



The Sumatran Ranger Project

Quarterly Report 1, 2019

Leuser Ecosystem, North Sumatra

Our Vision

To ensure long term protection of the buffer zone of the Leuser Ecosystem in North Sumatra

Our Mission

To halt activities that damage the buffer zone environment and are a threat to wildlife and to assist forest edge communities living within the buffer zone of the Leuser Ecosystem





Table of contents

1	About Us	1
1.1	The Sumatran Ranger Project.....	1
1.2	Leuser Ecosystem	1
2	Project Update	2
2.1	Update	2
2.2	Camera trapping	3
2.3	Patrols.....	3
2.4	Education	5
3	Upcoming.....	5
4	Sponsors.....	5
 Annexure A		6
	Acknowledgements	6





1 About Us

1.1 The Sumatran Ranger Project

The Sumatran Ranger Project is a community conservation initiative, established to help provide long term protection of the Leuser Ecosystem buffer zone environment to benefit both wildlife and people. The project was formed in 2016 to help provide protection to the buffer zone of the Leuser Ecosystem because of extensive destruction and human-wildlife conflict, as well as to help address poverty within the forest edge communities, all of which are closely interlinked. Buffer zones should help afford protection of a high conservation area but along the forest edge is where much conflict with the environment often occurs. Buffer zones are a transition area to enhance the protection of a specific conservation space and are increasingly under pressure from human activity.

www.sumatranrangerproject.com

1.2 Leuser Ecosystem

The Leuser Ecosystem is one of the worlds' richest, yet least known and threatened forest ecosystems. Over 2.6 million hectares span the provinces of North Sumatra and Aceh on the island of Sumatra, Indonesia, around 30% of which is made up of the Gunung Leuser National Park. This environment is the very last place on Earth where the Sumatran orangutan, tiger, elephant and rhinoceros co-exist. It acts as a life support to over four million people who live in and around it, provides flood, landslide and drought protection, and helps regulate climate worldwide. As the human population continues to expand, combined with increasing habitat destruction and fragmentation there is increasing conflict with wildlife, particularly within forest-edge or buffer zone communities. Wildlife cannot depict the separation between human and wild space and there is increasing human-wildlife conflict, putting more pressure on critically endangered species. The Leuser Ecosystem is the last stronghold of all four charismatic Sumatran mega-fauna species – it holds the largest of only two viable populations of Sumatran tigers, 85% of the remaining Sumatran orangutans and a significant proportion of the few remaining Sumatran rhinoceros as well as being home to the critically endangered Sumatran elephant.



2 Project Update

The last three months have been spent focusing largely on necessary administrative tasks. The Sumatran Ranger Project is now under the Indonesian Foundation, Yayasan Cahaya Anak Nusantara (YCAN). This relationship was formalised in order to align the project with a like-minded umbrella foundation to assist with achieving our objectives.

2.1 Professional development and training

In early January, the team from Frankfurt Zoological Society in Bukit Tigapuluh, Jambi province, visited for a second time to upskill and train our rangers in the use of SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) patrol. It has been a long term objective for the program to move towards using this conservation software that measures, evaluates and improves the effectiveness of site-based conservation activities. SMART is used by other world renowned ranger teams. SMART is a software program that enables the collection, storage, communication, and evaluation of ranger-based data on patrol efforts, patrol results, and threat levels (www.smartconservationtools.org). All of our rangers have had little training or experience in computer use and training for SMART required days of concentration, listening and practical application. All came away from the experience feeling empowered and motivated and our field manager Arie, will continue to provide support in the use of SMART reports to the team. Thanks to International Elephant Project for funding this much needed professional development.



Dr Alex Mossbrucker and his team from FZS training SRP in Tangkahan

2.2 Camera trapping

We have recorded some incredible diversity in the first quarter of 2019, with the usual suspects taking up the majority of the images – Pig tailed (*Macaca nemestrina*) and Long tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*), as well as forest pigs. We recorded numerous videos of various species including Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) and Leopard cat (*Prionailurus bengalensis*), and stunning video footage of a female Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*) walking on foot right in front of our camera.



Long tailed macaque



Malayan sun bear

We are currently seeking a volunteer with experience in camera trapping and data collection/recording to spend time with our camera trap team in order to maximise the effectiveness of our data collection methods and ensure it is collected in a scientific manner, so that in future we may publish the results of our findings.

2.3 Patrols

There has been significant snare activity in recent patrols, with 35 snares deactivated and removed in one area in February. Snares are typically set immediately outside the Gunung Leuser National Park in between the boundary and privately or company owned land. They are typically a wire snare at head height for a medium to large sized animal, or a ground trap that tightens as the animal steps into it.



A ground trap

SRP rangers with snares removed on patrol



The type of data the patrol team collects includes direct wildlife sightings, evidence of human-wildlife conflict, scratch marks and animal tracks, nests, animal faeces and illegal activity. Each piece of data is recorded with a time, GPS location, and photo as well as any other relevant information like the type of species involved in illegal activity such as logging. An example of the information they record is in the table below and taken from a monthly report.

TGL jan- feb 2019	jam	Id foto	Coordinate N	Coordinate E	Jenis temuan	Species	jmlh	keterangan
30	11:21		402456.2398	397453.3958	Perambahan		1 ha	Perambahan dengan cara dibakar
30	11:37		402303.3733	397649.4331	suara	Orang Utan	1	Melihat Langsung
30	11:55		402288.5289	397689.9078	Sarang	Orang Utan	1	Di Kawasan Tualang Gepang
30-Jan-19	2:27:36 PM		402068.2873	398046.0835	Bangkai/sarang	Babi	1	Bangkai terdapat di Sarang Babi
31-Jan-19	7:37:14 AM		401631.2578	398535.4595	Sarang	Orang Utan	1	TJNG SUBUR TO BATU RG RING
31-Jan-19	9:30:27 AM		401468.9555	398733.1663				Di Batas TNGL desa Tanjung Subur
31-Jan-19	10:10:32 AM		401449.7194	398825.4924	Papan Kayu/ mencapit		15	Papan Kayu di sinsaw
31-Jan-19	10:33:40 AM		401361.7771	399078.2905	Perambahan		¼ ha	Perambahan
31-Jan-19	10:43:45 AM		401369.0759	399159.536	Jerat Kawat		5 unit	Jerat telah dimusnahkan
31-Jan-19	2:42:31 PM		401006.5364	399489.1023	Sarang	Orang Utan	1	Kondisi lama, 20 meter dari permukaan Tanah arab 30 derajat
2-Feb-19	11:31:08 AM		400036.5135	400214.2594	Cakaran	Beruang Madu	1	Baru
2-Feb-19	2:29:19 PM		400061.2402	400955.5712	suara	elang	1	EG
2-Feb-19	3:16:51 PM		400063.3765	401540.2586	kotoran	Kucing hutan	1	1 Tumpuk
2-Feb-19	3:42:27 PM		399861.3103	401392.8779	suara	elang	1	EG
2-Feb-19	3:59:46 PM		399847.8819	401403.6145	kotoran	Kucing hutan	1	1 Tumpuk dekat Sumber Air Panas
3-Feb-19	8:55:50 AM		399548.096	402053.3855	suara	Orang utan	1	300 Meter 90 derajat
3-Feb-19	9:25:12 AM		399192.0841	402561.4918	suara	Bangkong papan	1	Lokasi di PT. Sempena
3-Feb-19	10:55:06 AM		398677.5138	402779.0179	jerat	Jerat lubang	1	Di musnahkan
3-Feb-19	11:28:53 AM		398589.1373	402920.057	jerat	kawat	1	JR AKTIF di musnahkan
3-Feb-19	11:37:43 AM		398535.8022	403006.339	jerat	kawat	1	JR AKTIF
4-Feb-19	8:55:56 AM		399736.9338	404404.8916				DUSUN GELUGUR
5-Feb-19	9:32:56 AM		397966.1878	403590.7267	Sarang	Babi hutan	1	Baru
5-Feb-19	11:34:09 AM		397717.9187	404203.4216	konflik	perambahan	1 ha	Bekas sinsaw
6-Feb-19	9:09:18 AM		397776.8846	404952.4407	jerat	kawat	3	Aktif di musnahkan
6-Feb-19	10:15:18 AM		397507.2378	405399.0043	jerat	kawat	1	Jerat aktif di musnahkan
7-Feb-19	9:15:59 AM		396508.793	409237.206	jerat	kawat	1	Aktif di musnahkan
7-Feb-19	9:27:11 AM		396317.2273	409669.8769	jerat	kawat	1	Aktif di musnahkan
8-Feb-19	9:01:44 AM		396338.2389	409795.7706	jerat	kawat	1	Aktif di musnahkan
8-Feb-19	9:18:18 AM		396348.007	409896.3603	suara		1	Suara
8-Feb-19	9:28:00 AM		396374.549	410106.2657	kotoran		1	Kotoran
8-Feb-19	10:31:32 AM		396343.2955	410588.9576	cakaran		1	Cakaran



2.3 Education

Thanks to support from SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Conservation Fund we have funded two teachers' salaries at SOBAN school in Bohorok, along the edge of the Gunung Leuser National park. We sent funds this quarter for the first three months of 2019. To date, we have enabled 300 local children of all ages to enter the National Park forest where they have seen wild orangutans, picked up litter and connected with nature. We recently purchased a projector for this school which will be delivered in late April by SRP founder Amy Robbins. We are currently working on an activity book specific to the Leuser Ecosystem that can be used as an educational resource for this school and others like it in North Sumatra.



3 Upcoming

In the coming three months we will be investigating the purchase of land with which we can begin a forest restoration program. In the future SRP aims to set up a seedling cooperative in the buffer zone community of Batu Rongring, to provide seedlings for restoration.

4 Sponsors

In April we will be delivering Keen Footwear's donation of seven pairs of shoes for our ranger team. The rangers are all looking forward to this delivery as some don't have appropriate footwear to wear on patrol. Keen shoes are perfect for patrolling in the harsh Indonesian jungle environment.

We are thankful to Paul Tyler from New Zealand who coordinated an extraordinary fundraising mission, to allow us to purchase the ranger team new backpacks and quick-dry pants for use while on patrol.



Annexure A

Acknowledgements

Massive thanks to our supporters and backers, we wouldn't be able to do this without you!

