



The Sumatran Ranger Project Quarterly Report 3

October 2021 Leuser Ecosystem, North Sumatra

Note from program leaders



Our Vision

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

Our Mission

To halt activities that damage the forest edge environment and are a threat to wildlife, and to support forest edge communities living within the Leuser Ecosystem.

The last three months have been reasonably quiet with the conclusion of durian season which is the height of human-orangutan conflict season. We constructed a fourth predator proof livestock corral in the village of Gelugur and followed a breeding herd of wild Sumatran elephants. The teams continue to find low levels of snares along the border of the National Park with numbers remaining under 10 for this quarter.

We are pleased to have secured the ongoing and vital support of Auckland Zoo Conservation Fund, which helps support our teams' salaries.

Thank you to everyone who supports Sumatran Ranger Project.

Aries Sutresno & Amy Robbins





Human-wildlife conflict

Now that the height of human-orangutan conflict season is over, the team have had the opportunity to construct our fourth predator-proof livestock corral in the village of Gelugur. Bamboo is taken from the forest edge then floated and carried out on foot and the team assists locals to construct a bamboo and barbed wire corral. This corral was made possible with support from Toronto Zoo's Endangered Species Reserve Fund.



Livestock losses to tiger attacks can have a devastating effect on livestock owners. In addition to corral building, we encourage livestock owners to engage in more careful herding practices overnight by grazing animals at least 2km away from the forest where corrals are not present. Preventing predation helps reduce the threat to tigers through reprisal attacks and improves attitudes towards tigers.



There has been no reported predation of livestock by Sumatran tigers this quarter and we continue to receive positive feedback from the communities who have received corrals. A fifth corral is planned in the village of Batu Rongring as there has been frequent sightings of tiger pugmarks in the area.

Recently the team found fresh pugmarks from a large tiger that



appeared to be following a herd of Sumatran elephants that have several young within the group.



Sumatran tiger pug mark following the elephants



Patrols

Over the past three months nine active snares were found on patrols, and all were deactivated and destroyed. This represents an increase of 50% in comparison to the previous reporting period but overall, it is still a low number. Both wire and rope snares were destroyed, and all were set along the border of the Gunung Leuser National Park.



Ranger Ria holding a snare



A herd of Sumatran elephants were monitored during September and safely moved away from community land using noise deterrents in the early hours of the morning. 14 animals were counted in the herd including at least four young. Throughout the last two months the team have been refining their data collection skills to collect robust information that will contribute to a census of Sumatran elephants in North Sumatra. They conduct dung surveys and record

direct sightings, footprint measurements and evidence of elephants, such as the destruction of crops.



Ranger Pera measuring bolus size



During the last quarter a total of 22 vertebrate species were recorded whilst on patrol, including 18 Rhinoceros hornbill in June. Data collected includes direct sightings, faeces, nests, footprints, rubbings and evidence of human-wildlife conflict such as crop raiding.



Ranger Togar at a pig nest



Measuring elephant rub marks



Fresh Malayan sun bear footprint

The team have identified an area of support in the village of Sumber Waras during community engagement sessions. The head of the village has asked for support to build a community bathroom to enable children to bathe safely without fear of elephants in the river, which is a significant distance away from the village. Construction for the bathroom will begin in early November thanks to support from Sumatra Community & Conservation Trust.



Thank you to our supporters



Support spotlight

Thank you to **Toronto Zoo's Endangered Species Reserve Fund** for their support that enabled us to construct our fourth predator proof livestock corral to safely house cows overnight in the village of Gelugur.



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