

# PROGRESS REPORT AUCKLAND ZOO

Strengthening a consensus for protection of  
Sumatran tiger in Bengkulu area of Kerinci  
Seblat National Park, Sumatra

Lingkar Institute

JULY - DECEMBER 2019



## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND RESULTS

This project was done to strengthen Sumatran tiger conservation through practical collaboration between government, religious leaders and local communities at the edge of the forest by building awareness using Islamic perspectives and values. In addition, this project also encourages local government policies to strengthen conservation works by adopting conservation education into the curriculum for junior high school students and the formation of a Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Task Force.

During the 6-month period of the project, much progress has been made in collaboration with the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) which actively promoted the Fatwa on Prohibition of Hunting and Trafficking of Protected Animals to local communities in the area of the project.

Has visited 3 junior high schools to try out the conservation education syllabus that has been prepared in the project during the previous project period. The teachers and the Department of Education responded very enthusiastically to the plan for adoption of conservation education as one of the subjects to be formally deployed in junior high schools considering that geographically, 70% of Lebong Regency's territory is a forest area.

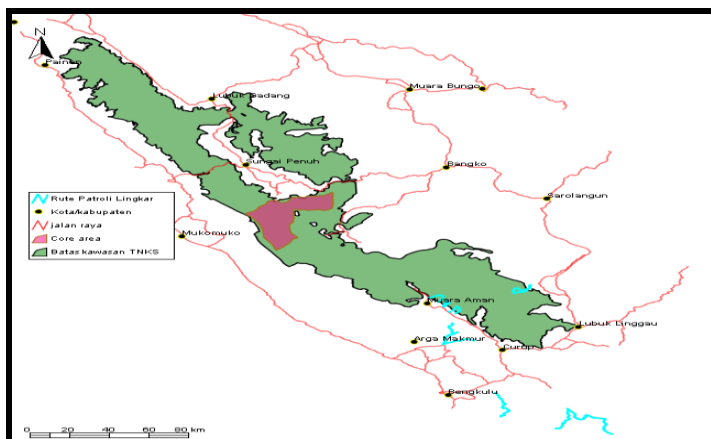
In the field, by utilizing the information network from the local community, the Lingkar Team has carried out eight SMART Patrols with a total distance of 310 Km and has found and cleaned 9 inactive prey. In addition, the information was also used for investigative purposes.

From the various improvements made during the 6 months of the project period, the Team also experienced technical obstacles, especially in forming the Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Team in Lebong Regency which experienced a time lag from the scheduled time. This happened due to the general election agenda that has taken place and a new regional head election agenda that would be held, which made the regional government focus on preparing those agendas.

### Activities and Interim Results

#### 1. SMART Forest Patrols by a collaborative Rapid Response patrol unit.

Through support from Auckland Zoo and WildCats from July to December 2019, the RRU team has

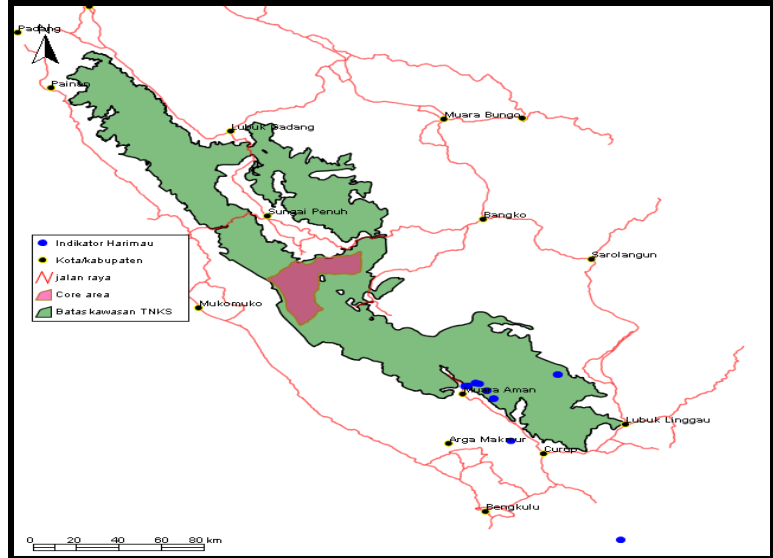


carried out eight Smart Patrols in the Kerinci Seblat National Park and other buffer zones. The patrol team consisted of Lingkar Personnel, local communities around TNKS and TNKS Officers.

In general, the terrain traversed by the patrol team was hills with a total of 66

days of patrol with 310 KM Waypoint. The patrol team found that there were at least 6 tigers along the route. 13 indications of the presence of any Sumatran tiger were found. Indications of the existence of the Sumatran tiger were dung, scratches, and treads. Of the eight patrol routes, indications of any Sumatran tiger were found in 5 of them.

Of the eight patrols, the team found indications of threats totaling 90 threat points. These threats include unauthorized area use, bird decoys, community farming in the area, illegal logging, and hunting for prey animals. As of December 2019, the patrol team did not find active tiger snares, but they still found 9 inactive prey snares. The hunt for Sumatran tigers and their prey animals until December 2019 has decreased significantly compared to the previous year. The patrol team only found 5 active snares.



The patrol team found a bird trap in the form of a nylon rope on a pulley in July 2019. The nylon rope was dismantled and secured by the patrol team.



Before conducting the patrols, the RRU Team always did a briefing with the party from Kerinci Seblat National Park to discuss the patrol plans and whether there was new information or findings that needed to be followed up. After discussing with the party from TNKS, the patrol team also coordinated with the FFI Occupancy Study Team so that the patrol areas would not overlap. Based on the information from the Occupancy Study team conducted by FFI, the FFI occupancy study team also did not find intermittent snares that could threaten Sumatran tigers in the Lebong Regency. The occupancy study team carried out 6 patrols in Lebong Regency area. Of the six patrols



carried out by the occupancy team, all found indications of the presence of the Sumatran tiger. The occupancy team estimated that there were 7 tigers found along the route.

The Lingkar Institut Patrol Team was involved in the occupancy study conducted by FFI and WCS in the Lebong Regency, South Bukit Balai Rejang, where until December, there have been 3 studies conducted.

## 2. Investigation and Collection of Information

Investigations were carried out throughout the project area and surrounding areas to identify hunters and their networks. An investigation was also carried out to secure information about the alleged threat of active poaching against tigers and their prey which would be followed up by the patrol team.

From July to December 2019, investigations were conducted 14 times for 1-4 days per investigation. Investigations were conducted in the project area and surrounding areas where preliminary information came from the project area.

From the results of the investigation, it was found that overall in the project area, the number of active hunters tended to decrease compared to the previous year, where there were several names found by investigators who were not actively returning to hunt because they were afraid of officers and they had no capital to hunt tigers. Some hunters met by the investigator also stated that he no longer hunted tigers by setting snares but he still hunted prey using a 5.5 mm caliber rifle.

From the investigation, a piece of information that the distribution of 5.5 caliber weapons was very free in the project area was also obtained. Other than the 5.5 caliber weapon, the investigation team also found a *kecepek* type homemade firearm. This could be a serious threat in the future where a caliber 5.5 or a small weapon could kill Sumatran tigers.

Information obtained by the Lingkar Investigation Team regarding the proliferation of weapons has been coordinated with the Lebong Regency police and has also been conveyed to TNKS officers in Lebong Regency.

The Lingkar Institute Team also conducted an investigation with the TPCU Investigation Team in the North Musi Rawas Regency which is directly adjacent to Lebong Regency. From the investigation, the

team met a key hunter where this hunter has been active since the 1970s and has sold 1 Sumatran tiger for Rp 15,000, or £ 1 (one pound) for the current price. According to him, he killed many Sumatran tigers, even more than one hundred. Currently, the Lingkar Team and TPCU team do strict supervision by conducting routine communication because this person is a key target of law enforcement this year. As of December, the investigation team has visited this key hunter three times. The last meeting was held in November 2019 where, based on the hunter's statement, he had installed 50 tiger snares distributed in 3 locations. Information on the existence of these snares has also been conveyed to the TPCU team and Kerinci Seblat National Park officers.

Investigations conducted with the TPCU Team also obtained many names of local and national containers.

### 3. Work with the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) in MUI Fatwa Socialization No 04 of 2014

Collaboration with the Indonesian Ulema Council of Lebong Regency and North Bengkulu has continued to run well, where as of December 2019, there had been 3 sessions of socialization of the MUI Fatwa to key villages where it was thought that there were many hunters.

The most interesting socialization was found in Suka Baru Village, Marga Sakti District, North Bengkulu Regency. From the results of an investigation conducted by TPCU, Suka Baru village is a village with quite a lot of tiger hunters. During the discussion, it was found that tiger hunters in the village usually did not interact with other communities. The hunters rarely participate in community activities. From the results of a discussion with religious and community leaders in Suka Baru village, there were at least 4 hunters who usually hunt Sumatran tigers.

Socialization participants are committed to conveying the results of this socialization to the hunters and will convey information if they continue to hunt, especially Sumatran tigers or other prey animals.

In this socialization, village officials also said that they often reminded hunters not to put tiger snares and that Sumatran tigers are protected animals. The village officials always convey when there are cases of arrest of the Sumatran tiger trade to hunters. They warned that one day they could also be caught by law enforcement officials.



From the results of the MUI fatwa socialization, many Suka Baru Village residents have fields in the forest area, both production forests and national parks. In addition to farming in the forest area, residents also do illegal logging.

The MUI Fatwa socialization was also carried out in the Topos village of Lebong Regency. From the results of the socialization, there are still people who usually hunt deer and forest goats using 5.5 caliber guns or by installing nylon meshes. Usually people hunt a lot during the month of Ramadan or before Ramadan because many residents are interested in buying deer or goat meat. The average community does not know if the hunting of animals has been forbidden by the Indonesian Ulema Council.



From the results of this socialization, the commitment of all participants not to carry out animal hunting activities was obtained. The village office government is also committed to conveying the results of this socialization to its communities through the activities of the Topos village office.

#### 4. Visit school

Visit schools have been held in three junior high schools in Lebong Regency, namely 06 Lebong Selatan junior high school, 01 Lebong Atas junior high school and Air Kopras junior high school.

This activity aims to provide students with an understanding of conservation education for junior high school students in Lebong Regency.

The first activity was carried out in August 2019 at 06 Lebong Selatan junior high school. This activity was



attended by 50 students representing each extracurricular at this school. This activity was also attended by 3 teachers including the deputy headmaster of curriculum, the deputy headmaster of student affairs and a biology teacher.

This middle school is very concerned about environmental education and the school has a rule not to shop for drinks or food in a packaging that can cause garbage. All students and

teachers are required to bring bottles from home. Each student and teacher is also required to plant a tree inside or outside the school environment.

Before this regulation, every activity in the school would cause a lot of garbage, but now with the awareness from students and teachers, there is no longer any visible garbage in the school environment.

The second activity was carried out at 01 Lebong Atas junior high school. In this school, all participants were very enthusiastic because in Lebong Atas sub-district conflicts with tigers often occur in the community. The socialization team also presented students with tips to prevent and deal with tiger conflicts. They conveyed to teachers and students the importance of early knowledge about conservation because most of Lebong Regency is a forest area.

The visit school activity was carried out together with 2 TNKS officers, 1 MUI Lebong official and 1 person from the Lingkar Institute. TNKS officers gave students an understanding of the importance of protecting the forest along with the plants and animals in it, especially those in TNKS, an explanation of the laws and regulations governing the forest and the animals and plants in it. The MUI management explained that there is already MUI Fatwa No. 04 of 2014 which forbade the hunting of endangered animals. The Lingkar



Institute explains that it is important for Conservation education to be integrated into the curriculum where junior high school students are the next generation who are expected to maintain the balance of the existing Ecosystems on Earth.

In this activity, through the support of WildCats and Auckland Zoo, Lingkar Institute distributed posters of the list of animals protected by law and forbidden by the Indonesian Ulema Council to students and the school.

##### **5. Meeting with stakeholder, government and community, to prepare outline needs for establishment of a human-wildlife conflict mitigation task force in Lebong regency**

This activity has been carried out well in August 2019, where the implementation of this activity collaborated with the Lebong Environmental Services as an element of government that was agreed to make an official memorandum to the Regent of Lebong to issue a decree of the task force team to handle conflicts between humans and wildlife in Lebong Regency. The meeting

participants agreed to have a Special Team to handle human-wildlife conflicts in Lebong Regency, given the increasing frequency of conflicts in recent times.

#### **6. Workshop: Draft a Decree for the Regent of Lebong regency instructing formation of human-wildlife conflict mitigation taskforce.**

This activity was carried out in conjunction with the activities of Meeting with stakeholder, government and community, to prepare outline needs for establishment of a human-wildlife conflict mitigation task force in Lebong Regency.

This activity is carried out simultaneously, bearing in mind the efficiency of the activities as well as the time and based on input from the Environmental Services when the Lingkar Institute did a coordination.

#### **7. Workshop: Socialization of Lebong Regent's decree and preparation of a workplan for human-wildlife conflict mitigation in Lebong Regency**

This activity could not yet be carried out because the Decree on the Forming of the Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Task Force in Lebong Regency had not been approved by the Regional Government. Currently, the numbering process is in progress, adjusting to the administrative procedures in force in the local government system in Indonesia to take effect.

This activity will be carried out with a joint committee consisting of the Lingkar Institute, Lebong Environmental Service and the nature lover group Warang Imo. The distribution of the activity budget has been carried out and we leave it entirely to the Lebong Environmental Service and the Warang Imo KPA.

From the results of the last coordination at the beginning of February 2020, a piece of information was obtained that the Decree of the Regent would be released no later than the end of February 2020 and at the beginning of March this activity could already be conducted.

#### **8. Meetings with Lebong Regency parliament and officers to agree actions required, including funding sources through government, to activate the Lebong Regent's Decree on the establishment of a human-wildlife conflict mitigation taskforce**

Meetings have been held to ensure the Formation of the Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Task Force in Lebong Regency continues to be carried out despite the setbacks of the schedule that have been determined, given the various obstacles in the national and regional election agenda. This meeting also discussed the committee for the implementation of workshop.

#### **9. Create and distribute 1000 posters containing endangered Wildlife pictures that are protected by law**

Posters were distributed during socialization with MUI in the villages and distributed to junior high school students during visits to schools.



**10. Coordination and evaluation meetings (3) with Lebong education office provide expert technical support on incorporating Conservation into the Junior High School education curriculum**



Learning tools have been approved in accordance with the direction of education policy in junior high schools. Furthermore, the Regional Government would adjust it to the existing procedures to regulate it in regional policies so that it could be adopted in the curriculum and applied to all junior high schools.

**11. Meetings (eight) with Indonesia Council of Islamic Scholars (MUI) Leaders in Lebong and North Bengkulu districts regarding progress made and challenges recorded**

Regular meetings that are held record various evaluations and formulate an action plan that will be carried out together.

This meeting determined the villages that would be given a MUI fatwa socialization and, in this meeting, it would be known if the socialization carried out has an impact that could reduce the hunting rate in the village.

**12. Quarterly and monthly coordination, planning and progress meetings with national park, KSDA Lebong, district forestry service and TPCU Bengkulu;**

Regular meetings that are held record various evaluations and formulate an action plan that will be carried out together.

Every results of the field patrol and also some of the results of the investigation were discussed at this meeting.

## **Future Activities**

In the next 6 months, the Lingkar Team will continue to establish communication with various parties involved in the project to carry out the SMART Patrol and Investigation activities. In addition, after the numbering of the Lebong Regent Decree Regarding the Formation of the Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Task Force in Lebong Regency has been completed, the Lingkar Team will immediately conduct a workshop to socialize it to many parties and prepare a collaborative work plan from all elements in the Team.