



Pelestarian Harimau Sumatera Kerinci Seblat



Jeremy Holden/FI

KERINCI SEBLAT SUMATRAN TIGER PROTECTION & CONSERVATION

Report on activities conducted with the support of Wildcats Conservation Alliance and Dreamworld Conservation Funding

February 2018 - January 2019



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

The project purpose is to secure the effective conservation of Sumatran tiger through reducing direct and indirect threats in the protected Tiger Conservation Landscape (1.38 million hectares) of the globally important Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP).



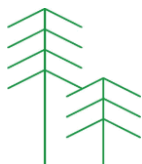
Six Tiger Protection & Conservation Units (TPCUs) were active and conducted a total of 122 SMART foot patrols in national park and park-edge forests, across a total walking distance of just over 1,156 miles (1860km).



Poaching threat to tiger fell for the third consecutive year to a record low with just one active tiger snare recorded and destroyed, compared with nine in the same months of 2017-2018 and 48 in 2016-2017.



Tiger encounter rates on TPCU patrols improved during the project period, with effort to report tiger presence reducing to one tiger per 5.9 patrol days (previously one per 6.6 days in the same months of 2017 and one per 6.2 days in 2016). However, unusually severe monsoon rains - which saw the heaviest rainfall in at least six years - meant tiger signs were very difficult to detect during the latter part of the project. This meant that effort to record tiger presence increased fractionally to one tiger per 7 patrol days over the project period, with 84 Sumatran tiger presence records made.



The reduced threat to tiger that was recorded on patrols allowed TPCUs to step up responses to other forest and wildlife crime, with 12 chainsaws and two firearms confiscated and a total of 69 formal or verbal warnings issued for a range of offences. Purchase of a new patrol vehicle with support from WCCA took longer than expected, but a Mitsubishi long-wheel base jeep was finally secured in late 2018.



Investigations were conducted in park-edge districts and market towns of four provinces and three provincial capitals and advised that law enforcement through this programme and others had caused widespread disruption to the illegal wildlife trade syndicates. However, while poaching threat to tiger reduced, some habitual poachers remained active and investigations supported two intelligence-led tiger law enforcement actions conducted in partnership with park-edge police divisions.



Law enforcement resulted in the arrest and prosecution of three men and seizure of the complete body parts of two tigers. Information from a third investigation fed into an strengthened tiger law enforcement in Jambi city by a specialist team from KSDA (Konservasi Sumbar Daya Alam) Jambi.



A significant increase in human-tiger conflict was recorded, with TPCUs conducting mitigation and post-conflict monitoring in a total of 13 individual cases – the highest number since 2013. The majority of conflicts recorded were minor and victimless, but two serious incidents occurred - one involving a (non-fatal) daylight attack on a forest-edge farmer.



The programme also gave technical input to: SMART patrol training and analysis meetings; 'resort-based' management for national park partners; and the formation of a human-wildlife conflict mitigation taskforce.

1: SMART PATROLS BY TPCUs

Detect, address and reduce direct and indirect threats to Sumatran tiger and prey; consolidate gains made in reducing threat to tiger and deter opportunist wildlife and forest crime.

Six TPCUs, operating from base camps to the east and west of the national park, were active during the project period, and conducted a total of 122 SMART patrols in national park and park-edge forests.

Patrols covered a total walking distance of just over 1860km (1,156 miles) by GPS Waypoint, with 592 days spent on forest patrols in seven districts of three (out of the four) provinces which overlay the national park.

The number of longer patrols – six days or more – was lower than planned due to a sharp increase in human-tiger conflicts reported. Additionally, 10 patrols were cut short due to forest law enforcement actions.

Patrols were mainly conducted from the Jambi TPCU's Kerinci base camp, under the supervision of the TPCU Field Manager.

Active poaching threat to tiger recorded on TPCU patrols fell to a historic low during the project period. Only one active tiger snare was reported - on an information-led patrol in the south-west of the national park - compared with nine active tiger snares in the same months of 2017-2018 and 48 in the same period of 2016-2017. The man who set this tiger snare and two other 'recently active' snares, one of which killed a sub-adult tiger in the south-west of the national park, was subsequently arrested in September 2018 (See *Section 3. Law enforcement*).

A further five active tiger snares were made safe in a very remote area of the national park in early November. A TPCU ranger also received a tip-off through an informant network on this poaching attempt and a patrol response was under way when it was learned the snares had been made safe. This was the largest multiple tiger snare placement reported since mid-2016. It may not be coincidental that it occurred shortly after the Chinese government announced plans – subsequently shelved – to relax restrictions on domestic trade in tiger body parts.

Additionally, three TPCU patrols, one pioneering a route in the east of the national park – reported evidence of four inactive tiger snare placements all dating to the first quarter of 2018.

One of these snares is suspected to have killed a tiger in national park forests on the Kerinci-Merangin district borders early in 2018; and three individuals from Kerinci and the community suspected to be implicated in this incident, were subsequently identified but with no evidence

available for law enforcement to be launched.

A fourth TPCU patrol, using information secured in the course of a covert pre-law-enforcement interview, identified the site where a sub-adult tiger was poached and killed, reported a second recently-active tiger snare placement in the area and was able to confirm no snares remained active. Two tigers were present on this particular patrol route.

In total, 'only' seven inactive tiger snares were recorded over the project period, compared with 23 in the previous 12 months of 2017-2018 and 53 in the same months of 2016-2017.

No active or recently active poaching threat to tiger was recorded by the FFI/Panthera/KSNP tiger monitoring team in the course of transects and camera trapping in the core area and a site in the north-eastern block of the national park.

However, while active snare poaching threat to tiger recorded on patrols fell to a historic low, the team is concerned that the threat detected was *too* low and is exploring whether hunters may have moved to using other, less easily detectable poaching methods than snaring.

Investigations indicated that those poachers still active have continued to seek locations where their activities would not be detected.

However, there was no clear evidence of any substantial leakage of poaching threat to areas of the project landscape where TPCUs do not have a routine patrol presence. This may be a consequence of lower tiger densities in these areas following the high levels of poaching threat recorded between 2013 and 2016.

Informal discussions with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Indonesia mentioned that their patrols had also recorded a substantial downturn in poaching threat to tiger. Interviews with hunters also cited the impact of law enforcement actions in 2016 and 2017 by this team and others in Sumatra.

Active threat to key tiger prey species, primarily sambar deer and muntjak, was recorded on nine (7%) of 122 patrols, with a total of 150 active snares detected and destroyed. More than half (60%) of these snares were recorded on two information-led patrols conducted during or just before the fasting month of Ramadan – when pressure on deer frequently spikes due to local market demand for venison for special meals to break the Fast, or for family gatherings during the subsequent Eid holidays.

A third 'long' line of 35 active deer snares and one inactive tiger snare was recorded on a patrol in the far south of the Kerinci valley with the snares believed to have been set by an individual also clearing national park forests for a coffee plantation.

While poaching threat to tiger declined for the third consecutive year and pressure on deer was stable or better, patrols continued to record serious threat to tiger habitat, in particular from encroachment by 'small holder' farmers clearing forests for coffee or, in the lowland forests in the west of the national park, for palm oil.

Patrols also recorded ongoing threat to tiger habitat from alluvial illegal gold mining in and adjoining the north-east of the national park and from illegal logging, primarily small-scale, to supply local sawmills, often operating illegally.

TPCUs were constrained from responding to encroachment and forest conversion through law enforcement due to lack of political will at the highest levels of government. Ten patrols were aborted or cut short following seizures of chainsaws from encroachers or (local) illegal loggers. (See *Section 3. Law enforcement*).

A total of 84 Sumatran tigers were recorded in the course of 122 patrols during the project period, compared with 89 individuals in the preceding 12 months of 2017-18.

This meant that frequency of encounter (FoE) with tiger reduced, slightly, to one tiger per 13.8 patrol miles walked (22.2Km) compared with 1-12.92 miles (21Km) in the same months of 2017-2018.

However, patrol teams are heavily dependent upon use of secondary indicators – in particular pugmarks – to detect and record tiger presence.

This was made very difficult in the final quarter of the project due to the heaviest rainfall recorded in at least six years, which made pugmarks very hard to identify.

For the first eight months of the project when rainfall patterns were relatively normal, patrol effort to record tiger, improved to one tiger per 5.9 patrol days from one tiger per 6.6 patrol days in the same period of 2017.

Patrol frequency of encounter with tiger also improved, reducing to one tiger per 11.8 miles (19Km) from one tiger per 13 miles (21Km) in the same period of 2017.

However in the final four months, detection of tiger presence, in particular pug marks was very difficult and frequency of encounter with tiger sign reduced to one tiger per 13.7 patrol miles (22.1 Km) walked while patrol Effort to record tiger presence almost doubled to one tiger per 10.4 days.

Past patrol records show that tiger detection frequently reduces at the height of the rainy season, however, the rainfall in the final months of the project was unusually intense and, together with the number of patrols curtailed due to forest law enforcement, contributed strongly to the slight reduction in tiger records made by TPCUs over the project period as a whole.



2: POACHING AND ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE INVESTIGATIONS

Identify and monitor individuals posing threat to tigers, including their methods, networks and trade routes; secure evidence for law enforcement as appropriate; monitor the illegal wildlife black market for changes; and maintain forest-edge community information networks.

More than 150 investigations were logged during the project period, ranging from one-off reports on activities or information received from forest-edge informants through to updates on ongoing investigations, some long-running.

Investigations were mainly conducted in park-edge districts and municipalities in the four provinces which overlay the Kerinci Seblat landscape but extended to three provincial capitals and, in the case of one investigation, to the national capital, Jakarta.

Investigations supported two successful tiger law enforcement actions (see *Section 3. Law enforcement*) while information from a third investigation was passed to a specialist unit – the Unit for Conservation of Natural Resources - of KSDA who subsequently arrested two men, one long known to the project team as a local intermediary for tiger poachers, in Jambi city.

Between 2012-15, securing valid information on poaching and illegal wildlife trade threat to tiger and advancing investigations to law enforcement was difficult due to the ‘closed’ nature of the syndicates involved and a ‘poach-to-order’ system under which traders facilitated poachers’ operations. This began to change from early 2016, with the arrest of a poaching syndicate kingpin operating in the west of the national park. Law enforcement actions since 2017 have leveraged widespread disruption to the organised crime syndicates driving threat to tiger across the Kerinci landscape and more widely.

Suspected traders and poachers interviewed in the course of investigations during the project frequently cited cases where cohorts had been arrested, and cited the need for extreme caution.

Investigations also noted that some poachers and local level traders around the landscape appeared to routinely share information, using social media applications, not only on opportunities to trade wildlife and prices touted but also information on wildlife law enforcement – and, of concern to the team – the physical descriptions of individuals suspected to be undercover investigators.

Investigations advised that the threat of law enforcement meant major traders were generally unwilling to be directly involved in transactions in many - but not all - park-edge districts while poachers were unwilling to travel outside the perceived safety of their villages.

Meanwhile, a key illegal trade route from Padang to Jakarta, identified in 2017, was not active for much of 2018. This was due to spot checks on baggage by police and KSDA at Padang’s Minangkabau airport following briefings by the team, to relevant authorities.

This fragmentation of the illegal wildlife trade - together with lower black market prices paid - possibly due to reduced access to national level traders - is likely to have been a major factor in reduced poaching threat to tiger recorded by TPCU patrols. However, the programme remains concerned that key individual elements of the poaching and trade networks, which were the source of threat to Sumatran tiger during 2012-15 remain intact, while collaborations between poachers across the landscape, using improved mobile phone coverage and social media applications, have the potential to underpin a resurgence in threat.

Although investigations primarily focused on identifying and countering poaching and illegal wildlife trade-driven threat to Sumatran tiger, investigations also collected this information on other species. Patrols and investigations reported traders – frequently also involved in trade of Sumatran tiger – as no longer willing to fund other species-poaching gangs’ activities, possibly because they can no longer guarantee a swift return on their investment due to depleted populations.

Plans to introduce use of SMART ‘Cybertracker’ software to map investigation effort did not proceed to full implementation as investigator members of the team were widely anxious that they might be detected by suspects.

3: SPECIES & FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS:

Conduct law enforcement appropriate to the offence; support and advance the subsequent legal process with the purpose of securing an appropriate legal judgment.

Two intelligence-led tiger law enforcement actions were conducted during the project period, resulting in the arrest and prosecution of three men and seizure of the skins and skeletons of two Sumatran tiger as evidence.

The first of these actions was conducted in Merangin district of Jambi in the east of the national park in early August, in partnership with district police detectives.

This law enforcement resulted in the arrest of two men - a poacher and his intermediary - with the complete body parts of an adult male Sumatran tiger seized as evidence.

In the course of covert interviews during the final stages of this investigation, the poacher's intermediary reported that previously he and his partner had sold tigers to an unnamed individual from Riau province in eastern Sumatra.

However their usual buyer was no longer willing to visit the Merangin area as a consequence of law enforcement actions in the area since 2016, while they were unwilling to risk travelling to Riau. These two individuals were subsequently sentenced to two and a half year custodial sentences and fined the maximum Rp100 million (£5,400) or face a longer jail term.

Just over a month later, tiger law enforcement was again conducted, this time in partnership with Mukomuko district police in the south-west of the national park in Bengkulu province.

The suspect in this case first became known to the programme in 2014 as a second-generation tiger poacher, following a tiger poaching incident deep

within the core area of the national park. The evidence against the suspect was not strong enough at the time to proceed to law enforcement and guarantee an appropriate legal judgment.

Eighteen months later, following the arrest of a tiger poaching syndicate kingpin in January 2016 in Mukomuko district, a warrant for the arrest of this individual known as 'Hery' was issued but he immediately absconded and could not be traced.

It is now known that he was in hiding in a remote park-edge area of western Merangin district and it is probable that it was during this time that he established links with the two men mentioned here, that were arrested in August 2018.

In the second quarter of 2018, a TPCU investigator tracked down 'Hery's' whereabouts and infiltrated his social network, learning that he still posed an active threat to tigers, not only in the project landscape but more widely across Sumatra. The suspect mentioned that he had also poached tigers in the Gunung Leuser National Park landscape in North Sumatra and Aceh provinces.

Law enforcement was finally conducted in partnership with Mukomuko district police in early September, and 'Hery', was arrested with the skin and skeleton of a juvenile tiger as evidence – see image below ('Hery' is fifth from right)

An interview carried out immediately before law enforcement was conducted subsequently guided a TPCU patrol to the site this young tiger had been poached and it was confirmed no snares remained active in the area.



A warrant for the arrest of a second man from a neighbouring district of Bengkulu (and an associate the men mention above), was issued by police, but 'Special K' as he has been named, absconded before police reached his house. He remains subject to a 'Wanted' notice issued by police.

The case against 'Hery' proceeded smoothly through development, with the programme facilitating Expert Witness support to police, prosecution and through to a court hearing in North Bengkulu. 'Hery' subsequently received a two year sentence with a fine of Rp10 million (£450).

Both the custodial sentence and the accompanying fine was lower than anticipated, given that prosecutors and the bench were aware he was not a first-time offender and had previously been the subject of an arrest warrant for a similar offence.

Going forward, the programme expects to facilitate a wildlife crime training workshop for members of the judiciary in Bengkulu province, which will be led by experts from the Indonesian Ministry of Justice. It will deliver briefings to provincial prosecutors on approaches to prosecuting 'serious' wildlife crime, including benchmark sentencing.

Tiger law enforcement conducted in partnership with Merangin district police in October 2017 proceeded to a court hearing in early 2018. The defendants, a tiger poacher and his broker accomplice, each received custodial terms of one year and a half years, lighter than has been the recent norm, but with both men also fined the maximum Rp100 million (£5,400) available under current law or face additional time in prison.

Reduced illegal wildlife trade-driven poaching threat to Sumatran tiger detected on patrols, both routine and information-led, allowed the TPCU team to step up actions to combat other breaches of wildlife and forest law.

TPCUs provided operational support to the Kerinci division of the national park, in law enforcement against illegal logging in the north of Kerinci. Three illegal loggers were arrested and sentenced to two and a half years. Meanwhile, the leader of an illegal logging gang arrested on a TPCU patrol in national park forests in Bengkulu at the very end of 2017 was sentenced to a two year custodial sentence by North Bengkulu magistrates in March 2018.

A total of 69 formal cautions or verbal warnings were issued for a range of offences encountered during the course of 26 TPCU patrols. Ten patrols were cut short due to seizures made in the course of forest or wildlife law enforcement.

A total of 21 formal legal cautions were issued during eight TPCU patrols for offences including illegal logging, encroachment into the national park or to individuals carrying snares or other hunting equipment, including air guns. A further 48 verbal warnings were issued by TPCU patrols for a range of offences from possession of deer snares or wild

bird catching equipment and clearance of national park or protected buffer-zone forests for farmland.

All these suspects were documented, advised that a second offence would result in prosecution, and instructed to immediately return to their home villages.

Individuals receiving formal legal warnings included a man claiming to be looking for wild song birds in forests in the west of the national park in Bengkulu, who was subsequently arrested on tiger-related charges in September 2018.

In this particular case, the suspect, (see image below) - a man known to the team as a suspected tiger poacher - was searched but with no evidence found to justify his arrest and so he was released under a formal caution. This patrol – which had been launched on the basis of a forest-edge informant tip-off, subsequently found one active tiger snare and a second recently-active tiger snare which were almost certainly placed by this man.



No actual arrests resulting in prosecution for illegal logging were conducted on TPCU patrols during the project period primarily due to the fact that the number of suspects present frequently outnumbered the patrol team.

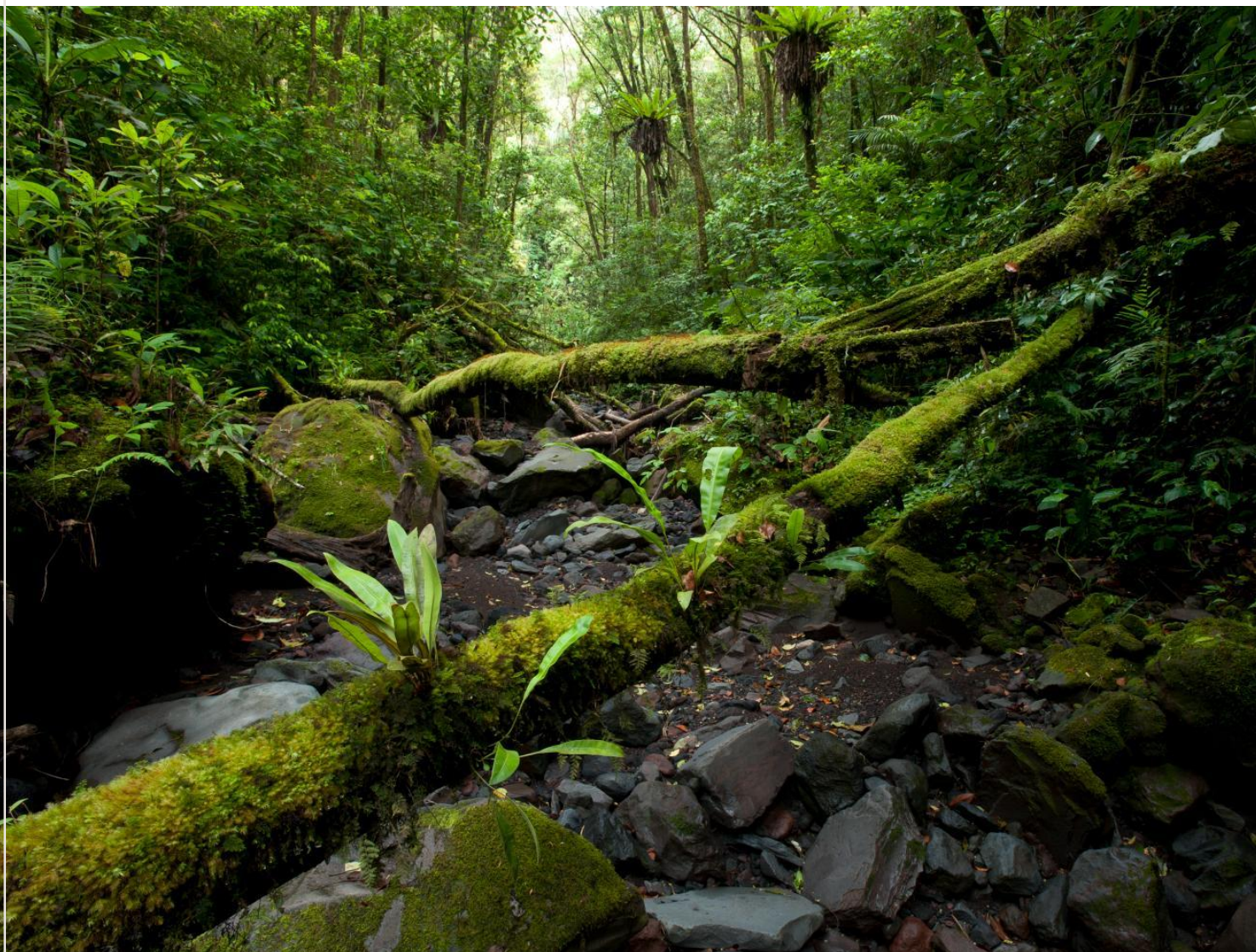
However, a total of 12 chainsaws and two guns were confiscated from encroachers or illegal loggers in the course of ten TPCU patrols.

Patrols were constrained from responding vigorously to encroachment due to advice from the highest levels of national government that formal law enforcement should not be conducted in cases of 'smallholder' forest clearance.

However, the project facilitated national park partners to provide detailed briefings to Jambi City prosecutors following the arrest in early 2018, of four men charged with sponsoring clearances of national park forests in the east of the national park. The clearance activities were for coffee plantations by settlers from other provinces of Sumatra.

The arrest of these individuals, one of whom was the district leader of a militant 'farmers' rights' organisation, saw new cases of encroachment into the east of the national park reduce significantly.

However, in early October, while his three colleagues were each sentenced to eight month prison terms, the case against their leader, who was arrested at the same time while actually directing preparations for forest clearances, was dismissed as 'Not Proven.' The judgment made was likely a result of advocacy by an individual or individuals with links to the national level political decision-makers. Disappointingly, encroachment in the national park by settlers, with the support of this individual's organisation, has subsequently resumed.



Kerinci landscape. Jeremy Holden/FI

4: HUMAN-TIGER CONFLICT MITIGATION

Respond swiftly to human-tiger conflicts using a nationally approved conflict mitigation protocol, where possible before livestock predation has occurred, to protect both tigers and forest-edge community livelihoods

The project period saw a significant increase in human-tiger conflicts reported, with TPCUs responding to a total of 13 specific conflicts, some requiring repeat mitigation and post-intervention monitoring, compared with just six in the same period of 2017-2018.

This was the highest number of human-tiger conflicts dealt with since 2013. The greatest number of conflicts reported were occurring in central and southern Kerinci district, an enclave which is bordered by national park forests.

The increase in human-tiger conflicts correlated closely with reducing poaching threat to tigers. It followed a period in which forest-edge farmers, in some areas, are known to have been offered financial incentives by poachers to report tiger presence to them and not to the national park or other conservation agencies.

Conflicts recorded during the project period frequently showed a relationship with habitat disturbance, including within the protected area or conversion of old, mature cinnamon plantations to annual crops or to coffee.

In one situation, four victimless human-tiger conflicts were recorded, some requiring repeat interventions and likely to be a result of tigers retreating from disturbance from ongoing illegal gold mining.

More than half of the conflicts reported and mitigated by TPCUs were minor or 'low-grade' victimless incidents relating to tigers – in one case with a cub – moving through forest-edge farmland and posing no direct or immediate threat to people or livestock. However, TPCUs prioritised swift responses to these incidents to demonstrate concern for villagers' livelihoods and provide counselling and advice on safety both of villagers and livestock.

Three further conflict reports were found to be a consequence of misidentification of other species. In two cases, it was an Asiatic golden cat, and in a third case, community reports of tiger pugmarks close to a village were found to relate to a large bull mastiff dog, recently bought by a farmer to protect his crops from predation by wild boar.

The most serious human-tiger conflict recorded occurred over a period of weeks between April and June to the east of the Kerinci valley. This incident commenced with predation of forest-edge farmland guard dogs, to which TPCU and national park partners responded with counselling and patrols to ensure poachers were not seeking to exploit the incident through setting snares.

Six weeks later, a more serious incident occurred with a farmer's wife seriously injured by a tiger while planting crops on land at the edge of the national park. This was the first such incident involving a direct attack on a person by a tiger in the Kerinci landscape since 2014, and it is likely it involved the same tiger as the incident in April.

In this case, the TPCU advisor recommended that conflict mitigation be conducted by a team composing of national park, KSDA, police and district forestry service officers as a demonstration of national and local government stakeholder commitment to conflict mitigation.

TPCUs monitored mitigation of this conflict and the aftermath, and subsequently learned this tiger had been shot and buried on the orders of a local community leader. The site was identified and the informant's report was confirmed, with the grave found to have subsequently been opened and the tiger's bones and canines stolen. The individuals responsible, both for ordering the killing of this tiger and the subsequent theft of the dead animal's bones and canines were identified but with no evidence available on which to proceed.

In common with other tiger conservation programmes in Sumatra, both the TPCU team and partners working under the umbrella of the 'conflict mitigation task force' encountered some problems with 'hoax' conflict reports. These are frequently circulated on social media platforms with fake, sensationalist and often inaccurate reports, causing unnecessary alarm within rural communities.

The great majority of human-wildlife conflicts reported related to tigers moving through farmland at forest-edges, or travelling between fragmented forest sections through farmland, causing anxiety to villagers but posing no direct threat to either people or livestock. These conflicts were resolved through counselling and advice on personal and livestock safety, while watching for any risk of a poacher seeking to exploit the problem.

However, in one of these cases, a cow, left tethered and unattended in farmland at the edge of the national park, was attacked and killed by a tiger, likely a young adult on the basis of its pugmarks. In this case, villagers were supportive and widely agreed that this incident was one of poor livestock management and not a tiger problem.

Villagers are now widely aware that a swift response will always be made to a report of human-wildlife conflict.

5: OTHER ACTIVITIES

Coordination:

- Routine informal coordination and networking was conducted by key members of the TPCU teams. This was primarily with park-edge forestry agencies and key local police divisions, while TPCU activities and results were reported monthly to the director of the national park. The team advisor and administrator also routinely networked with local NGO partners to advise their advocacy and campaigning positions. The team administrator also worked with local NGOs and the provincial forestry service to advance planning for an important forest block adjoining the national park, which is under threat from coal mining, to receive heightened conservation focus as a Strategic Conservation Ecosystem.
- In May 2018, following meetings and workshops facilitated by the programme with support from other donors, the Governor of West Sumatra province - which overlays the northern section of the national park - issued a decree instructing formation of a multi-stakeholder human-wildlife conflict mitigation taskforce. A 'standard operating procedure' for members of the taskforce, which will report on activities through KSDA West Sumatra, has been drafted but remains to be finalised. Meanwhile, provincial government legal specialists have yet to identify a legally-sound mechanism through which victims of human-tiger conflict may receive compensation for injury or livestock loss.
- Key members of the programme team also routinely liaised informally with other Sumatran tiger conservation programmes to discuss key threats identified, challenges and changes in threat observed, including poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Information on possible trans-landscape threat or changes in illegal wildlife trade threat was also informally discussed with colleagues working in Malaysia.
- In October 2018, the programme advisor and a TPCU administrator attended the Illegal Wildlife Trade Conference in London, organised by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL). The administrator gave a well-received presentation to the Community Voices event regarding work he is supervising in a park-edge district, which is executed by Lingkar Institut (local NGO partner) who are working with the Islamic Scholars Council of Indonesia with support from WCCA to socialise a *fatwa* or religious prohibition on poaching or trade in endangered species. Meanwhile, the program Advisor took the opportunity presented by a meeting of illegal wildlife trade specialists from around the world and, with a colleague from ZSL, organised a small, 'closed' meeting. They agreed to form a discussion group to exchange information on

unusual or new developments in wildlife crime detected with the purpose of building trans-landscape and trans-national collaborations against illegal wildlife trade threat to tiger and wildlife crime more widely.

Technical support and training for national park partners:

No 'on-the-job' field training for national park ranger staff was conducted as no new personnel were assigned to the national park during the project period. However two SMART patrol training and analysis workshops and a Resort Based Management training workshop were conducted with support under a UNDP/GEF project. Planning for a wildlife crime training workshop for national park rangers and local police was shelved pending a full assessment of the substantial changes in illegal wildlife trade threat to tiger recorded since 2017.

Purchase of a replacement vehicle:

Purchase of a replacement patrol jeep was slower than expected, initially due to unexpected counterpart funding issues which were subsequently resolved. The programme encountered some problems in identifying a vehicle that would meet reliability needs and the target price, with two prospective vehicles rejected after examination by an independent mechanic. A Mitsubishi long-wheel base, double-cabin 4WD was finally sourced in the final quarter of the project period. It has been assigned to a TPCU team, with funds from the sale of the vehicle it replaces to be used towards a replacement jeep for another TPCU team operating from the east of the national park.

THANK YOU

At Fauna & Flora International, we would like to thank you for your support to our programme to protect and conserve one of the world's most iconic species. We look forward to continuing to work with you and will send further reports and updates on project progress in due course.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like more information, please contact:

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Tiger scent marking. Jeremy Holden. FFI