

Bi-annual Report

Sumatran Ranger Project



July - December 2025

Leuser Ecosystem, North Sumatra



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



Executive Summary

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

In the second half of 2025, two months recorded zero snare detections; however, the year ended with a disappointing outcome, with four more snares destroyed in 2025 than in 2024. This was due to a huge spike in snares destroyed in September.

Over the past six months, rangers covered more than 734 km during monthly patrols and recorded 338 GPS points, contributing valuable data to ongoing protection and monitoring efforts. A total of 762 GPS points were logged in 2025.

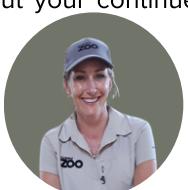
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In July, our team completed its 17th predator-proof livestock corral, providing practical support to a forest-edge community affected by livestock depredation by Sumatran tigers. This simple, cost-effective solution is in high demand both within the communities we patrol and in surrounding areas.

Although our ranger teams were not significantly impacted by the recent devastating floods in North Sumatra, we extend our deepest sympathies to all those whose lives and livelihoods have been affected.

Happy New Year to our incredible partners. We could not do this work without your continued support, for which we are sincerely grateful.

Amy Robbins - Program Leader



Monthly Patrols



Wire snare



Community engagement



Malayan sun bear claw marks



Orangutan nest



Malayan sun bear footprint

During the second half of 2025, rangers located and destroyed 27 snares while on patrol, a marked increase compared to the seven snares detected in the first half of the year, bringing the total for 2025 to 34. This represents a slight increase from 2024, when 30 snares were recorded. A particularly concerning spike occurred in September, when 18 snares were discovered. In response, rangers established a temporary camp in the area for two days and conducted intensive patrols to ensure the area was comprehensively searched and all snares removed.

Elephants were monitored consistently throughout all six months, with direct sightings recorded on every patrol. Orangutan presence was also high, as expected during the durian season; however, no human–orangutan conflict incidents were reported, and rangers were not called upon for mitigation by any communities. This positive outcome may be directly linked to proactive measures taken by our team, including equipping growers with effective noise deterrents to reduce conflict risk.

Monthly Patrols



Rangers with snare



Donating fireworks to farmers to humanely deter wildlife



Sun bear tree damage



Rangers on patrol



Illegal logging

From July to December, the Sumatran Ranger Project distributed fireworks to 22 landowners, providing communities with a humane and non-lethal tool to deter wildlife from entering agricultural areas and reduce the risk of human–wildlife conflict. This proactive support helps protect both livelihoods and wildlife by preventing situations that could otherwise escalate into harmful encounters. During routine patrols, rangers also documented damage to several trees caused by Malayan sun bears accessing honey and insect larvae, highlighting the ongoing presence of wildlife near community land and the importance of continued monitoring and conflict mitigation efforts.

Wild pigs, leopard cats, Malayan sun bears, elephants, and orangutans were the most frequently detected species recorded during patrols over the past six months.

Data Summary from Monthly Patrols

Species	Sighting event	Conflict	Sets of tracks	Faeces	Scratch	Nest	Wallow
Wild pig <i>Sus scrofa</i>			52			3	9
Malayan sun bear <i>Helarctos malayanus</i>		1	2	3	20	3	
Thomas leaf monkey <i>Presbytis thomasi</i>	1						
Brahminy kite <i>Haliastus indus</i>	4						
Sumatran tiger <i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i>		1	9				
Leopard cat <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>			2	43	1		
Sumatran serow <i>Capricornis sumatraensis</i>			1				
Sumatran orangutan <i>Pongo abelii</i>	8	2		5		32	
Sumatran water monitor <i>Varanus salvator</i>			1				
Sumatran elephant <i>Elephas maximus sumatrensis</i>	18	4	4	17			1
Chevrotain <i>Tragulus kanchil</i>			1				
Wagler's pit viper <i>Tropidolaemus wagleri</i>	2						

Data Summary from Monthly Patrols

Species	Sighting event	Conflict	Sets of tracks	Faeces	Scratch	Nest	Wallow
Sambar deer <i>Rusa unicolor</i>			12	1			
Southern pig-tailed macaque <i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	2						
Civet Various spp.				16			
Wreathed hornbill <i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>	2						
Rhinoceros hornbill <i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>	4						
White-handed gibbon <i>Hylobates lar</i>	1						
Asian short-clawed otter <i>Aonyx cinerea</i>				1			
Porcupine <i>Hystrix brachyura</i>			1				

Camera Traps

In addition to the animals seen during monthly patrols from the table above, here are a few photo highlights of species that our camera traps spotted in the second half of 2025!



Leopard cat



Wild boar



Binturong



Sumatran tiger



Pig-tailed macaques



Sumatran elephant



Malayan sun bear

Elephant Monitoring



Donating loudspeakers to landowners



Elephant footprint

Elephants were closely monitored throughout the six-month period from July to December, with the herd currently numbering 25 individuals. This includes a core herd of females, adolescent males, and calves, as well as a peripheral bachelor group.

In December, the National Park Authority (Taman Nasional Gunung Leuser; TNGL) requested our assistance to respond to a human–elephant conflict event in the village of Sapo Padang, North Sumatra. Four rangers were deployed for three days to support TNGL staff in mitigating the presence of three elephants that had entered the village. Working collaboratively, the teams conducted intensive patrols and deterrent operations, covering a total of 107 km. Through coordinated monitoring, strategic positioning, and the use of non-lethal deterrents, the elephants were successfully guided away from the settlement and back toward forested habitat, reducing immediate risk to both people and elephants and helping to prevent escalation of the conflict.



Crops damaged by elephants



Elephant dung

Elephant Monitoring



In July, our rangers were called upon to assist with human–elephant conflict mitigation in the village of Tangkahan, where Sumatran elephants were encroaching on community areas. Non-lethal noise deterrents were used to encourage the elephants to move away from the village. As elephants can become desensitized to repetitive sounds, varying auditory stimuli is critical to the success of these interventions. Thanks to the support of The Elephant Sanctuary in Tennessee, we were able to purchase multiple loudspeakers capable of broadcasting a range of high-intensity sounds. These were used in combination with fireworks to safely and effectively redirect elephants away from communities, helping to protect both local residents and these threatened megafauna.

Human-Wildlife Conflict - Tigers



Livestock predation



Tiger pugmark



Rangers documenting predation event

One livestock predation event was recorded in November and one in July, making the total for the year three. In these events the loss of two cows was reported. Every month we are donating fireworks to landowners as a method to safely deter wildlife from conflict events. These can be deployed for a variety of species like Sumatran tigers, orangutans, and elephants. In July we donated several loudspeakers to landowners along the forest edge that experience ongoing and significant human-wildlife conflict in an effort to help reduce the likelihood of noise desensitization to fireworks. we have now constructed 17 predator-proof livestock corrals for communities to help prevent livestock depredation by Sumatran tigers.

World Ranger Day



THEY COLLECT DATA ON MORE THAN 150 SPECIES

logging snares, footprints, scats
animal sightings, human-wildlife conflict and more.

@sumantranrangerproject



THEY WORK HARD FOR 25+ COMMUNITIES

building trust with farmers, teaching children about conservation, preventing human-wildlife conflict, and protecting livelihoods.

@sumantranrangerproject

World Ranger Day, observed annually on 31 July, honours the vital work rangers do to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage, while also commemorating those injured or killed in the line of duty. Rangers serve as frontline defenders of planetary health, and we marked the day by sharing a series of short insights highlighting the critical aspects of our work and its impact.

First Aid Training



In August, American Physician Associate Zach Cooney generously volunteered his time to deliver much-needed field first aid training to our ranger team. Zach reached out after seeing our request for support to help upskill rangers in first aid and emergency response. He brought exceptional expertise to the training, drawing on his diverse background as a former anti-poaching ranger, wildlife guide, ocean rescue lifeguard, US military law enforcement and search and rescue professional, as well as a qualified Physician Associate.

The rangers gained invaluable skills and confidence during Zach's time with the team and now feel significantly more empowered and prepared to provide first aid to colleagues and community members in remote field settings. We are now seeking support for advanced medical training and essential equipment to further strengthen ranger safety and maintain high standards of field preparedness.

Work with us!



Livestock corral



Livestock corral construction



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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 April 2026 Sumatran Tiger Expedition will bring a small group of like-minded socially and environmentally conscious travellers 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. Two places remain on this field trip, see website below to secure the last places..

www.rawconservation.com

Thank you to our partners!





Sumatran Ranger Project is a programme
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