

This report will be made public. If it contains confidential or sensitive information, please also provide a revised report for sharing with the public.

Section I. Project Information	
Project Title: Kerinci Seblat Tiger Protection and Conservation (<i>Pelestarian Hairmau Sumatera Kerinci Seblat</i>)	
Grantee Organisation: Fauna & Flora International (FFI)	
Location of project: Kerinci Seblat National Park in the provinces of Jambi, Bengkulu, West Sumatra and South Sumatra	
<p>Size of project area (if appropriate):</p> <p>1.389 million ha (5,200² miles – Kerinci Seblat national park (excluding buffer-zone forests). Patrols are mainly conducted in national park and park-edge forests in an area covering approximately 350,000ha with a higher patrol focus to an 83,000ha Core Area, which is also the site for annual camera trap monitoring. Investigations and other activities, including law enforcement, are conducted more widely so extending conservation impact across the landscape.</p>	<p>No of tigers and / or Amur leopards in project area, giving evidence & source:</p> <p>Surveys and camera trapping by the FFI/KSNP Tiger Monitoring team (MHS) between 2004-2007 proposed a population of 136-144 tigers in the Kerinci Landscape. This figure rose to +/-166 by 2011 while ‘naïve’ data from surveys and transects in 2007-2008 recorded tiger Occupancy in the landscape at just over 70%, rising to just under 83% following detailed analysis. Note: the above population estimates and occupancy rates include +/- 30 individual tigers in the 300,000ha Batanghari Watershed Protection Forest to the north-east of KSNP. Meanwhile camera trapping in the 83,000 ha Core Area between 2013 and 2018 recorded tiger densities ranging between 0.98 and 1.21 per 100 km² with 25 or more individuals present.</p> <p>Park-wide tiger Occupancy surveys by the MHS team between March 2019 and May 2020 reported an increase in tiger occupancy to 85% (<i>naïve</i>) with surveys excluding the Core area and the Batanghari forest block. Camera trapping in the Core area commenced in late May 2020 and will complete in early September. Analysis of camera trapping results, together with now ongoing analysis, by a national team of experts, of occupancy surveys by the MHS team and others across Sumatra will, once correlated, offer a scientifically robust estimate of the Sumatran tiger population in Kerinci Seblat</p>

	(excluding the Batang Hari protected forest block).
<p>Partners: <i>(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.</i></p> <p>Kerinci Seblat National Park authority: The project operates in a full partnership with the national park under an MoU between FFI and the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF).</p> <p>MoEF 'Units for the Conservation of Natural Resources' (KSDA): Primarily KSDA Jambi, West Sumatra and Bengkulu provinces with Jambi KSDA leading on human-tiger conflict mitigation during the project period, to date.</p> <p>Indonesia National Police: Provincial and park-edge district divisions, INAPIS forensic division.</p> <p>Local civil society – primarily Lingkar Institut (Bengkulu) and Institut Conservation Society (Solok Selatan and Solok districts of West Sumatra). Flight (discussions regarding IWT pressure on wild songbirds)</p> <p>National organisations - University of Andalas Biology Faculty (West Sumatra), Forum Harimaukita (Sumatran tiger conservation forum)</p> <p>International organisations - ZSL Jambi and WCS Indonesia Wildlife Crime Unit (informal discussions on changes in poaching and IWT detected), Traffic SE Asia, EIA.</p>	
<p>Project Contact Name: <i>(main contact via email)</i></p> <p>Amy Winterbourne - amy.winterbourne@fauna-flora.org</p> <p>Debbie Martyr – deborah.martyr@fauna-flora.org</p> <p>Ibnu Andrian - Ibnu.Andrian@fauna-flora.org</p>	
<p>Email: see above</p>	
<p>Actual start date of project: 01/02/20</p>	
<p>Reporting period: 1st February 2020 – 31st July 2020</p>	

Section II. Project Progress

Summary of progress for the first 6 months: *(please provide a summary for use in our communication materials)*

Tiger Protection & Conservation Units maintained actions to conserve and protect wild Sumatran tiger in Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP) in the face of the gravest public health emergency in a century. A total of 52 SMART foot patrols were conducted in national park and park-edge forests

across more than 521 miles (839 Km) with tiger encounter rates rising to the highest in at least five years. Illegal wildlife trade-driven poaching threat to tiger and their prey species recorded on patrols remained far below the long-term average. Investigations were conducted in the four provinces which overlay the national park and supported the arrest of three members of an illegal wildlife trade syndicate active in four or more provinces of northern and central Sumatra.

Details of activities and results to date:

Objective 1: Consolidate gains made, since 2016, in detecting and containing threat to Sumatran tiger, their prey and habitat through routine and information-led SMART patrols and, through a forest law enforcement presence, deter opportunist forest and wildlife crime; information sharing on patrol results and suspected active threat to tiger, tiger habitat and prey between TPCUs and Village Forest patrol teams and local NGOs supports an integrated, borderless approach to tiger protection and conservation and informs national park management strategies and planning.

Six Tiger Protection and Conservation Units (TPCU) conducted a total of 52 SMART forest foot patrols in national park and park-edge forests of seven districts and three of the four provinces which overlay the protected area.

The number of patrols was lower than planned due to disruption caused by the Corona virus pandemic with ‘Work from Home’ and ‘lock-down’ instructions affecting communities across the landscape and with strict restrictions on local and inter-provincial travel introduced from early April 2020.

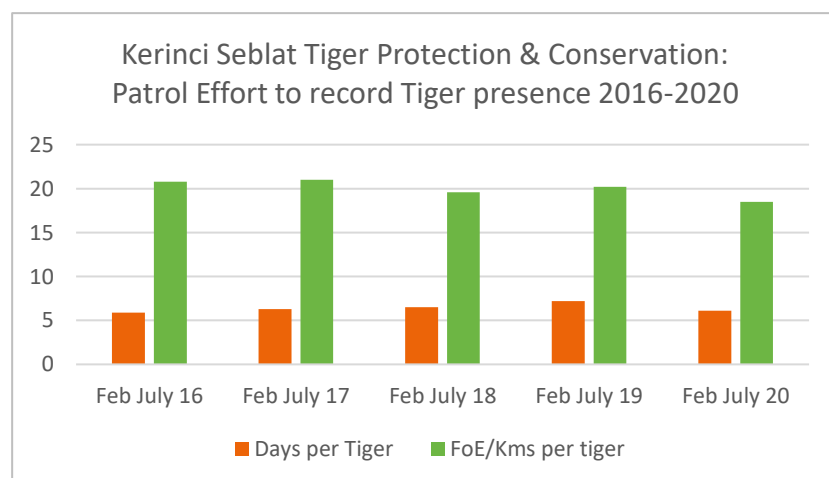
This meant that TPCUs were not able to conduct any forest patrols in April, and only a limited number in May, while restrictions imposed by some forest-edge communities on ‘outsiders’, restricted choice of patrol areas.

SMART forest patrols covered a total distance of 812Km (by GPS Waypoint) with a total of 272 days spent on patrols.

TPCUs recorded not fewer than 44 Sumatran tiger on forest patrols during this six-month period with 56% of patrols reporting one or more tiger present on their routes.

Frequency of Encounter increased to 1 tiger per 18.5 patrol kilometres park-wide compared with 1-20.2Km in the same months of 2019 and is the highest in at least five years. TPCU patrol Effort to record tiger presence reduced to 1-6 days compared with 1-7.4 days in the same months of 2019 (when detection of tiger presence was impacted by heavy seasonal rains) and 1 per 6.5 patrol days in 2018.

In the Core area, frequency of encounter with tiger increased to 1 tiger per 15 patrol kilometres with Effort to record tiger presence reducing to 1-4.2 days.



Only two active tiger snares were recorded during this six-months period, both on an information-led patrol in the south-west of the Core area in Bengkulu during the holy month of Ramadan in May.

A third tiger snare placement, recorded on this patrol, had already caught and killed a Malay sun bear. The patrol reported not fewer than two tigers present in this area. The individuals who placed these snares are strongly suspected to belong to a poaching syndicate led by another person, long known to the TPCU, who was previously the subject of an arrest warrant for tiger poaching and trade offences but absconded.

A further six recently-active (< 1 month) tiger snare placements which had been dismantled by the would-be poachers, were recorded on two TPCU patrols, also in the south-west of the national park, with tigers present on both patrol routes. Four of these snares were recorded on one information-led patrol and TPCUs subsequently have identified the individuals suspected responsible.

Effort to detect active threat to tiger was higher than the long-term average of 1-25 days (*excluding* 2013-2016) for the fourth-year running at 1 active snare per 136 patrol days and 1-30 patrol days for both active *and* 'recently-active' tiger snares. No evidence of tiger mortality from snare poaching was recorded.

Poaching threat to deer was recorded on only four (7%) TPCU patrols with a total of 74 active deer snares detected and destroyed, 66 in a rarely-patrolled area on the borders of Kerinci and Solok Selatan district of West Sumatra. Only four active deer snares were recorded on patrols during the holy month of Ramadan which concluded with the festival of Idul Fitri in late May. Poaching of tiger prey species has declined substantially over time, in areas where TPCUs have a routine patrol presence however, in this case, it is likely that disruption caused by the Corona virus pandemic was a major contributor to the generally low level of threat recorded.

TPCUs reported active or recently-active wild bird hunting, primarily for the lucrative wild songbird market, on nine of 52 patrols; however wild bird hunting also appears to have fallen significantly, from May, possibly as a result of disruption to wild song bird trade routes caused by Corona virus-related police checkpoints and some inter-district and inter-provincial travel bans.

TPCUs responded to wildlife and forest crime where possible (see Law Enforcement, *below*) on patrols, with 25 warning letters and verbal advisories issued and confiscation of three chainsaws.

Patrol results were routinely shared with the FFI Merangin Village Forest team with all activities reported, monthly, to the director of the national park while local NGO partner Lingkar Institut and the Bengkulu TPCUs frequently discussed the outcomes of SMART patrols and follow-up actions required as appropriate.

Meanwhile in July, the MoEF directorate of conservation of nature and ecosystems declared the national park's Mukomuko and North Bengkulu management area, which is led by the TPCU Bengkulu field coordinator, as a national role model for Resort-Based Management in Indonesia.

Objective 2: *Through investigations, including use of forest-edge information networks, poachers and IWT traders are identified, criminal incidents are detected and investigations support tiger law enforcement where evidence is available, poaching and trade syndicates, domestic IWT routes and inter-syndicate linkages are identified and mapped through to sub-national or higher source of threat; the illegal wildlife blackmarket is monitored for changes in demand and source of demand (city/area), to support adaptive strategies to counter threat. Information relating to poaching and illegal wildlife trade in other Sumatran tiger conservation landscapes is shared, as appropriate, to support a 'joined-up' approach to combatting poaching and trade in Sumatran tiger while information exchange with Village Forest teams to the east of the national park and with local NGO partners supports locally-appropriate responses to tiger and other wildlife crime.*

More than 35 reports were logged and graded for credibility following TPCU investigations – some ongoing – in the four provinces which overlay KSNP with investigation focus strengthened in a number of park-edge districts where there is no routine TPCU patrol focus.

The number of investigations conducted was lower than planned as a consequence of the Corona virus pandemic with no investigations conducted in March and April due to 'lockdowns' and concerns for investigators' safety and with only one investigation conducted in May.

Two investigations – both of which are 'active' and ongoing – recorded first-hand (A1) evidence of tiger poaching and trade in areas in the south-east of the national park which do not receive a TPCU patrol focus for capacity reasons.

A third investigation, into an illegal wildlife trade syndicate operating out of West Sumatra province in the north of the national park and sourcing tigers, pangolin and helmeted hornbill from four or more provinces of Sumatra proceeded to successful law enforcement in late July (See Law Enforcement).

A further three investigations secured credible (A2) information on suspected tiger poaching or trade incidents – all in areas where TPCUs do not have a routine presence - but where the evidence had been lost or was impossible to observe and so reports could not be validated and advanced to law enforcement.

The overwhelming majority of individuals who were the focus of investigations were habitual poachers or traders, with two men having previously served prison sentences for tiger poaching or trade offences among those under investigation.

TPCUs continued to build and nurture relationships with forest-edge communities. The two active tiger snares destroyed, and four of the six 'recently-active' tiger snares recorded, were detected on SMART patrols launched using information from forest-edge community supporters.

Bengkulu-based TPCUs frequently collaborated with local NGO partner, Lingkar, on wildlife crime investigations and analysis while the issues posed by widespread availability and use of high-powered airguns by poachers was discussed with WCS Wildlife Crime Unit who reported similar problems in Gunung Leuser National Park in North Sumatra.

In late June, the director general of KSDAE (Directorate for Conservation of Nature and Ecosystems) of MoEF discussed this pressing conservation threat with Indonesia National Police. In early August a national instruction was issued to police, national parks and other forestry agencies around Indonesia to collaborate to address this problem.

Objective 3: *Conduct law enforcement appropriate to the offence within the national park in the course of TPCU patrols and partner with other government agencies, primarily Indonesia National Police, where law enforcement is conducted outside the national park's area of legal jurisdiction. Support post law enforcement Case development and the subsequent legal process through facilitating Expert Witnesses with the purpose of securing an appropriate legal judgment that offers a substantial deterrent and, through targeted law enforcement actions contain threat to tiger across the landscape and more widely through disrupting poaching and IWT networks and deterring opportunist wildlife and forest crime through example.*

Only one intelligence-led wildlife crime law enforcement action was conducted during this interim reporting period and resulted in the arrest of three men from West Sumatra and North Sumatra provinces and seizure of 20Kg of pangolin scales. (<https://www.fauna-flora.org/news/scales-critically-endangered-pangolin-seized-sumatra>).

Law enforcement was launched as part of a wider investigation into tiger poaching and trade in West Sumatra province during which a network was identified trading tigers, helmeted hornbill and pangolins across four or more provinces of Sumatra from Kerinci Seblat, Batang Gadis and Gunung Leuser national parks to Jambi and West Sumatra provinces.

Law enforcement was conducted in partnership with BKSDA (West Sumatra and Pasaman Barat district police) and resulted in the arrest of an illegal wildlife trader from a small town close to

Batang Gadis National Park in North Sumatra province, and two traders (one of which a broker or fixer) from Pasaman Barat district of West Sumatra. The North Sumatra suspect, who had transported the pangolins to West Sumatra is believed to be a long-standing trader, frequently trading tigers, pangolin and hornbills from Batang Gadis NP and surrounding forests to a dealer in West Sumatra already known to the programme, or to a second individual, also known to the programme, in Jambi province.

TPCU patrols issued a total of 25 formal and verbal warnings for a range of offences, including illegal logging, preparations to clear protected forests, wild songbird hunting and possession of firearms. Four formal written warnings – which can be used as evidence in future law enforcement - were issued to illegal loggers and three chainsaws confiscated. In this case, TPCUs did not conduct formal arrests of the men as they were working as daily-paid labour for a third party. A further three formal warnings were issued to songbird catchers encountered within the national park while a hunter carrying an illegal gun at park edge was also issued with a formal Caution; two others, encountered outside the national park received verbal warnings. Other offenders received verbal warnings and counselling regarding forest and wildlife conservation law but were also fully documented in the event they are encountered again.

Objective 4: *Respond swiftly to reported human-tiger conflicts using a nationally approved conflict mitigation Protocol, where possible before livestock predation has occurred, with the purpose of protecting both tigers and forest-edge community livelihoods while seeking to avoid, where possible, capture of the animal involved. Routinely liaise with multi-stakeholder human-wildlife conflict mitigation taskforce groups or 'Satgas' now active under Edicts of three park-edge provincial governors and partner with taskforce members on complex or time-consuming conflict mitigation actions. Respond professionally and humanely to wildlife emergencies (snared, injured tiger or other protected species)*

TPCUs responded directly to only one human-tiger conflict during this six-month reporting period with other human-wildlife conflicts reported attended by human-wildlife conflict mitigation taskforce groups led by KSDA.

Both the incident responded to by TPCUs in April and other human-tiger conflicts reported related to tigers moving through forest-edge farmland and posing no active threat to either farmers or their livestock and all were mitigated successfully.

The incident mitigated by TPCUs in common with others reported around the national park during this six-month period, related to younger, transient tigers moving through farmland between forest fragments.

However this case was made more complex as the two tigers in question were filmed by a farmer, sitting at the edge of a rural dirt road, and the video clip was uploaded to social media sites where it rapidly went 'viral' so that there was concern that the publicity might attract the attention of poachers. Subsequently, this particular incident was resolved and the two tigers made their way safely back into national park forests.

Give details of any obstacles to success that the project has encountered over the last 6 months.

(Please provide detailed examples, explain what impact these will have on the project results and the changes to the budget and timetable of project activities)

In late March and early April, wide-ranging restrictions on national and international travel and local 'lockdowns' were introduced in response to the Corona virus pandemic. Travel between many park-edge districts was difficult and, where crossing a provincial border, in some cases impossible while

many forest-edge villages introduced bans on anybody from outside their community entering their area.

TPCUs conducted no SMART forest patrols in April due to 'Lockdown' and only a limited number of patrols in May. Investigations did not fully resume, and then with great caution, until June. Coordination and other meetings with local partners and stakeholders was severely curtailed between April and June but has now resumed with strict social distancing guidelines. A ban on international travel to Indonesia from UK meant the programme advisor was unable to go to Kerinci in April as had been planned, upon agreement of FFI Indonesia's new operating MoU with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Budget: Is the spend on target? **If not, please give details and provide an updated budget sheet.**

A ban on international travel to Indonesia from UK due to the ongoing Corona virus pandemic means this budget line has not yet been drawn on, while human-wildlife conflict and Law enforcement budget lines are unpredictable. Other spending is expected to be in line but WCCA will be advised, in advance, of any changes in target.

Media: Please provide a list of recent publications and media both local and national which mentions the work funded by this project and/or mentions WildCats Conservation Alliance

June 2020: <https://www.fauna-flora.org/news/covid-19-affecting-wildlife-rangers-indonesias-tiger-hotspot>

May 2020: <https://www.fauna-flora.org/news/beyond-conservation-ffi-crisis-response-age-covid-19>

<https://kkp.go.id/an-component/media/upload-gambar-pendukung/Ditjaskel/publikasi-materi-2/garda-harimau/GARDA%20HARIMAU.pdf>

<https://www.portaljambi.com/2020/04/hot-news-video-tiga-ekor-harimau.html> cf human-tiger conflict in the south of the Kerinci valley

<https://nationalgeographic.grid.id/read/132200445/rusaknya-habitat-hingga-perburuan-liar-jadi-tantangan-bagi-kelestarian-harimau?page=all>

<http://amp.oppo.baca.co.id/53900845> - Global Tiger Day celebrations – held on August 8 (after interim reporting period) to allow for the director general of KSDAE to attend

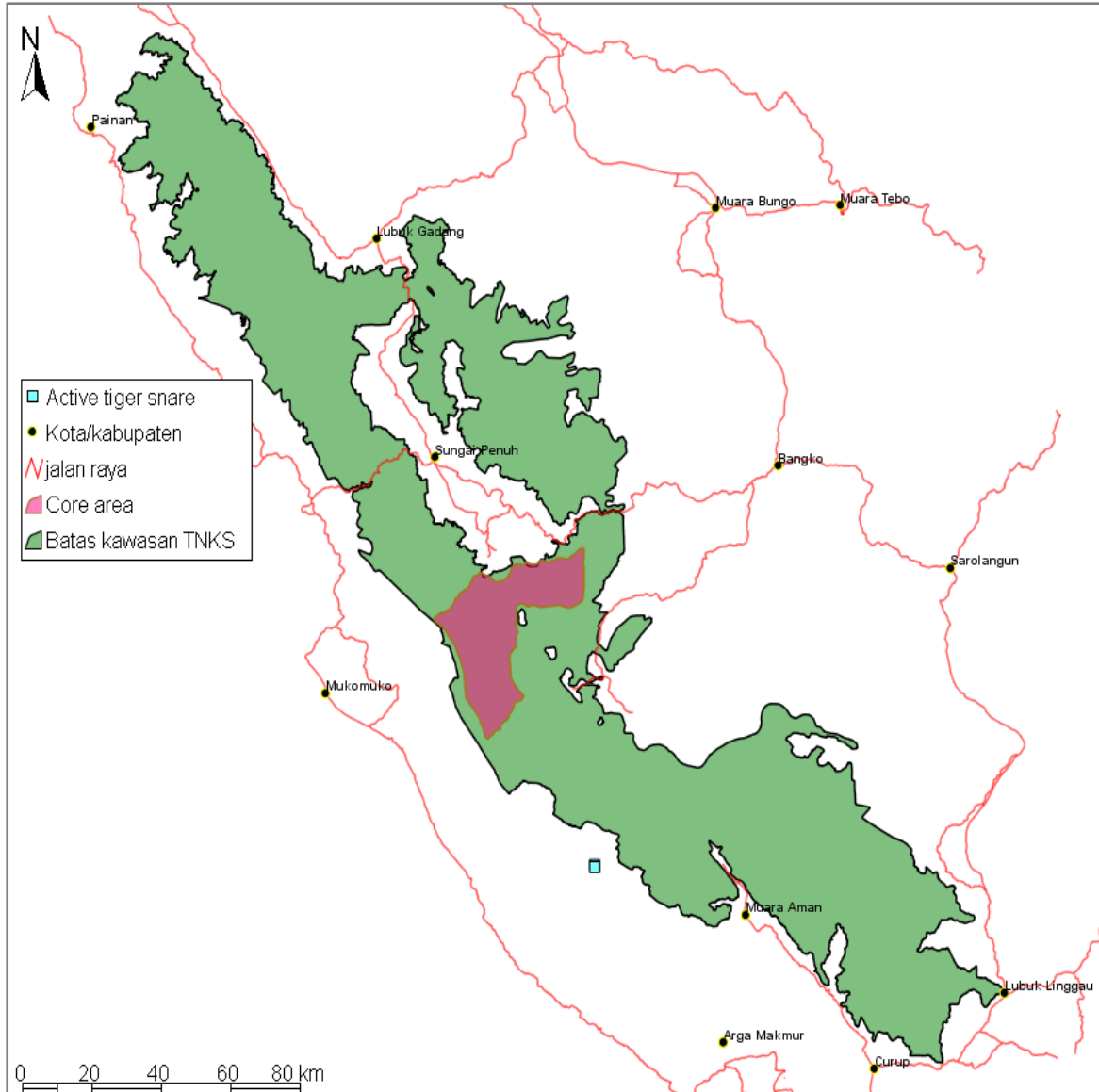
<https://padang.tribunnews.com/2020/07/30/kawasan-pelaku-perdagangan-sisik-trenggiling-diamankan-terkait-jaringan-sumut-sumbar-dan-jambi>

WildCats Conservation Alliance asks for at least 5 relevant high-resolution jpeg files of images of the project activities during this time period.

Please see attachments in email.

Maps:

SMART Map: Location of active tiger snares detected on TPCU patrols: February-July 2020



SMART Map: Deer snares recorded on TPCU patrols: February-July 2020

