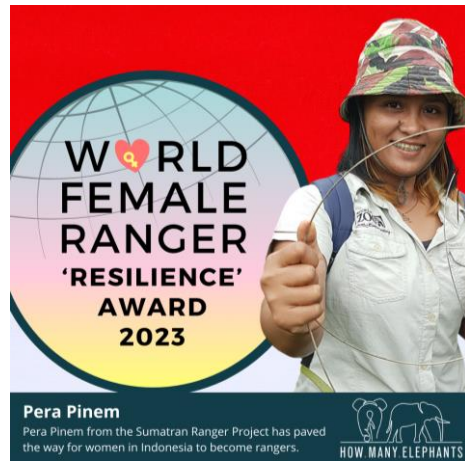
Thanks to our partners at Thin Green Line Foundation one of our rangers Pera attended the first Asian Ranger Forum in India in December which was her first time out of Indonesia. This experience was invaluable for Pera, connecting and networking with rangers from across Asia, and sharing her experiences with them.

Upon Pera's return to Indonesia she won a World Female Ranger Resilience Award, recognising her commitment to her career as a ranger, helping to pave the way for women in Indonesia to become rangers.

Huge congratulations to head ranger Jasson who welcomed his daughter Naisha in early December. This is Jasson's first child with his Spanish wife, Marta. We are so thrilled to welcome a new generation of ranger to the SRP family.

Massive thanks to all our supporters and cheer squad for helping us to achieve so much in 2023.

Amy Robbins (Program Leader)



Our Vision

To ensure long term protection of the forest edge within the Leuser Ecosystem in North Sumatra.

Our Mission

To halt activities that are a threat to the environment and to wildlife, and to support forest edge communities in ways that benefit people and the environment.

Patrols

Eight snares were destroyed in the last quarter of 2023, bringing the total number for the year to 45. As with the previous quarter, some of these snares were targeting megafauna such as Sumatran tigers. This is evident in the thick wire cable used.

Sumatran elephants were sighted on patrol and monitored in all three months, including several young calves in the herd.

Sumatran tiger evidence was found during all patrols in the last quarter, with tracks and one conflict event, and Sumatran orangutans sighted across two of the three months.



Sumatran elephant, November



Sumatran tiger pugmark



Wire cable snares



Snare trap



Male Sumatran orangutan

Species	Sighted	Tracks	Faeces	Scratches	Nest	Wallow	Damage	Food remains	No.
Malayan sun bear <i>Helarctos malayanus</i>				10					10
Leopard cat <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>		2	5						7
Sumatran orangutan <i>Pongo abelii</i>	1				5				6
Thomas leaf monkey <i>Presbytis thomasi</i>	1								1
Wild boar <i>Sus scrofa</i>		40			2	2			44
Sambar deer <i>Deer unicolor</i>		5							7
Sumatran tiger <i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i>		3							3
Long-tailed macaque <i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	1								1
Crested serpent eagle <i>Spilornis cheelae</i>	3								3
Palm civet <i>Paradoxus hermaphroditus</i>			5						5
Southern pig-tailed macaque <i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	1								1
Wagler's pit viper <i>Tropidolaemus wagleri</i>	1								1
Sumatran elephant <i>Elephas maximus sumatrensis</i>	3	6	18				2		29
Lesser mouse-deer <i>Tragulus kanchil</i>	1								1

Summary of species recorded in Q4

Human-Wildlife Conflict



Tiger pugmarks at conflict site



Crop damage by Sumatran elephants

One event involving a non-fatal Sumatran tiger attack on livestock was reported in November. This wasn't witnessed but there were minor injuries to one cow, and fresh tiger pugmarks found in the area. Noise deterrents were utilized to help drive the tiger away from the area, and donated to the landowner, and no further action was required. Pugmarks measured 8cm x 5cm.

Sumatran elephants caused damage to oil palm crops in October and November and a new loudspeaker was utilized to help drive the herd away from community land. We hope to secure funding to enable the purchase of up to 20 loudspeakers that can be loaned to landowners experiencing ongoing crop losses to elephants and orangutans.

The team constructed the 13th predator-proof livestock corral in the village of Tualang Gepang in November in response to a request for support from the community who have experienced livestock depredation by Sumatran tigers.



Construction of corral 13

Camera Traps

Over the last quarter the frequency of Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjak montanus* (also known as Barking deer) on our camera traps has increased significantly. Muntjac were only rediscovered in Sumatra in 2008 after 78 years of no sightings. We captured several images of a Marbled cat *Pardofelis marmorata* (Near Threatened) across different days which is exciting as they are very elusive, and poorly studied.

A summary of our data shows that Pig-tailed macaques (Vulnerable) are the most commonly captured species on camera, followed by Long-tailed macaques (Endangered) then Wild boar. These results are consistent with other literature noting the hyper-abundance of these species in forest edge plantations. These plantations (oil palm and rubber) have an effect on wildlife community composition.



Marbled cat



Muntjac



Leopard cat



Wild boar

Communities

In 2023 our seedling team germinated 4,269 seedlings that will go out to forest edge communities to help with supplementary income, and to help smallholders move away from oil palm and rubber. Almost 700 rambutan seedlings, 700 durian seedlings and 650 Jengkol seedlings were grown, as well as guava, mahogany, mango, avocado, soursop, orange, and many other species. In December, the patrol team assisted a local landowner to plant seedlings on his land as a first step to transition away from oil palm.

In October and November, the team helped a local landowner to construct a field hut in Sei Lapan that will be utilized as an early detection post for elephants. The hut will also be able to be used for sleeping whilst on patrol in the area. Thanks to support from our partners at DEEP to help enable the construction of this hut.



Planting seedlings



Elephant detection hut



Seedling programme

Thank you to our supporters



Thank you to all our supporters in 2023. This grassroots community-led programme wouldn't be able to achieve so much without your support and encouragement. We appreciate you all so much!



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