



The Sumatran Ranger Project Quarterly Report 4

December 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.

October to December were busy months for Sumatran Ranger Project with extensive monitoring of Sumatran elephants taking place. The rangers got creative in how they captured data and images of the herd.

Some of the team was hard at work during November to help the community of Sumber Waras construct a community bathroom. This was a need identified by Sumatran Ranger Project during community engagement sessions and funded by Sumatra Community and Conservation Trust.

Dr Alex Moßbrucker from International Elephant Project visited our programme in December and provided some insight and upskill in administration, reporting

and data collection. Having this type of support from our partners is hugely motivating and encouraging for the rangers who don't often have these opportunities.



Team with Alex Moßbrucker

Thank you to everyone who has supported Sumatran Ranger Project in 2021. Wishing you all a safe and happy new year.

Aries Sutresno & Amy Robbins

Sumatran elephants



The last three months has seen the rangers closely monitoring the local herd of Sumatran elephants. The elephants have spent a lot of time within community land, causing destruction to oil and banana palm crops but were able to be safely encouraged away using noise deterrents.

There appears to be 14 elephants in this herd with at least three young and the team continue to collect

data through dung surveys and measuring footprints and rub marks. All evidence of elephants including crop damage has a GPS point recorded.



Oil palm tree knocked over by elephants

Noise deterrents were donated to several land owners throughout this conflict period in order to warn elephants away from cash crops and mitigate against any further damage.



Noise deterrents given to landowner at an elephant lookout point

Camera traps were set up on known elephant tracks and we captured footage of a breeding female with what appears to be an old snare wound on her front right leg. A

report is being prepared to send to the Nature Conservation Agency in Indonesia.



Adult female Sumatran elephant with injury to front leg

The team continues to collect biometric data on the elephant herd with hope the population census will resume when Covid restrictions allow. Regardless, this is still valuable information being

collected that no other organisation is doing at this time.



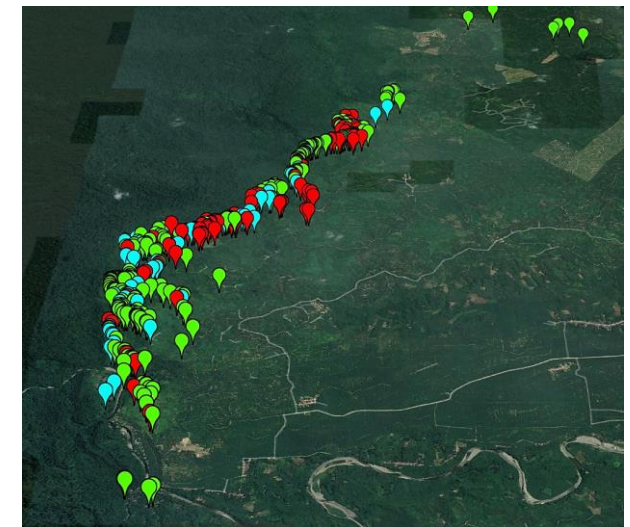
Measuring adult elephant dung



Measuring an elephant footprint



Thanks to help from Australian supporters we have begun to get a pictorial representation of where elephants or elephant activity has been sighted from 2019 until 2021. This map clearly shows how concentrated their activity is near cultivated areas along the forest edge.



GIS map of recorded elephant activity 2019-2021

Patrols



Rangers Togar and Jasson holding destroyed snares

During the past three months only two active snares were found on patrol. This is a reduction of almost 78% since the previous reporting period which is an excellent result considering the significant elephant

and tiger activity in community land along the forest edge which often leads to an increase in snares set.



Sumatran tiger footprint

Throughout the elephant monitoring period the rangers found a large number of Sumatran tiger pugmarks, which appeared to be closely following the herd over more than a week.

12 vertebrate species were recorded during patrols over the past three months.



Fresh Malaysian sun bear claw marks

Community support



During community engagement sessions the rangers identified a community need in the village of Sumber Waras. The head of the village requested support to construct a community bathroom to enable children to bathe safely without fear of elephants in the river (their usual bathing spot), which is a significant distance away from the village. This project was funded by Sumatra Community and Conservation Trust and rangers worked alongside locals to construct it. We will bring you images of the finished bathroom in the next report.





Thank you to our supporters



Support spotlight

Thank you to **Thin Green Line Foundation** for accepting donations on our behalf. It is difficult for our programme to receive international donations from individuals, and this has opened an avenue for support that we previously did not have, and one that is very much needed. We appreciate your generosity!

HUGE thanks to the Nashville chapter of the **American Association of Zookeepers** who fundraised recently and raised over \$9000 for Sumatran Ranger Project! The team is incredibly grateful and we thank you all so much!

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