

Bi-annual Report

# Sumatran Ranger Project

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January - June 2026

Leuser Ecosystem, North Sumatra



### Our Vision

A future where  
wildlife and  
forest-edge  
communities in  
the Leuser  
Ecosystem, thrive  
together



**Our Mission**  
To provide long  
lasting protection  
to wildlife,  
support to forest-  
edge  
communities, and  
preserve the  
environment they  
share

## Executive Summary

In the first half of 2026, four months recorded zero snare detections, with eight snares destroyed in January and one in March making the total nine - an excellent result.

Despite ongoing challenges in securing funding, the first half of the year has been exceptionally productive. Key achievements have included the construction of a long-awaited elephant watch tower and our 20th livestock corral, community seedling planting events, responses to human-wildlife conflict incidents, and an emergency elephant intervention. These accomplishments have been delivered alongside the continuation of regular monthly patrols, demonstrating the team's commitment to conservation and community engagement despite limited resources.

At the end of June we celebrated World Female Ranger Week, highlighting the important role that female rangers play in the global ranger workforce. We are very proud of the women in our team, constantly striving to challenge stereotypes and gender norms, and setting positive examples to their communities about the strength, capability, and leadership of women in conservation.

**Amy Robbins** - Program Leader



# Monthly Patrols



Snares destroyed in January



Supporting landowners with noise deterrents



Sumatran elephant



Sun bear scratch marks



Sumatran tiger footprint

During the first half of 2026, our ranger team destroyed nine active snares—a combination of wire cable and heavy-duty nylon traps designed to target large wildlife such as tigers and bears. Removing these indiscriminate traps helps reduce a significant threat to endangered species and other wildlife that share the landscape.

Noise deterrents were distributed to landowners every month and during every human–wildlife conflict response. Feedback from forest-edge communities has been overwhelmingly positive, with landowners expressing gratitude for a practical tool that helps them respond proactively to crop-raiding events that threaten their livelihoods. By providing a safe, non-harmful method of deterring wildlife from agricultural areas, these deterrents support coexistence between people and wildlife while reducing the risk of injury to both.

# Monthly Patrols



Sumatran elephant dung



Nylon and wire snares removed



Sun bear footprint



Sun bear nests



Orangutan nest

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A total of approximately 1,384 km was covered by our ranger team during the first half of 2026, representing well over 1,000 hours of patrol effort across the landscape. These patrols play a vital role in detecting illegal activities, monitoring wildlife, responding to human–wildlife conflict, and strengthening relationships with local communities.

Community engagement and awareness activities were conducted every month to strengthen local understanding of wildlife conservation, promote coexistence, and encourage community participation in protecting the forest and its wildlife. By maintaining a regular presence in our communities, our team continues to build trust, foster positive relationships, and empower communities to play an active role in conservation efforts.

## Data Summary from Monthly Patrols

Species	Sighting event	Conflict	Sets of tracks	Faeces	Scratch	Nest	Wallow
<b>Wild pig</b> <i>Sus scrofa</i>	1		56			1	18
<b>Malayan sun bear</b> <i>Helarctos malayanus</i>	1	1	6	7	21	1	
<b>Sambar deer</b> <i>Rusa unicolor</i>			12	19			
<b>Brahminy kite</b> <i>Haliastur indus</i>	1					1	
<b>Sumatran tiger</b> <i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i>		2	13				
<b>Leopard cat</b> <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>			5	41	1		
<b>Southern pig-tailed macaque</b> <i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	3						
<b>Sumatran orangutan</b> <i>Pongo abelii</i>						29	
<b>Civet</b> Various spp.				22			
<b>Sumatran elephant</b> <i>Elephas maximus sumatrensis</i>	35	3		26			

# Camera Traps

Camera trap monitoring during the first half of 2026 recorded a diverse range of wildlife species, providing valuable insights into the rich biodiversity of the landscape and the importance of ongoing monitoring in the area. Sadly a sun bear with a badly injured paw, likely from a snare, was recorded and the appropriate authorities alerted.



Short-tailed mongoose



Leopard cat



Bear with snare injury to front right foot



Sumatran tiger



Sumatran porcupines



Blue-winged pitta



Thomas leaf monkey

# Elephant Emergency



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In March, our rangers responded to an elephant emergency involving a young bull elephant from the herd we monitor. The rangers located Ogut lying down and showing signs of severe illness, lameness and distress. Following the discovery, we worked with multiple organisations that responded rapidly to the call for assistance. Veterinary teams were able to assess and treat Ogut, who ultimately made a successful recovery. Examination revealed puncture wounds to his foot and hindquarters likely caused by the tusks of other elephants. These injuries had become infected, leaving him weak and vulnerable. Thanks to the swift actions of rangers, veterinarians, and other organisations, Ogut received the care he needed and was able to recover swiftly and rejoin his herd.

# Elephant Monitoring



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Remarkably, when reviewing our camera trap footage, we confirmed that Ogut's injuries were the result of aggressive interactions from other bull elephants. Following treatment, Ogut recovered quickly and showed significant improvement. Our team remained with him for several days afterwards, closely monitoring his condition and ensuring he continued on the path to recovery. The above image is a screenshot from the video showing the moment Ogut was gored by another elephant in his hindquarters (image on previous page).

Male Sumatran elephants can be highly aggressive towards one another, particularly during periods of heightened reproductive activity. As younger bulls mature, they begin to challenge older, more dominant males and establish their place within the social hierarchy. These encounters can result in serious injuries, especially when larger, experienced bulls drive younger males away from access to females or valuable resources.

# Elephant Monitoring Tower



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We recently completed the construction of an elephant monitoring tower in a strategic location to help monitor wild elephant movements and provide early detection of elephants approaching forest-edge communities. Built over several weeks in a remote area, the project required the team to carry materials long distances on foot and construct the tower using limited tools and resources. In a landscape where few preventative measures exist to reduce human-elephant conflict, the tower provides a practical and cost-effective solution, giving landowners more time to identify elephant activity, alert rangers, and implement appropriate responses before conflict occurs. The tower was made possible thanks to support from The Sumatra Community & Conservation Trust and the Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee.

# Human-Wildlife Conflict - Elephants



Banana palm crop damage from elephants

During routine patrols in April, the ranger team recorded three separate incidents of crop damage caused by wild elephants in communities bordering elephant habitat. Affected crops included banana palms and a durian tree, highlighting the ongoing challenges faced by landowners living alongside wildlife. Similar damage was also documented in January, when elephants fed on banana palms in the area. Recording these incidents helps the team monitor patterns of human-elephant conflict, support affected communities, and inform targeted mitigation efforts aimed at reducing future crop losses while promoting coexistence between people and elephants.

# Human-Wildlife Conflict - Tigers



Livestock predation



Tiger pugmark



Rangers attending predation event

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Two livestock predation events caused by Sumatran tigers were attended in April and June with the loss of one cow reported at each event. Every month we donate fireworks to landowners as a method to safely deter wildlife from conflict events which requires additional funding going forward. These can be deployed for a variety of species like Sumatran tigers, orangutans, and elephants. We will continue to construct predator-proof livestock corrals as a solution to this type of human-wildlife conflict.

# Human-Wildlife Conflict - Tigers



Constructing the livestock corral

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In April we constructed our 20th predator-proof livestock corral for a forest edge community to help prevent livestock depredation by Sumatran tigers. This was made possible by our partner Raw Conservation Adventures and an incredibly hard working team from zoos across Canada, Australia and the USA who came together to work alongside local landowners and our rangers to provide this solution free of charge to a community that has experienced livestock predation by Sumatran tigers.

# Dallas Zoo Tiger Cubs



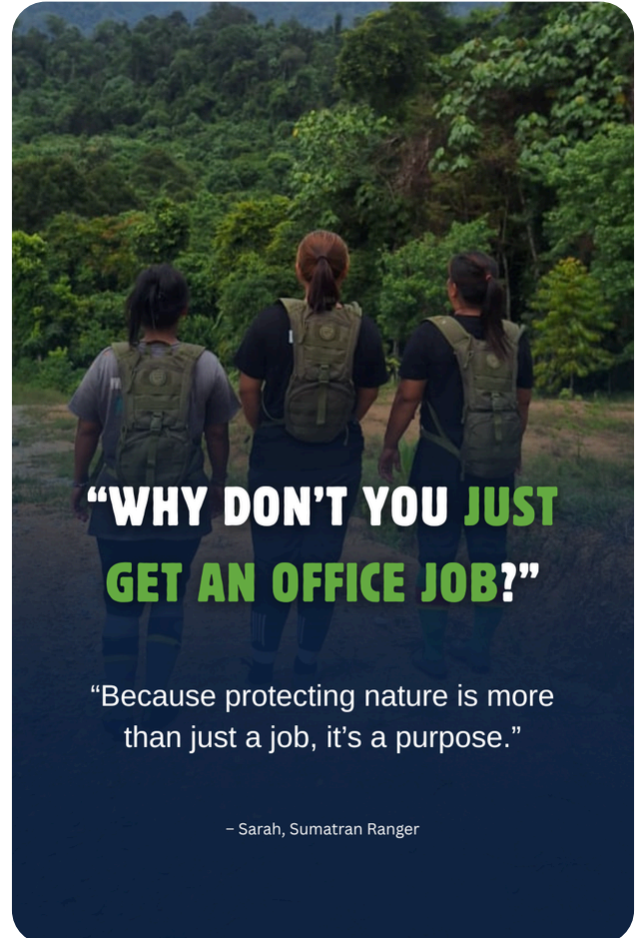
Image courtesy of Dallas Zoo



Ranger Serasi

Dallas Zoo celebrated the arrival of two Sumatran tiger cubs in February, and in a truly meaningful and touching tribute, these cubs, a male and a female, have been named Serasi and Rina—honouring one of our own fallen rangers, Serasi, who sadly passed away in February 2024, and his wife, Rina who is a current member of our team. The birth of these cubs has brought not only joy, but a powerful connection to the forests of Sumatra and the people who dedicate their lives to protecting them. Serasi's work on the frontlines of conservation helped safeguard the fragile habitat of the critically endangered Sumatran tiger, a species with fewer than 400 individuals remaining in the wild - the Leuser Ecosystem where Sumatran Ranger Project works is one of their last strongholds. At Dallas Zoo, the cubs will act as ambassadors for their species, helping to raise awareness about the ongoing threats facing Sumatran tigers in the wild.

# World Female Ranger Week



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World Female Ranger Week (23–30 June) is a global initiative that celebrates and amplifies the voices of women working on the frontlines of conservation. The week recognises the vital role female rangers play in protecting wildlife, supporting communities, mitigating human-wildlife conflict, and advancing gender equity within the conservation sector. Female rangers continue to break down barriers in traditionally male-dominated roles, serving as powerful role models while demonstrating that empowering women strengthens both communities and conservation outcomes. The Sumatran Ranger Project was proud to join the global celebration and recognise the dedication, leadership, and impact of the women within our ranger team.

# Work with us!



Livestock corral construction



Livestock corral



Sumatran tiger

We have partnered with Raw Conservation Adventures to provide travellers with a unique opportunity to participate in boots on the ground conservation. The Sumatran Tiger Expeditions in 2027 will bring small groups of like-minded socially and environmentally conscious travelers from around the world together to work alongside SRP to construct a predator proof livestock corral, helping provide a forest edge community with a practical and efficient method of protecting their livestock at night, which in turn protects Sumatran tigers.

# Thank you to our partners!





Sumatran Ranger Project is a programme  
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