

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

**FULL REPORT INCLUDING SENSITIVE INFORMATION**

<b>Section I. Project Information</b>	
<b>Project Title:</b> Kerinci Seblat Tiger Protection & Conservation	
<b>Grantee Organisation:</b> Fauna & Flora International	
<b>Location of project:</b> Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP), Sumatra, Indonesia	
<p><b>Size of project area (if appropriate):</b></p> <p><b>1,386m ha (KSNP)</b> excluding adjoining buffer-zone forests, also important tiger habitat. Field activities are primarily focused to the central section of the national park and buffer-zone forests in an area of approximately 350,000ha however investigations and other activities extend impacts more widely across the Kerinci Seblat landscape.</p>	<p><b>No of tigers in project area, giving evidence &amp; source:</b></p> <p>Based on park-wide Occupancy Surveys by the FFI Kerinci Seblat Tiger Monitoring team (2019-2020) and camera trapping in the KSNP Core Area (2020), Kerinci Seblat NP and adjoining forests protects 128 Sumatran tigers with 119 individuals of these tigers within the national park and 29 in the Core Area. This figure excludes tigers in the wider Kerinci Tiger Conservation Landscape including the 300,000ha Batang Hari watershed forest and is the single-largest tiger population in Sumatra.</p>
<p><b>Partners:</b> <i>(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project)</i></p> <p><b>Kerinci Seblat National Park Authority:</b> The programme operates under a partnership between FFI Indonesia and KSNP which is recognised under a national level, multi-year MoU between FFI Indonesia and the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) and under a second, local - level agreement between FFI and KSNP. These agreements provide a clear and solid legal framework which underwrite all aspects of the programme’s activities.</p> <p><b>Units for the Conservation of Natural Resources (KSDA):</b> Operating units of the MoEF tasked with nature conservation outside protected areas and leading collaborative human-wildlife conflict mitigation taskforce groups. Primarily KSDA Jambi and KSDA Bengkulu.</p> <p><b>Indonesia National Police:</b> Provincial and park-edge district divisions.</p> <p><b>FFI Kerinci Seblat Landscape Village Forest team:</b> Over the last decade, the team has worked with more than 80 forest-edge villages to leverage community-led sustainable management of more than 106,000ha of forests, in three provinces, under licenses issued by MoEF. The project team</p>	

works with park-edge communities and district forestry management units (KPHP) and is now moving focus to Bengkulu province in the south-west of KSNP.

Others:

Local and national: Lingkar Inisiatif – now increasingly focused on developing tiger conservation capacity in the south east of KSNP in Musi Rawas and Musi Rawas Utara districts of South Sumatra province in the South East of KSNP; Institut Conservation Society (West Sumatra), Flight (primarily focusing to IWT in wild birds but with teams sharing information of mutual concern), Biology Faculty of the University of Andalas, Padang (West Sumatra); Forum Harimaukita (Sumatran Tiger Conservation Forum), representing Sumatran tiger conservation practitioners in Indonesia. International: Environmental Investigation Agency, Traffic SE Asia

**Project Contact Name:** *(main contact via email)*

Debbie Martyr - [deborah.martyr@fauna-flora.org](mailto:deborah.martyr@fauna-flora.org)

Amy Winterbourne - [amy.winterbourne@fauna-flora.org](mailto:amy.winterbourne@fauna-flora.org)

Wido Albert - [wido.albert@fauna-flora.org](mailto:wido.albert@fauna-flora.org)

**Email:** [deborah.martyr@fauna-flora.org](mailto:deborah.martyr@fauna-flora.org), [amy.winterbourne@fauna-flora.org](mailto:amy.winterbourne@fauna-flora.org)

**Actual start date of project:** *(if different from 1<sup>st</sup> February)*

**Reporting period:** February-July 2022

## 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 a range of actions to protect and conserve wild Sumatran tiger in and adjoining KSNP with tiger encounter rates on SMART patrols stable or better during this semester, and threat to tiger and deer remaining far below the long-term historic average. A record 68% of TPCU patrols reported tiger presence. However, due to severe co-funding shortfalls, only 42 SMART patrols were conducted, while other field activities, including investigations, were also significantly impacted. Patrol strategies were also disrupted due to a long-running human-tiger conflict and surveys, conducted at the request of the national park, to ground-truth sites proposed for the release of a livestock-predating tiger and two further tigers from North Sumatra province. Although threat to Sumatran tiger prey species remained low, patrol records clearly advise the African Swine Fever pandemic has had very serious impacts on wild boar populations in Kerinci Seblat, in particular on the endemic *Sus barbatus oie* or Sumatran bearded pig. In early June, the

programme technical advisor learned that Kerinci Seblat Tiger Protection & Conservation had been short-listed for an IUCN-WCPA Ranger of the Year Award and, on July 17, the award was formally announced at the Africa Protected Areas Congress in Kigale, Rwanda. We thank Wildcats Conservation Alliance – formerly 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger – and the ex-situ conservation institutions and individuals with whom you work – for the consistent support granted, since 2000, to Kerinci Seblat Tiger Protection & Conservation which has played such an important part in this recognition of the work of the Kerinci Seblat TPCU rangers and their back-up team by International Ranger Foundation, IUCN and World Congress for Protected Areas.



©FFI/KSNP – TPCU rangers from Bengkulu and Jambi teams outside the team's Kerinci basecamp the morning after learning of their IUCN-WCPA award

**Details of activities and results to date:** *(Please give details of progress made towards the objectives & outputs of your Logframe, and activities included in your Workplan. Please add any relevant charts, maps and images.*

**SMART forest patrols by Tiger Protection & Conservation Units:**

**Objective 1:** *Consolidate gains made in reducing threat to Sumatran tiger and, through conserving and protecting wild Sumatran tiger, their prey and habitat, maintain the ongoing increase in tiger numbers now being recorded.*

A total of 42 SMART patrols were conducted by TPCUs in national park forests of three provinces, of which 10 were conducted in the tiger Core Area of the national park.

The number of TPCU patrols was lower than planned due to significant financial constraints and, between February and May, were conducted at a lower intensity than the long-standing program norm.

Patrols covered a total walking distance in national park and park-edge forests of 699Km (434 miles) by GPS Waypoint or 795Km/494 miles (Tracklog) with a total of 216 days spent in the forest under service warrants of the director of the national park.

A minimum of 32 individual Sumatran tiger were recorded on the basis of pug marks, scrapes and other secondary tiger presence indicators with Effort to record tiger presence stable or better at 1-6.7 patrol days park-wide (1-6.6 days in 2021), and at 1-4.9 days in the tiger Core Area.

Just over 68% of patrols conducted reported tiger presence increasing to 90% of patrols in the Tiger Core Area. However, due to the lower than normal number of SMART patrols and the time period (six months) no conclusions can be drawn regarding any change in tiger numbers.

Under normal circumstances, TPCU patrols are strongly focused on the conservation of key tiger populations and on detecting and reducing direct threat to tiger and their prey. However, during this semester, five TPCU patrols/surveys were conducted to ground-truth an area in the west of KSNP proposed, by the MoEF, for the relocation of two captive-bred Sumatran tigers from a sanctuary in North Sumatra province.

Two further patrols were conducted, again at the request of the national park, in sites in the east of the protected area which were proposed for the release of a tiger caught early in 2022, by KSDA Jambi following multiple predation of livestock incidents in park-edge farmland in the east of KSNP, Merangin district.

TPCU surveys in the area proposed for the release of the captive-bred tigers reported tiger present on four of the five assessment surveys conducted, although it is unclear whether indicators were of one or two different/individual tigers. These assessments also noted that tiger prey base – both sambar deer and, especially, wild boar - appeared low while evidence of recent illegal logging, with timber floated out of the park, was also recorded and the national park subsequently reported this on the site assessments to MoEF in Jakarta.

In early June, the two tigers, both with GPS radio collars, were subsequently released by helicopter, in two different sites in the location selected by MoEF experts. The third 'conflict' tiger was released, also using a helicopter, in Core area forests in the east of the national park in a site known, from camera trapping and routine TPCU patrols, to have a high tiger density,

In spite of on-going use of forest-edge supporter networks and past SMART patrol records to strengthen patrol deployment, no active tiger snare placements were recorded and only one 'recently-active' tiger snare placement, recorded on an information-led patrol in the east of the national park. The individual who placed this snare has been identified.

For the first time in project history, no active deer snares were recorded on seasonal patrols by TPCUs during and immediately before Ramadan, although 85 snares, set for endemic pheasant and mouse deer, were destroyed in an area where an apparent shift in poachers' species focus has been previously observed by TPCUs, and a total of only 13 active deer snares were recorded on two patrols.

Poaching pressure on tiger prey species has fallen, steadily, since 2010, however it is likely that this very low level of pressure on deer may be a consequence of a lower-than-usual patrol intensity and a request by the national park to conduct a field assessment of tiger release sites together with a possible shift, by poachers, from use of snares to other methods including high-power airguns.

From early-mid 2021, TPCU rangers began to receive informal reports from non-timber forest products collectors and other community information sources regarding large-scale wild boar mortality incidents in, and adjoining, KSNP. These reports could not be verified at the time and so were not formally reported.

Discussions with TPCU rangers during this reporting period and comparison of SMART patrol monitoring and patrol records in 2019-2020 and 2022 suggests that wild boar encounter rates have fallen by as much as 60%, with the steepest fall in interior zone forests of KSNP favoured by Sumatran bearded pig.

This is a matter of the gravest concern for Sumatran tiger given that rusa sambar and, to a lesser extent muntjac, densities are naturally low in the moist tropical rainforests of Kerinci Seblat and, in Sumatra more widely, and so wild boar form a critically-important tiger prey species.

**Objective 2** *Investigations identify poachers and IWT traders, their networks and trade routes while the wildlife blackmarket is monitored for changes in demand to support adaptive strategies to counter any increase in threat.*

Investigations were conducted, in eight park-edge districts and more widely in three of the four provinces which overlay the Kerinci Seblat landscape; while investigators also made use of social media, primarily Whatsapp, to maintain distance contact with information sources and individuals of interest.

These found no evidence of any consistent, resurgence in illegal wildlife trade demand for Sumatran tiger and that suspected poachers were seeking to sell tiger body parts individually, in an effort to secure higher prices and widely resorting to use of 'brokers' or intermediaries in an effort to identify active buyers. Tiger canines and bone remained the most highly priced body parts with blackmarket prices apparently unchanged on those recorded in 2019-20 before Covid-19.

Two investigations, both ongoing, secured credible information regarding tiger poaching incidents – one to the north of KSNP in West Sumatra province – while a third report could not be advanced but provided potentially valuable information regarding a previously unknown illegal wildlife trader operating in the east of the national park.

Investigators reported that hunters and their associates remain extremely cautious and frequently cited the risk of detection and law enforcement.

However, investigations noted a possible re-emergence of IWT demand for Malay pangolin, a species frequently traded by individuals who also pose threat to Sumatran tiger. Reports suggest a possible early uptick in blackmarket prices for both pangolin scales and whole pangolin bodies has occurred although it is unclear whether this may subsequently herald increased threat to Sumatran tigers.

Investigations in park-edge districts of three provinces reported Medan City, the provincial capital of North Sumatra province, as the main source of IWT demand for pangolins in the centre and north of

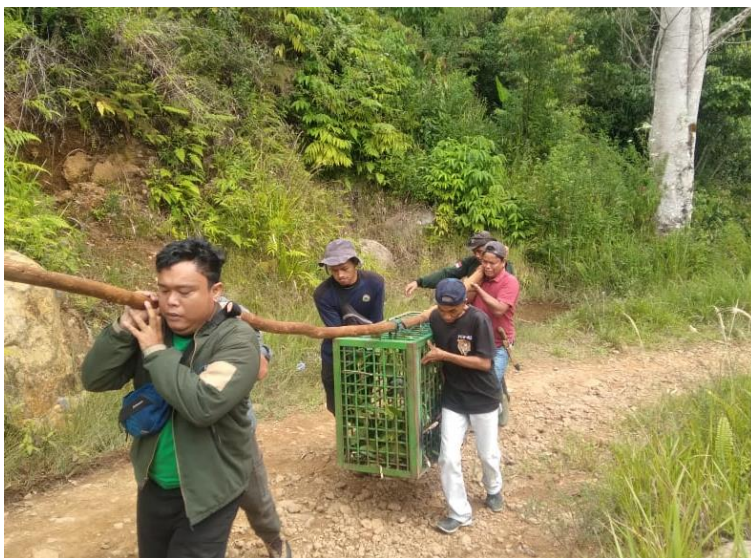
the project landscape, while buyers from Pekanbaru, the capital of Riau province in north-eastern Sumatra, were cited as a source of trade demand for Sumatran tiger body parts.

**Objective 3.** *TPCUs conduct fair and appropriate law enforcement directly, while on patrol or, through support to other government agencies where outside the national park and law enforcement leverages reduced threat to tiger, prey and habitat more widely.*

No tiger or other major wildlife law enforcement actions were conducted by the programme during this interim reporting period. However, TPCU patrols issued three formal written cautions on three different patrols for firearms offences, illegal logging and encroachment into the national park. Verbal warnings were issued to wild song-bird catchers and to illegal loggers in an area where formal arrest and escorting the suspects out of the forest would have potentially posed public order issues. Two chainsaws, cable snares found in a search of a forest-edge farmhouse, bird catching equipment, a high-powered airgun and a traditional, local-made gun were among the items confiscated on TPCU patrols.

**Objective 4** *Respond swiftly to and mitigate human-tiger conflicts reported, where possible before livestock predation has occurred, using a nationally approved conflict mitigation protocol, with the purpose of protecting both tigers and forest-edge community livelihoods*

In early June, two adult (>2 years+) captive-bred tigers from the Barimum tiger sanctuary (see Activity 1) in North Sumatra province were released, under instructions of the MoEF, in an area in the west of the national park where site assessment surveys were conducted by TPCUs in February and March.



Both tigers were fitted with GPS radio collars and monitoring of their movements saw them move east from sites where they had been released, by helicopter and subsequently, just over two weeks later, into park-edge farmland in Kerinci district. TPCU teams subsequently worked to support KSNP and KSDA Jambi to monitor this complex situation while box traps were placed, and moved as required, with the purpose that the tigers could be caught and returned to North Sumatra. Both tigers appeared to seek to avoid people but also appeared to prefer scrub to natural forest, while a number of farmland guard dogs were killed.

In early July, one of these two tigers, a female, moved east, down into the densely populated Kerinci valley before beginning to move west back towards the national park. During this time, she attacked a water buffalo, tethered at farmland edge and villagers reported tiger hair and blood on the water buffalo's horns. The tigress subsequently moved further west and into park-edge forests before ceasing any substantial movement on the basis of her GPS collar and she was subsequently found to

have died from internal injuries incurred during her attack on the water buffalo. The male tiger subsequently moved into deep forest in the west of the national park before returning to forest edge farmland where he remains to date and has not yet been caught.

A third, habitual livestock predating male tiger, released by KSDA Jambi in national park forests in the east of the protected area, in an area with a high tiger density, was not radio-collared. The project will work with colleagues from FHK and support the national park to develop detailed protocols and criteria for future Sumatran tiger releases including 'lessons learned' during this period which may guide future, wider tiger releases both in KSNP and more widely in Sumatra.

There appears to have been an increase, since 2021, in minor 'stray' tiger conflicts, with tigers reported to be in forest-edge farmland while in the south-west of the national park in Bengkulu, a very rare case of multiple livestock predation by a tiger is ongoing in an area where no significant incidents have previously occurred. The TPCU team concludes this apparent increase in conflicts may be related to significant falls in wild boar populations in the park's interior forests.

#### Additionally

All project activities were reported, monthly, to the acting head of the national park and subsequently to MoEF headquarters in Jakarta, while the TPCU Field Manager and Coordinators maintained informal communications with park-edge forestry agencies. The team's Technical Advisor continued to give input to a working group, formed by a number of large international NGOs, to identify and advocate practical and achievable goals for the next 12 years of wild tiger conservation.

In late July, after more than a year in which in which the national park was distance-managed by an 'acting' director, a new National Park director was appointed by the MoEF. This individual, who has previously held senior positions within the national park authority before being posted to lead another national park in Sumatra, is very familiar with the work of Kerinci Seblat Tiger Protection & Conservation.

He advised the team's technical advisor that he had been instructed, to prioritise effective conservation and protection of Sumatran tiger and tiger habitat in KSNP to advance the Indonesia government's [Forestry and Other Land Use \(FOLU\) NET SINK 2030](#) planning which places a high priority on conservation and protection of Sumatran tiger and their habitat to achieve Indonesia's climate goals.

During early, informal discussions, the NP director also advised that, in addition to existing activities, he hoped the Kerinci tiger team would develop an outline analysis of the impacts of the African Swine Fever pandemic on a key tiger prey species for subsequent use by the national park authority and Ministry of Forestry in identifying mitigation measures.

The NP director also requested that the project team support the national park in development of a comprehensive Protocol, background procedures, including site risk-assessment criteria for selecting sites for future releases of wildlife into the national park, both of tigers and other species, for subsequent approval by the MoEF.

**Please 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)*

The project experienced significant obstacles during this six-months period as a consequence of severe shortfalls in co-funding and delayed fund disbursement. Only 42 patrols were conducted unlike the long-

standing average 57-60 for this period and with a consequently lower number (231) of days spent on patrols. It is most unlikely, therefore that it will be possible to meet the objective of conducting >115 patrols with >600 days spent in the forest. Co-funding shortfalls also impacted on poaching and illegal wildlife trade investigations capacity although the project team sought, where possible, to use other methods to maintain contact with information sources.

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

**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

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

We will send these through as separate documents/emails.