



# Sumatran Ranger Project Quarterly Report 2

June 2023, Leuser Ecosystem, North Sumatra

# Note from program leader

It has been an exciting and productive quarter for Sumatran Ranger Project with conservation volunteers, corral builds, a bio-acoustic survey, professional development and an orangutan rescue.

Our two new (female) rangers Pera and Eli continue to undergo training in the field and have started their employment with patrols, a corral build and participation in the orangutan rescue.

Thanks to our partners Deep Energies we have begun our seedling programme which will eventually help to support the communities we work with.

June 23-30<sup>th</sup> was World Female Ranger Week; a day to celebrate women rangers who are paving the way for women to stand alongside men at the forefront of conservation in what is a male dominated role. Less than 11% of the global wildlife ranger workforce is female but these are bold, empowering and empowered women who are challenging cultural norms and inspiring a new generation of female rangers. We are so privileged to have three strong and passionate women rangers in our team of 11; Pera, Pera, and Eli. Thank you for your work.



*Ranger Eli measuring sun bear scratch marks*



*Ranger Pera with a snare destroyed on patrol*



*Eli, Pera, & Pera*

## **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.*

Amy Robbins

# Patrols

15 snares were found and destroyed over the last quarter which is a decrease of two snares since the previous quarter. One snare was elaborate and included a shelter to entice wildlife into the snare itself (pictured below).



A huge diversity of wildlife was seen on patrol this quarter, including the elusive white-handed or lar gibbon, Sumatran orangutan, and Sumatran elephants. Sumatran tiger footprints were found in April and May and Malayan sun bear evidence was sighted in all three months.



*One of four snares found during the May patrol*



*Measuring Sumatran tiger footprints*

Noise deterrents were donated to landowners on each patrol, and we are looking to move to a more sustainable option of loudspeakers in the near future when funding allows. This will also help prevent desensitisation to the noise of fireworks, particularly for species like orangutans who can become accustomed.



*Lar or white-handed gibbon, Hylobates lar*



*Malayan sun bear claw marks on a tree*



*Recording elephant dung data*

Species	Sighted	Tracks	Faeces	Scratches	Nest	Wallow	Damage	Food remains	No.
Malayan sun bear <i>Helarctos malayanus</i>			2	11	2				15
Leopard cat <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>			10						10
Sumatran orangutan <i>Pongo abelii</i>	3				11				14
Thomas leaf monkey <i>Presbytis thomasi</i>	4								4
Wild boar <i>Sus scrofa</i>	1	42			1	13			57
Lar gibbon <i>Hylobates lar</i>	2								2
Sambar deer <i>Deer unicolor</i>		3							3
Sumatran tiger <i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i>		10							10
Sumatran porcupine <i>Hystrix sumatrae</i>		1							1
Palm civet <i>Paradoxus hermaphroditus</i>	2		1						3
Sumatran serow <i>Capricornis sumatraensis</i>			1						1
Sumatran elephant <i>Elephas maximus sumatrensis</i>	10	4	11				1		26



# Bio-acoustic survey

Thanks to our partnership with Rainforest Connection (RFCx) and Deep, and led by ranger Pera P, we have implemented a bio-acoustic monitoring programme along the forest edge. This scientific study involves placing sound recording equipment at pre-determined intervals, leaving them out for several two-week periods. This will enable biodiversity measurement and monitoring, gathering real-time data and can even help detect illegal activity. The capabilities of the recording equipment can recognize patterns of activity related to poaching and provide real-time alerts for sounds such as vehicles and chainsaws which can help reduce further biodiversity loss. Other RFCx projects elsewhere in the world have helped negotiate increased protection for forests. By protecting the border, we can help to protect the forest behind as well.



*Thanks to Rob Hemsworth & Jenna Hollamby for their expertise and training*

# Human-Wildlife Conflict

In April an elderly female Sumatran orangutan was found in a durian tree on private land. Attempts to move her on were unsuccessful, likely due to being more than 3km from the National Park. Our rangers called the relevant authorities who didn't arrive until the afternoon of the following day. SRP rangers waited under the tree for over 24 hours until she could be tranquilized by a vet and taken to a nearby orangutan quarantine and rehabilitation facility. She was found to be in poor condition; malnourished and with a significant parasite burden and prolapse. This beautiful female will have a health assessment and receive the treatment she requires before being released back into the Gunung Leuser National Park.



*Images courtesy of Joel Kotze*

One livestock predation incident occurred in April when a Sumatran tiger attacked and killed a cow in the village of Namu Sialang. SRP responded immediately and used noise deterrents to drive the tiger back to the forest and destroyed the carcass to reduce the likelihood of the tiger returning.



# Camera Traps

We are pleased to report this quarter we captured video footage of a Sunda pangolin, the most trafficked mammal in the world. Other highlights include some impressive male Southern pig-tailed macaques, Muntjac, Lesser mouse-deer, Malayan sun bear and both Brush-tailed and Sumatran porcupine.



*Pig-tailed macaque*



*Two Lesser mouse-deer (far right)*



*Sunda pangolin*



*Sumatran porcupine*



*Brush tailed porcupine*



# Communities

In April and May we hosted a small group of volunteers from various conservation and wildlife organisations. Together with the SRP team we constructed our eighth predator-proof livestock corral just outside the village of Tangkahan where a tiger conflict event has recently occurred. Immediately after corral number eight, the ranger team set to work to construct the ninth corral. These are in high demand from the communities we support along the forest edge as they are a proven method of reducing and preventing depredation of livestock by Sumatran tigers.

Thanks to our partners at Deep Energies, we initiated a seedling programme designed to provide trees to communities looking to move away from oil palm or rubber, and long-term, to help reforest degraded areas. The funding has enabled the employment of three women from the village of Porli to set up and maintain the programme for the coming 12 months.



We delivered 40 Days for Girls kits to the head of the village in Sumber Waras, for distribution to women and girls in the community. Days for Girls is an international not-for-profit programme working to eliminate the stigma and limitations associated with menstruation. These kits were made by a volunteer group in New Zealand and help to keep women and girls in work and school, providing sanitary, reusable feminine hygiene kits to communities with minimal or no access to alternatives. They are an environmentally friendly alternative to products that may end up in waterways or landfill.



# Thank you to our supporters



## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

### BREVARD ZOO

### Quarters for Conservation



We are thrilled to have been chosen to be part of Brevard Zoo's Quarters for Conservation programme. A portion from each daily ticket and membership goes towards their featured conservation programmes. Brevard Zoo strives to select organizations that reflect their mission of sharing their joy of nature to help wildlife and people thrive. This aligns perfectly with our work to support communities to live in harmony with the environment.



# Contact

e: [sumatranrangers@gmail.com](mailto:sumatranrangers@gmail.com)



@sumatranrangerproject



@sumatranrangerproject



@sumatranrangers

[www.sumatranrangerproject.com](http://www.sumatranrangerproject.com)

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