



# Sumatran Ranger Project Quarterly Report 1

March 2023, Leuser Ecosystem, North Sumatra



# Note from program leader

We have had a busy and productive first quarter, with responses to a tiger conflict events, employment of new rangers, a visit from a major partner, and the beginnings of a seedling programme.

A disappointing and alarming increase in the number of snares destroyed was reported over the last 3 months, for reasons unknown at this stage.

Thanks to our partners Deep Energies we have been able to secure funding to employ two female rangers to increase the diversity within the team. This brings our total number of rangers to ten, three of whom are female. Employing female rangers still challenges the cultural norm and the role of ranger typically falls to men both within and outside of Indonesia. We are looking forward to profiling our new team members once they return from their first patrol.



*Ranger Pera with a tortoise found on patrol*



*Sumatran orangutan and infant seen on January patrol*

## **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.*



# Patrols

17 snares were found and destroyed over the last quarter which is an increase of over 76% since the previous quarter. It is not illegal to set snares outside of protected areas in Sumatra so to remove them from community and private land and plantations requires extensive community engagement and practical ongoing support to manage living alongside wildlife. Every month SRP prioritises community engagement in various forms.



*Wire snare set on a wildlife trail*



*2 types of rope snares*



*Fresh Malay sun bear tracks being measured*

Four species of Sumatran megafauna were directly sighted - Sumatran elephants, orangutans, and tiger along the forest edge, and signs of Malay sun bears were documented. This continues to prove how much megafauna relies on community land to travel and feed.



# Patrols

The team were lucky enough to spot a female Wreathed hornbill (*Rhyticeros undulatus*) whilst on patrol in March, a species we rarely see.



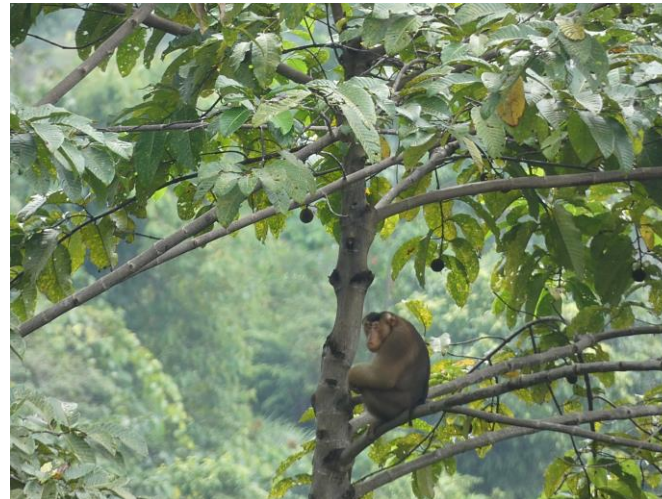
*Wreathed hornbill*



*Fresh Malay sun bear claw marks*



*Kite nest*



*Pig-tailed macaque*

Species	Sighted	Tracks	Faeces	Scratches	Nest	Wallow	Damage	Food remains	No.
Malayan sun bear <i>Helarctos malayanus</i>		2	2	4	2				10
Leopard cat <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>		1	17						18
Sumatran orangutan <i>Pongo abelii</i>	2				16				18
Wreathed hornbill <i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>	1								1
Wild boar <i>Sus scrofa</i>		75			1	5			81
Water monitor <i>Varanus salvator</i>	1								1
Sambar deer <i>Deer unicolor</i>		12							12
Sumatran tiger <i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i>	1	5							6
Sumatran porcupine <i>Hystrix sumatrae</i>		1							1
Palm civet <i>Paradoxus hermaphroditus</i>			4						4
Spiny turtle <i>Heosemys spinosa</i>	1								1

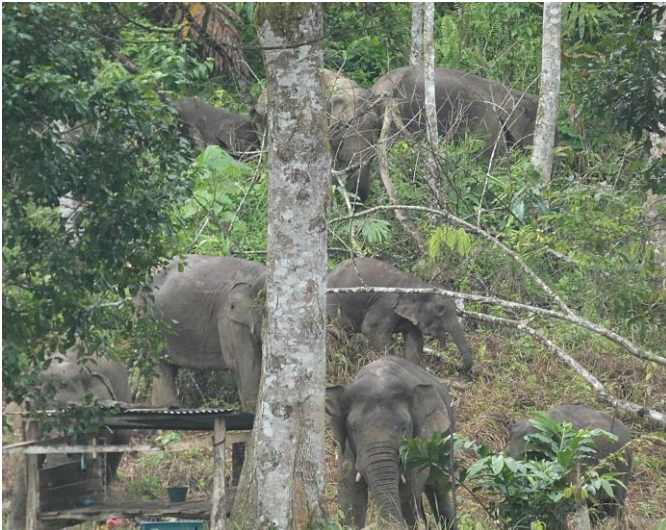


Summary of wildlife findings in this reporting period. Sumatran elephants are covered in separate patrols and later in this report.



# Sumatran elephants

Over the last quarter the teams recorded direct sightings of elephants as well as numerous faeces and tracks. Footprints measured 23cm to 132cm in diameter. Elephants were found in and around community and privately owned land although no conflict or damage was reported.



*Sumatran elephants feeding in private land*



*Measuring juvenile Sumatran elephant footprints*

In March a lone bull was monitored as well as three other individuals at different times. SRP continues to support landowners that experience human-elephant conflict with provision of noise deterrents.



*Bull elephant seen in March*





# Human-Wildlife Conflict

Last quarter we reported that the village of Pancasila had requested support for human-elephant conflict to better equip the landowners to deal with conflict events as they happen. We are pleased to report we have been able to fulfill this request, read more in Communities. In 2023 we will construct a predator-proof livestock corral in the same community, to help prevent livestock predation by Sumatran tigers.

In February the rangers responded to a tiger conflict event. A calf was predated by a Sumatran tiger whilst being grazed within an oil palm plantation. Together with locals, SRP used noise deterrents to drive the tiger back to the National Park overnight. Tiger pugmarks measured 900mm x 800mm.

There was no Sumatran elephant conflict recorded in this reporting period despite elephants being present in community land.





# Camera Trap Programme

Thanks to our partnership with DEEP we have been able to purchase much needed new camera traps which will be deployed in April. We captured some great footage of Sumatran and Asiatic brush-tailed porcupines, one of which was being hunted by a snake. We also saw a female sun bear and her cub which we assume is the same duo we have captured on video in the last few months, and a rarely seen Marbled cat.



*Pictured: Malayan sun bear cub, Pig-tailed macaque, Great argus pheasant*



*The elusive and seldom seen Marbled cat (Pardofelis marmorata)*



# Communities

Thanks to our partnership with Deep Energies, we have been able to start a seedling initiative, providing employment to four additional locals. The programme will collect seeds for germination and then plant them back along the forest border. We aim to help support communities with supplementary income from fruit trees as well as helping to slowly regenerate degraded areas of the forest edge. Many of the locals have expressed a desire to transition to fruit crops from oil palm but with this comes the risk of further human-wildlife conflict which requires more community engagement.

We are about to build our eighth predator-proof livestock corral near the villages of Tangkahan and Sumber Waras. Corrals are designed to help protect livestock (an important livelihood) from predation by Sumatran tigers. This will be supported by a group of conservation volunteers who will be visiting SRP to learn about community conservation in this area.

In February we donated equipment to 11 families in the village of Pancasila to better equip them to patrol their own land for early detection of elephants. Pancasila experiences significant human-elephant conflict and due to the proximity of the community from our office we can't always respond as quickly as we would like, particularly in heavy rain. By providing rubber boots, head torches, wet weather gear and noise deterrents, we are further demonstrating our commitment to supporting Pancasila and extending our reach along the forest edge.



*Donating Pancasila residents elephant patrol equipment, donating noise deterrents to a landowner, seedling programme (L-R).*





# Thank you to our supporters



## Supporter Spotlight: DEEP

In March we hosted a group from our new partners at DEEP. DEEP creates and deploys environmental impact platforms for visionary organisations and their communities and we feel so fortunate to have connected with them and to be partnering with an organisation whose values align with our own.





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