



The Sumatran Ranger Project Quarterly Report 1

March 2022 Leuser Ecosystem, North Sumatra

Note from program leader



We are devastated to share the sad news that our beloved field coordinator, Pak Aries, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in late March. Aries worked for Sumatran Ranger Project for nearly four years, in addition to his commitment to other conservation NGOs in North Sumatra. Aries was a respected military official, having served over 20 years in the

Indonesian military and had dedicated the last few years working tirelessly for a number of conservation initiatives. He was a distinguished and compassionate man and leaves behind two daughters. Our team is shocked at the sudden loss of such a respected leader and friend. Selamat jalan Pak Aries, thank you for your leadership and commitment to Sumatran Ranger Project.

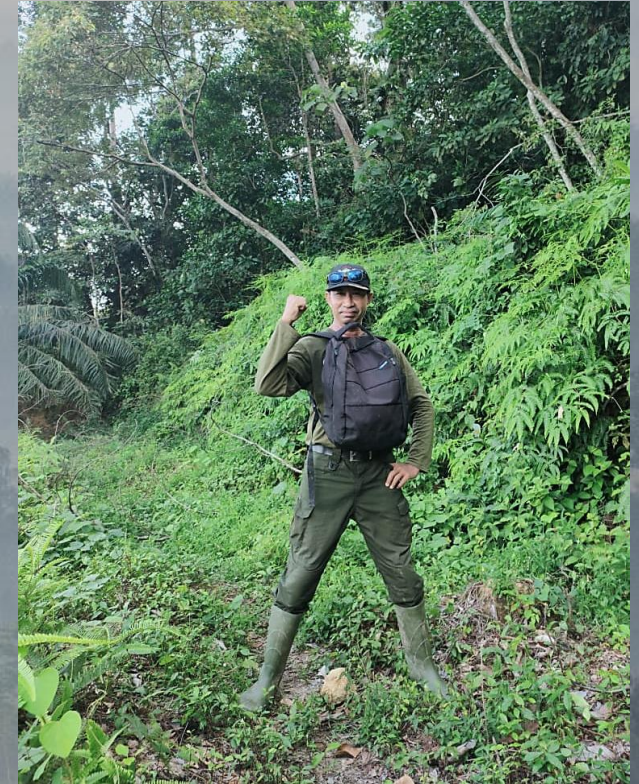
Amy Robbins

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.



Sutresno (Aries) April 20, 1966 – March 19, 2022

Sumatran elephants



Measuring elephant dung

During the last quarter there has been a significant amount of elephant activity in and around the forest edge communities SRP patrols in.

In January two experienced rangers responded to reports of crop damage

by elephants near the community of Sumber Waras. One bull, seven females and four young were identified through direct sightings. Bolus size of the faeces were measured as were footprint sizes. This herd knocked down eight privately owned oil palm trees and community engagement was needed to provide mitigation. A Sumatran tiger appeared to be following the herd, with footprints measuring 10cm across.

In February two elephant herds were sighted in the Sumber Waras area with a drone. One herd contained 15 animals and the other 11 elephants. These elephants caused minor damage to 20 privately owned oil palm trees and the team responded with a bonfire as a deterrent and remained on the land throughout the night to deter the herds from returning.



Elephants sighted by drone

Elephants were captured on our camera traps in the forest during the day and at night.



Bull elephant in the forest



During the March patrol 11 oil palm trees were found to be fatally damaged by elephants. There were no direct sightings but dung and footprint measurements were taken.



Oil palm damage from Sumatran elephants

government authority BKSDA attempted to catch the tiger in a live trap but was unsuccessful. All these communities are very close to the Gunung Leuser National Park and livestock are typically grazed overnight in the oil palm plantations that are planted right up to the forest edge. The team is discussing where the next predator-proof livestock corral will be constructed to help mitigate against further livestock loss.



Cow killed by Sumatran tiger



Tiger footprints at predation site

Sumatran tigers

Three incidents of livestock predation by tigers were recorded over February and March in different communities. Rangers responded to each incident where one cow was killed in each event. One village is reasonably remote and told our response team this is the second loss of livestock to Sumatran tigers this year, with an additional incident in 2021. In another incident

Patrols



Rangers holding a snare destroyed in February

During the last quarter a total of only four snares were found and destroyed. A zero-snare count was recorded in March which is incredibly pleasing.

In February rangers found unusual Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos*

malayanus) tracks; alongside normal footprints were those that appeared to be from an injured foot – possibly from a snare injury. The team spent some time following the tracks and set up camera traps to try and capture images of the bear but were not successful.



Injured sun bear footprint

11 vertebrate species were recorded during patrols over the last quarter and included (among others) Sambar deer, Muntjac, Sumatran orangutan and leopard cat. Species are recorded from direct sightings, nests, faeces, crop damage, rubbings, claw/scratch marks or footprints.



Ranger Pera at wild pig nest (pigs make nests for farrowing or resting)



Camera Trap Programme



Malayan sun bear

We are yet to process March camera trap data, but January and February saw 12 different species recorded on camera. Cameras are positioned opportunistically to investigate species diversity.



Sambar deer

Common name	Scientific name
Sambar deer	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>
Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus montanus</i>
Malayan sun bear	<i>Helarctos malayanus</i>
Sumatran elephant	<i>Elephas maximus sumatranus</i>
Wild pig	<i>Sus scrofa</i>
Southern pig-tailed macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>
Long tailed macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>
Emerald ground dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
Malayan porcupine	<i>Hystrix brachyura</i>
Thomas leaf monkey	<i>Presbytis thomasi</i>
Short-tailed mongoose	<i>Herpestes brachyurus</i>
Crested fireback	<i>Lophura ignita</i>

Camera trap data has been sent to Environmental Conservation Consultancy (Pty) for an analysis of species occupancy and distribution.



Muntjac



Bull elephant

Communities

In February alongside community members, we completed construction of our sixth predator-proof livestock corral in Gelugur, a forest edge village on the edge of the Gunung Leuser National Park. Gelugur experiences ongoing conflicts with Sumatran tigers due to their proximity to the forest and number of livestock grazed in adjacent plantations. Corrals are a proven method in reducing human-tiger conflict and we are grateful to be able to help communities in this way. The community of Gelugur is very appreciative of this support which was thanks to the Toronto Zoo Endangered Species Reserve Fund.



Corral under construction



Completed corral



Thank you to our supporters



Support spotlight

Thank you to **Partnerships For Protection** for coordinating a fundraising campaign over the last few months for Sumatran Ranger Project, raising over \$6500 towards ranger salaries. This comes at a time when funding is limited, and the team are very appreciative of the generosity of our donors.



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