

WildCats final (end of year) report template

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 & Conservation	
Grantee Organisation: Fauna & Flora International	
Location of project: Kerinci Seblat National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia	
Size of project area (if appropriate): 1,386m ha (KSNP) excluding buffer-zone forests, some of which include 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.	No of tigers and / or Amur leopards in project area, giving evidence & source: Based on park-wide Occupancy Surveys by the FFI Kerinci Seblat Tiger Monitoring team (2019-2020) and analysis of camera trapping in the KSNP Core Area (2020), Kerinci Seblat NP and adjoining forests protects 128 Sumatran tigers with 119 tigers resident in the national park, of which 29 are recorded in the KSNP Tiger Core Area, and the remainder in forests bordering, or adjacent to, the protected area. <i>Note: The above figure excludes tigers in the wider (18,000Km²) Kerinci Tiger Conservation Landscape, in particular the 300,000ha Batang Hari watershed forests, and is the single-largest tiger population in Sumatra.</i>
Partners: <i>(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.</i> Kerinci Seblat Tiger Protection and Conservation has operated under a partnership between Fauna & Flora Indonesia programme (FFIP) and KSNP since 2000 under multi-year national level MoUs and local agreements which underwrite all aspects of the programme's activities and provide a clear legal framework. A national MoU, signed-off in early 2020, concluded in March 2023. A new, multi-year agreement between Fauna & Flora Indonesia and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry has been finalised, but awaits formal approval at the highest level of government. Such approvals frequently take time and, pending formal approval of the new MoU, a 'Permission in Principle' was issued, and subsequently, renewed in early 2024, allowing Fauna & Flora Indonesia to maintain	

existing activities in existing/approved project sites so recognising that a new President and cabinet will be formally 'installed' in October 2024.

Kerinci Seblat National Park authority: National Park officers, on secondment to the project team, lead or oversee field operations, reporting to the Director of the National Park and thence to the MoEF in Jakarta and to the FFIP Kerinci Seblat Landscape team. All project personnel, both KSNP and FFIP, are formally tasked with conservation and protection of Sumatran tiger in and adjoining the protected area under letters of authority issued by the director of the national park. Under this system, community members of the team are recognised as auxiliary NP rangers during the 20 days per month that such warrants are generally active.

Units for the Conservation of Natural Resources (KSDA): Operating units of the MoEF tasked with nature conservation outside protected areas and leading collaborative/multi-stakeholder Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Taskforce groups in three of the four provinces which overlay the protected area. Primarily KSDA Jambi and KSDA Bengkulu.

Indonesia National Police: Provincial and park-edge district divisions. Reporting and coordination and leading forest and wildlife law enforcement outside the national park's area of jurisdiction as appropriate

FFI Kerinci Seblat Landscape (KSL) Village Forest team: Over the last decade, the team has worked with more than 80 forest-edge villages in three park-edge provinces of the Kerinci Seblat landscape to leverage sustainable, community-led management of more than 106,000ha of forests under licenses issued by MoEF. The project works with park-edge communities and district forestry management units (KPH) and is currently focusing to forests in the south-west of the landscape in Bengkulu province. During the project period, the Kerinci Seblat Tiger Monitoring team worked closely with the village forest team to conduct biodiversity surveys of park-edge forests proposed for village forest status and no full camera trap monitoring of tiger densities was conducted in the national park tiger Core area.

Others – informal liaison and communications:

Local and national :- Lingkar Inisiatif – now mainly focused to developing community tiger conservation capacity and awareness in the south-east of KSNP in Musi Rawas and Musi Rawas Utara districts of South Sumatra province; Institut Conservation Society (park-edge areas in Solok Selatan district of West Sumatra), Flight (primarily focusing to IWT in wild birds but with teams informally 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, members of the Tiger Conservation Coalition (formerly the Tiger Vision group of INGOs.)

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Reporting period: February 2023 – January 2024

Please ensure that your report relates to the objectives and activities detailed in your proposal and logframe. Please include results data in Section II and Section III.

Section II. Project Results

Long Term Impact: (How has this work contributed to the vision and long-term impact that your project aims to achieve?)

The project's long-term goal is to underwrite a sustained, natural increase in Sumatran tiger populations in Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP) through detecting and reducing threat to tiger, their prey and habitat with activities strengthened by collaborations between national and local government, local civil society and forest-edge communities.

Threat to Sumatran tiger recorded on Tiger Protection & Conservation Unit (TPCU) patrols remained far below the long-term programme average. Even though the patrols recorded a small increase with three active tiger snares recorded on two TPCU patrols, the effort to detect active snares is at 1 snare per 149 patrol days, compared with 1 per 85 patrol days for the period 2018-2021. Poaching threat to main tiger prey such as a rusa sambar deer and muntjac continued a long-standing multi-year decline.

The number of patrols conducted by the TPCU, recording a tiger presence was at 51% of all patrols, which was lower compared with the previous project period. This was primarily a consequence of a number of patrols, in particular in the south-west of the national park, seeking to reduce threat to tiger habitat from 'small-holder' encroachment and other illegal activities. Meanwhile 'spot' camera trap placements by the tiger monitoring team to better understand tiger movement dynamics around the Core Area of KSNP, which supported by the other funding, recorded seven individual tigers, three of them were previously recorded in the previous survey, including a tigress first photographed in 2010 and a male tiger which was first photographed in 2020 and 2022.

Although poaching threat to tigers recorded on patrols remained below pre-Covid levels, discussions with TPCU rangers suggests pressure has now begun to increase in certain areas around Kerinci Seblat, but is primarily being driven by 'old-time' habitual poachers including, in one case, a suspected recidivist and not by organised IWT demand.

Conservation Outcome: *(What are the actual changes that this project has achieved?)*

Patrols recorded a small increase in poaching threat to tigers compared with the previous project period, with three active tiger snares recorded on two TPCU patrols. However, active threat to tigers were detected on fewer than 3% of all patrols, and the effort to detect active snares is at 1 snare per 149 patrol days, compared with 1 per 85 patrol days for the period 2018-2021.

Snare-poaching threat to key tiger prey species, primarily rusa sambar and muntjak, remained at historic lows, with only 4 active deer snares recorded and destroyed on one information-led patrol, in the east of the national park, in the final month of the project period. For the second consecutive year, no active deer snares were detected and destroyed on the 11 TPCU patrols conducted during and immediately before the holy month of Ramadhan, a period which, in the past, has seen a surge in deer poaching driven by local market-driven demand.

No evidence of any significant resurgence in illegal wildlife trade demand for tiger was secured in the course of monitoring the wildlife blackmarket and three different interviewees cited the risk of detection and law enforcement for their withdrawing from poaching tigers citing 'low' prices paid for tiger body parts compared with the cost, and high risk, of engaging in tiger poaching or trade.

Summary of activities and achievements: *(Please provide a narrative summary for use in our communication materials Max 300 words)*

The project conducted activities in national park forests and park-edge districts of the four provinces which overlay Sumatra's largest protected area to consolidate gains made, with WCCA support, in reducing threat to wild Sumatran tiger and their prey and so support a natural recovery in tiger numbers.

Tiger Protection & Conservation Units conducted a total of 87 SMART forest foot patrols in national park and park-edge forests in three provinces across a walking distance of more than 1,128 km (701 miles).

Patrols recorded a small increase in poaching threat to tigers compared with the previous project period but threat remained far below pre-Covid levels with Effort to detect active snares at 1 per 149 patrol days compared with 1-85 patrol days for the period 2018-2021.

Snare poaching threat to key tiger prey species also remained low and was recorded on only two patrols.

Frequency of Encounter' with tiger sign on patrols was stable with a minimum of 52 tigers recorded present on the basis of SMART patrol mapping analysis.

IWT information collection were resulting of one successful tiger law enforcement in April 2023 led by the Kerinci district police.

Levels of human-tiger conflict recorded staged a further reduction during the project period, almost certainly due to a gradual recovery in wild boar populations which were decimated in 2020-2021 by the arrival of African Swine Fever in Kerinci Seblat.

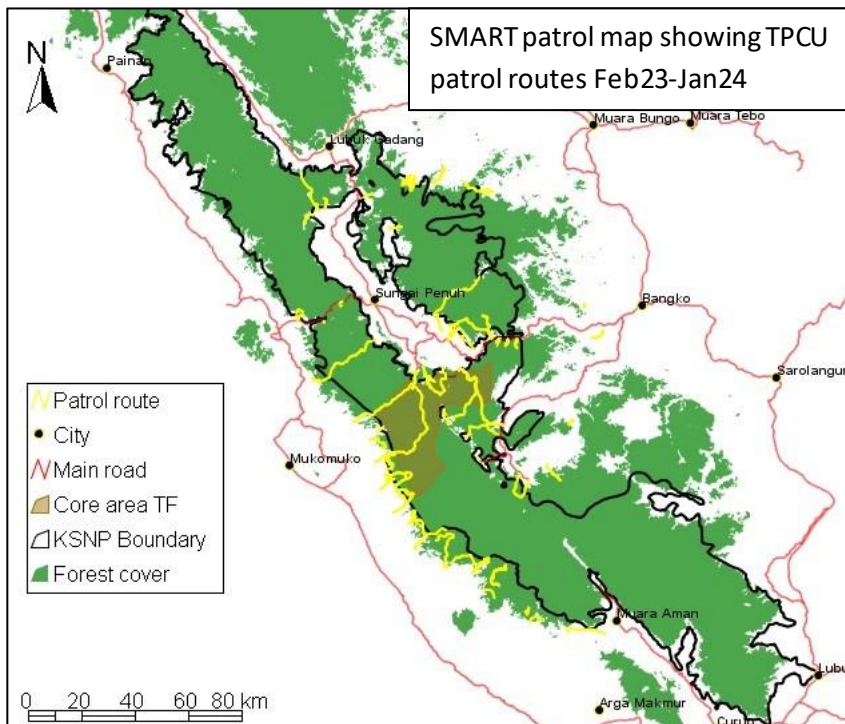
Many years of experience in wild tiger and wider, landscape-level conservation actions and needs also fed into planning by the Tiger Conservation Coalition for development of long-term, sustainable funding lines to be discussed at the Sustainable Funding for Tiger Landscapes conference in Bhutan in April 2024.

Details of activities and results: (Please give detailed narrative of the results of each objective & output. Please include measures for example patrol numbers and distances covered, #people trained or #people attending meetings/workshops or refer to figures in your tables below)

Objective 1: SMART forest patrols by Tiger Protection & Conservation Units consolidate gains made in detecting and reducing threat to Sumatran tiger, their prey and habitat.

1.1 Tiger Protection & Conservation Units conducted a total of 87 SMART foot patrols in national park and park-edge forests during the project period across a walking distance of 1,128 km (701 miles) by GPS Waypoint (1,588 km/987 miles by Tracklog) with 449 Unit days spent in the forest on patrols.

The number of patrols was lower than planned as only five, and not six TPCU, were fully-staffed and operational with ongoing shortfalls in counterpart funding meaning new rangers have not yet been recruited to restore operational capacity following the tragic death of two TPCU rangers in August 2022 and the retirement of a third, long-serving TPCU ranger in early 2022.



Just under 20% (18) of these SMART patrols were conducted within the Core area of the NP (see map, left), lower than the long-term project norm.

Park-wide, TPCU patrols recorded the presence of a minimum of 52 tigers calculated on the basis of mapping (112) secondary tiger presence indicators including pugmarks, scrapes, faeces, fresh territorial scratches. (see Map of Tiger presence, below).

The number of patrols recording tiger presence was lower than in recent years at 51% compared with 59% in the previous project period. This was primarily a consequence of a number of patrols, in particular in the south-west of the national park, seeking to reduce threat to tiger habitat from 'small-holder' encroachment and other illegal activities.

Additionally, Tiger detection was made more difficult by a long drought in 2023 due to a strong El Nino event and, subsequently, between November and January, by exceptional levels of rainfall which also triggered flash flooding and landslides responsible for the deaths of at least 30 people in park-edge districts.

Patrol Frequency of Encounter with tiger, park-wide, was almost unchanged on the previous year, at one tiger per 21.7Km patrol Kms walked (21.4Km in 2022-2023) but with patrol Effort to detect tiger presence increasing, slightly, to 1 tiger per 8.7 patrol days (1-7.6 days in Feb 2022-Jan 2023) for the aforementioned reasons.

More than 77% of TPCU patrols conducted in the Tiger Core area of the national park reported one or more tigers present.

However, TPCU Effort to detect tiger in the Core increased to 1 tiger per 6.05 patrol days compared with 1-4.5 days in 2022-23 while Frequency of Encounter reduced to 1-19.05 patrol kilometres walked (1-16.5Km in 2022-23).

This was primarily due to the extreme El Nino-related weather conditions experienced for much of the project period which made detection of secondary tiger presence indicators very difficult.

A small increase in poaching threat to Sumatran tiger, compared with the previous project period was recorded, with three active tiger snares destroyed on two TPCU patrols in the final two months of the project period and a further 11 'recently-active' tiger snare placements reported on four more patrols.

However, while snare-poaching threat to tiger was higher than in the same period of 2022-2023 - when, for the first time ever, no active tiger snares were recorded - active threat remained far below the 2018-2021 snare encounter rate of 1 active snare per 85 patrol days at 1 snare per 149 patrol days with active threat to tigers detected on fewer than 3% of all patrols.

One of these active tiger snares was found in December 2023, deep inside the NP core area with a Malay tapir, *Tapirus indicus* found trapped but still alive. The TPCU team managed to dismantle the snare and the tapir was successfully freed to return to the wild. This snare-sweep patrol was launched using information from the Tiger monitoring team which had found and destroyed two active tiger snares just under 2Km away while conducting a monitoring transect and placing 'spot' camera traps. On the basis of snare construction, it is strongly suspected the poacher was an individual already known to the TPCUs as a habitual poacher from a community in the west of the national park.

The two other active tiger snares were recorded in January 2024 on a patrol in the south-west of the NP, close to a location where a Sumatran elephant had been poisoned and died a month earlier. The snares had been placed, by the poacher, approximately one week earlier. It is not known if the individual(s) who set these snares were also implicated in the earlier elephant poisoning incident and this would be relatively unusual since elephant poachers rarely hunt tigers and *vice versa* but is a possibility.

A further 11 non-active tiger snare placements were recorded on four different patrols in the east and west of the national park, all of which had already been dismantled by the poachers or, in one case, a team informant. One of these patrols, in the south-west of KSNP in October 2023, recorded a total of six non-active tiger snare placements, suggesting a highly-motivated poacher was operating. There was no evidence of tiger or other species' mortality from any of these 'non-active' snare placements.

Although poaching threat to tigers recorded on patrols remained below pre-Covid levels, discussions with TPCU rangers suggests pressure has now begun to increase in certain areas around Kerinci Seblat, but is primarily being driven by 'old-time' habitual poachers including, in one case, a suspected recidivist and not by organised IWT demand.

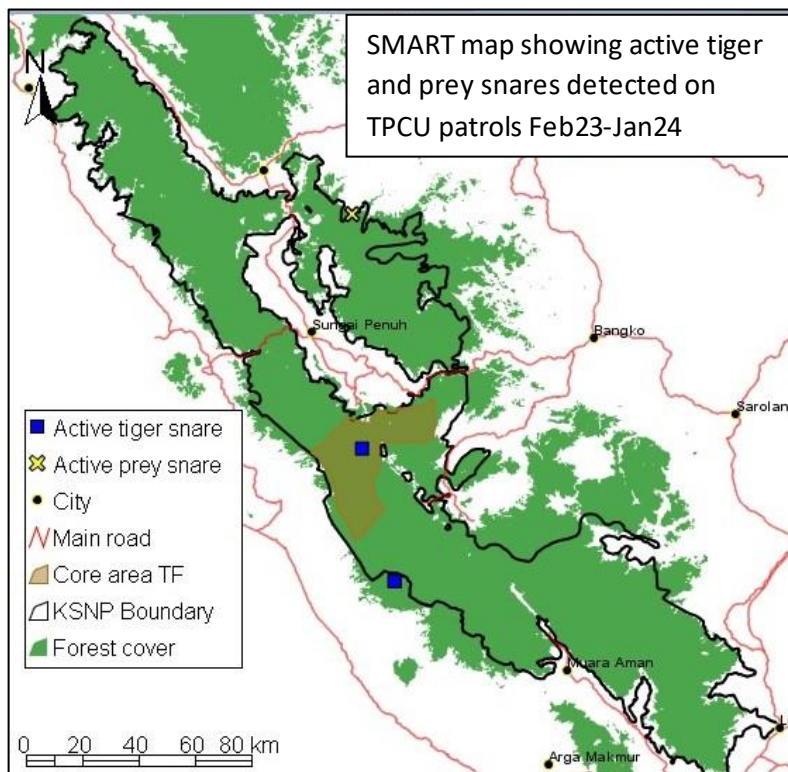
Snare-poaching threat to key tiger prey species, primarily rusa sambar and muntjak, remained at historic lows, with only 4 active deer snares recorded and destroyed on one information-led patrol, in the east of the national park, in the final month of the project period.

For the second consecutive year, no active deer snares were detected and destroyed on the 11 TPCU patrols conducted during and immediately before the holy month of Ramadhan (See

Objective 1.4), a period which, in the past, has seen a surge in deer poaching driven by local market-driven demand.

However, a local knowledge-led TPCU patrol in the east of the park destroyed 10 deer snares, ready for activation and awaiting only placement of the snare ropes.

The same patrol also 10 newly-deactivated and 22 active pheasant and small mammal snares. Two men, suspected to be the poachers, were spotted close to the location of one of these snares and rangers gave chase but the men managed to escape.



While snares remain the most widely recorded method of poaching Sumatran tiger and deer in Kerinci Seblat, poachers may also use hunting dogs or firearms. These methods are more difficult to detect - unless the individuals are encountered first-hand - as they leave little trace unlike snares.

Two such incidents were recorded on patrols during the project period and others are strongly suspected to have occurred (See Objective II). In the first case, a TPCU patrol met two older men, from a nearby park-edge village as they left the forest who had used dogs to hunt an endangered Sumatran serow. In a second case, a TPCU patrol in a remote enclave near the centre of the park met a group of armed individuals leaving the forest which included a member of a wild boar hunting club from a park-edge district capital. It is unclear whether the hunters were seeking wild boar or other wildlife and they were preparing to leave, in some haste, by car, having apparently been 'tipped off' that a TPCU was patrolling in the area.

TPCU rangers routinely met with members of forest-edge communities in the course of patrols, in particular with forest-edge farmers, with the purpose of building support and awareness for tiger and other wildlife and forest conservation and these informal meetings, at the beginning or end of forest patrols, also frequently yielded useful information.

During the project period the holy month of Ramadhan occurred from late March through to April 2023. This corresponded with the conclusion of Fauna & Flora Indonesia Program's three-years MoU with the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Approval for continuation activities under a Permission in Principle was subsequently granted.

Objective 2. Identify poachers and illegal wildlife traders, their networks and trade routes, providing credible data to law enforcement agencies as appropriate and identify changes in IWT demand so supporting adaptive strategies to counter any increase in threat.

During this twelve-month project period, more than 50 reports were logged and graded for credibility following information collection and subsequent covert interviews with suspected poachers, illegal wildlife traders and their associates in eleven park-edge districts and municipalities of the four provinces of the Kerinci Seblat Landscape.

All active information collection was conducted under warrants of the director of the national park and in line with statutory government guidelines regarding investigations.

Only two activities recorded first-hand (A1) evidence of wildlife crime – in one case a tiger canine offered for sale in a park-edge district capital in the east of the Kerinci Seblat landscape and, in the second case, deer antlers and heads in the house of a suspected poacher. In both cases KSNP team leaders concluded these reports required development before any additional action could be taken.

A further five reports – one of which subsequently proceeded to support successful tiger law enforcement action in April 2023 following lengthy distance monitoring of the suspect and evidence - were categorised as highly credible (A2).

Four investigation reports, which, taken independently, would have been categorised as A3 - 'requiring further investigation' - were, upon analysis, concluded to be inter-related and credible, but could not be proven.

One of these cases related to the reporting killing of a Sumatran tiger by a wild boar hunting club in Kerinci district in early 2023 with the tiger surrounded and attacked by more than 100 hunting dogs, assisted by hunters with spears. The skin and body parts were, reportedly, subsequently divided up among the hunters. This suspected incident, reported, independently, by two different TPCU members, is the latest in a long, albeit intermittent, history of reports of wild boar hunters engaging in opportunist hunting of protected species.

In the second case, interviews with two different illegal wildlife traders in a park-edge district of West Sumatra, reported a tiger shot, opportunistically in mid-2023, by a named deer poacher with a past history of suspected poaching of tigers, and, subsequently sold to an illegal wildlife trader, also known to the project team. These reports could not be substantiated but, taken together, were considered to be credible.

No evidence of any significant resurgence in illegal wildlife trade demand for tiger was secured in the course of monitoring the wildlife blackmarket and three different interviewees cited the risk of detection and law enforcement for their withdrawing from poaching tigers citing 'low' prices paid for tiger body parts compared with the cost, and high risk, of engaging in tiger poaching or trade.

However, a revival in IWT demand for Sunda pangolin, first noted in mid-2022, continued to be recorded in the course of a number of interviews, primarily in park-edge districts of West Sumatra province but also in the south of the Kerinci Seblat landscape in areas of Bengkulu province. Information collection in park-edge districts of two provinces also reported a possible resurgence in IWT demand for hornbill.

This is not only a cause for concern for two IUCN Critically Endangered Red List species but also for Sumatran tiger given that there is a long history of Sumatran tiger being traded by the same blackmarket cartels which threaten Sunda pangolin while hornbills are primarily hunted with high-powered guns which may be used, opportunistically, to hunt other species.

No significant change in sub-national sources of illegal trade threat to Sumatran tiger and other protected wildlife in Kerinci Seblat was recorded, with Medan, capital of North Sumatra province and Pekanbaru, capital of Riau province in north-eastern Sumatra cited as the primary sources of IWT demand for both Sumatran tiger and Sunda pangolin.

Medan city – which has a substantial Christian population- was also cited as a sub-national source of trade demand for wild boar meat with two reports of wild boar meat traders operating around the Kerinci Seblat landscape to supply demand in Medan but, allegedly, also purchasing tiger body parts and Sunda pangolin.

Forest-edge community information networks – including wild bird catchers and non-timber forest product collectors - remained a valuable source of information on possible threat to tigers and other wildlife although information on suspected active poaching was not always found to be geographically or temporally correct when followed up with a patrol response.

Objective 3. Support fair and appropriate forest and wildlife law enforcement and so deter and contain wildlife and forest crime.

During the project period, Tiger Protection & Conservation Units supported the national park authority and local police in four forest and wildlife law enforcement operations in and around the central-eastern area of the national park.

One of these actions related to Sumatran tiger law enforcement, two were conducted to combat illegal gold mining inside the national park and one to organised encroachment into the protected area.

Tiger law enforcement was conducted in Sungaipenuh, Kerinci in April by Kerinci police criminal detectives' division drawing on information provided by the project team. This resulted in the arrest of one man, from a park-edge village to the west of Kerinci and the seizure of the skin of an adult male Sumatran tiger.

This tiger is believed to have been poached in national park forests adjoining a remote enclave in the east of KSNP in late 2022 and the broker, acting on behalf of the poacher, had previously tried, but failed, to sell the tiger skin, through a third party (identified), to an unknown individual in Pekanbaru City, Riau province. During the pre-law enforcement information collection phase, this individual also claimed to have previously sold two tigers from Kerinci Seblat to traders in a district in the north of the Kerinci Seblat landscape in West Sumatra province.

Following technical support to police case development officers by NP members of the project team, this case proceeded to a court hearing in July with sentencing delivered in late August. The offender received a custodial sentence of two years and six months and a fine of Rp50 million/£2,500 with an additional three-months prison sentence if not paid. Sentencing was

in line with recent national and landscape-level benchmarks for wildlife crime offences and higher than some, recent, illegal wildlife trade-related sentences.

The poacher in this case was also identified but escaped arrest and, subsequently, is believed to have gone into hiding in a remote area of the national park. The TPCU team continue to distance monitor, as possible, his movements so that police may respond, when possible. Both the poacher and the broker were previously known to the TPCU team for past involvement in wildlife crime, including poaching and trade in tiger and helmeted hornbill and are the sons of two well-known former tiger and Sumatran rhino poachers who previously frequently poached wildlife together and introduced their sons to wildlife crime as children.

In September and November, TPCU rangers supported the national park authority and Kerinci district police in law enforcement actions against illegal gold mining in the east of the national park on the Kerinci-Merangin district borders in Jambi province. Both operations resulted in the arrest of illegal miners and destruction of gold mining equipment including heavy plant machinery which has caused significant disturbance to important tiger habitat.

In December 2023, TPCU rangers also supported the national park authority which led a 'joint operation' with district police and military against encroachment into national park forests in the north-east of Kerinci district with a number of semi-permanent farm houses demolished. The encroachers were not from Kerinci or other park-edge areas but from districts in southern Sumatra and from communities that have previously been implicated in illegal conversion of forests for coffee in other areas of the Kerinci Seblat landscape.

TPCU patrols responded, where possible, to forest and wildlife crime encountered on patrols in the national park. Formal written Cautions were issued to three different men preparing to clear NP forests for farmland in the course of three different patrols in the south-west of the protected area. Informal verbal warnings and counselling were issued to a total 10 wild song-bird catchers encountered on five TPCU patrols in the east and west of the national park, to four fishermen encountered deep within the park, and two older men from a park-edge customary law community, with six hunting dogs, carrying the carcass of a Sumatran serow.

Although these individuals could, in some cases, have been arrested and prosecuted, TPCU rangers have learned that counselling and verbal or formal written warnings to such offenders frequently builds understanding and support for forest and wildlife conservation more widely and that formal law enforcement against 'minor' offenders may be counter-productive.

No significant new information on the identities of suspected high-level illegal wildlife traders was secured and so, planning to pass details, through the director of KSNP, to the MoEF financial crime unit for follow-up investigation using money laundering legislation did not proceed.

Objective 4. Support to multi-stakeholder Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Taskforce groups in preliminary responses to human-tiger conflict

Since the establishment of Multi-stakeholder Conflict Mitigation Task Force Teams, the majority of human-tiger conflicts reported have been responded to by these teams, under the leadership of Units for Conservation of Nature (KSDA) of each province however the TPCU

team has actively collaborated with the Satgas Mitigasi teams to respond to and mitigate reported human-tiger conflicts.

During this project period TPCUs responded directly to three human-tiger conflict incidents, all relating to one-off predation of farmland guard dogs which are frequently left moving freely, at night and not kennelled. In all these cases, mitigation included counselling farmers and local villagers on tiger behaviour and safety precautions which may be taken when a tiger is, or has been, in the vicinity and conflict prevention measures such as livestock management. Villagers in the conflict sites were generally supportive and helpful and in all these cases the tigers in question appear to have moved on and back into the forest with post-conflict monitoring advising there had been no attempt to exploit these incidents by poachers and no reoccurrence of livestock predation.

In the south-west of the national park in Bengkulu, TPCUs also provided back up to KSDA colleagues seeking to catch a tiger believed responsible for multiple cattle predation in forest-edge oil palm farms belonging to members of local communities. The tigress was finally caught and found to have an old snare injury resulting in the loss of the lower part of one forelimb and is now under rehabilitation by KSDA Bengkulu pending a decision on whether she may be safely released. This tiger had been previously been photographed during camera trapping in a nearby forest restoration concession and her injury was old. It is likely she had commenced predating cattle in response to the sharp fall in wild boar populations due to African Swine Fever reported between 2021-2022 while examination of her injured forelimb advised it was likely caused by a snare set for wild boar and not for tiger.

The number of human-tiger conflicts reported was lower than in the previous two years and this likely reflects an apparent, gradual recovery in common wild boar (*Sus scrofa*) populations which were badly impacted by African Swine Fever in 2020-2021. However, patrol records of the endemic Sumatran bearded pig *Sus barbatus oi*, which favours deep forest habitat, remained very low and may have contributed to a change in tiger use of the landscape.

Other activities - Stakeholder liaison/Co-ordination:

All program activities and outputs were reported, monthly, to the director of Kerinci Seblat National Park and then, onward to the Directorate of Conservation of Nature and Ecosystems of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Activities and results were also reported, monthly, to the Kerinci Seblat Landscape program manager, so informing wider conservation strategies by FFIP teams at a landscape level, including two districts in the south-west of KSNP in Bengkulu province, where village-managed forests are under development.

Key members of the project team also took part in distance discussions with colleagues in the Sumatran tiger conservation forum 'Harimaukita' on a range of wider national tiger conservation issues and strategies while KSNP members of the TPCU team maintained cordial relations with local police detective divisions.

Planning for informal quarterly meetings between all components of the Kerinci Seblat Landscape team – Village Forest team members, TPCUs and the tiger monitoring team - did

not proceed, primarily due to time pressures on all team members and ongoing funding constraints however routine distance communications were maintained.

The team advisor additionally joined distance meetings with colleagues of the Tiger Conservation Coalition of international conservation NGOs. Identification of long-term sustainable funding strategies for conservation of wild tigers and tiger landscapes has now taken centre stage following approval of a 12-years Global Tiger Recovery Program II and mobilising sustainable landscape-appropriate funding resources is the focus of an international conference to be held in Bhutan in April 2024.

Planned support to the national park in development of a decision tree and protocols for release into KSNP of wildlife rescued from conflicts or the illegal wildlife trade did not proceed as it might have been considered a 'new' activity and so potentially breach FFIP's temporary 'Permission in Principle' operating permit.

Key achievements of this project: (Please give a bullet point list of key measurable outputs- for example xxx of staff trained in SMART monitoring techniques, xxx camera traps covering xxx km²)

- Tiger Protection & Conservation Units conducted a total of 87 SMART forest foot patrols in national park and park-edge forests in three provinces across a walking distance of more than 1,128 km (701 miles).
- Patrols recorded a small increase in poaching threat to tigers compared with the previous project period but threat remained far below pre-Covid levels.
- Snare poaching threat to key tiger prey species also remained low.
- Frequency of Encounter' with tiger sign on patrols was stable with a minimum of 52 tigers recorded present on the basis of SMART patrol mapping analysis.
- One successful tiger law enforcement in April 2023 led by the Kerinci district police. The offender was subsequently gaoled for two years and six months with a £2500 fine or a further three-months prison term if the fine is not paid.
- TPCU rangers supported the national park authority and Kerinci district police in law enforcement actions against illegal gold mining in the east of the national park. The operations resulted in the arrest of illegal miners and destruction of gold mining equipment including heavy plant machinery which has caused significant disturbance to important tiger habitat.
- Levels of human-tiger conflict recorded staged a further reduction, almost certainly due to a gradual recovery in wild boar populations which were decimated in 2020-2021 by the arrival of African Swine Fever in Kerinci Seblat.
- The team advisor additionally joined distance meetings with colleagues of the Tiger Conservation Coalition of international conservation NGOs. Identification of long-term sustainable funding strategies for conservation of wild tigers and tiger landscapes has now taken centre stage following approval of a 12-years Global Tiger Recovery

Program II and mobilising sustainable landscape-appropriate funding resources is the focus of an international conference to be held in Bhutan in April 2024.

Obstacles to success: Give details of any obstacles/challenges to success that the project has encountered. *(Any changes to the project that have affected the budget and timetable of project activities should have been discussed prior to the end of the project)*

Only five Tiger Protection & Conservation Units were fully-operational during the project period with recruitment of a minimum of two and, ideally three, new rangers 'on hold' due to continuing counter-part funding shortfalls.

This resulted in a lower-than-planned number of SMART forest patrols since 'standard operating procedures' require a minimum of four rangers for forest patrols and five, or more, rangers in very remote, deep forest areas for safety reasons.

These staffing factors also placed constraints on investigation capacity during the project period with less information collection in distant areas of the landscape or provincial capitals which come with associated additional personnel time and financial costs while illegal wildlife trade investigations outside the immediate Kerinci Seblat Landscape had the potential to be outside the scope of the 'Permission in Principle' granted in April 2023.

However, TPCU patrols continued to be deployed flexibly and appropriately, drawing on local knowledge and long experience while investigations were maintained in key areas of the landscape and communications maintained with long-standing and newer community information sources.

The Tiger Monitoring team also experienced very significant operational co-funding shortfalls and so no camera trap monitoring of tiger populations in the Core Area to assess changes in tiger densities was conducted. This marks the fourth year in which the Kerinci tiger team has had no access to robust, scientific data on changes in tiger densities and wider species Relative Abundance indices in the Core area. However, with support from other fundings, the tiger monitoring team were able to conducted the 'Spot' camera trapping in and adjoining the Core Area to monitor tiger movement dynamics.

Fauna & Flora's three-years MoU with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry concluded in March 2023 and, while a new draft Memorandum of Understanding has been finalised, this awaits approval at the highest levels of government. In February 2024. Presidential and national Parliamentary elections were held in SE Asia's largest democracy and a new President and Cabinet will take Office in early October.

Monitoring and Evaluation: *(Describe the methods used to monitor and evaluate the progress of the project)*

TPCU forest patrols: Results are evaluated twice-monthly, by ranger teams and team leaders and also draw on the programme's SMART database and SMART patrol maps to analyse and compare patrol results over time. Over a longer period, Tiger presence and change in encounter rates are also evaluated using both Effort to detect tiger sign @ patrol days per tiger, and Frequency of Encounter (Km walked to record) and % of patrols reporting tiger presence. Active or recently-active poaching threat to tiger is recorded quantitatively (number of snares, number/% of patrols recording) and Effort (days) to detect. Threat to tiger prey species is primarily recorded through # of active snares reported and % of patrols recording over the year as a whole and during the fasting month of Ramadan. Patrol 'coverage' of an area is not a key evaluation tool as a consistent, but unpredictable, patrol presence in the forest is found to have greater conservation impact than 'coverage'.

Investigations: Number of investigation reports logged, and graded for credibility) and geographic spread of investigation effort. Investigations securing credible data on blackmarket prices or reported changes in IWT demand for tiger or other species, new trade routes or identification of previously-unknown individuals (poachers, traders, couriers). Investigations or information collection supporting patrols which record active threat. Number of investigations progressing to A1 (observed first-hand) or A2 (credible but unproven. Number of investigations supporting subsequent wildlife law enforcement or patrol deployment where threat is confirmed. Willingness of forest-edge informants to provide information on suspected threat to tiger or tiger prey or an emerging conflict for a TPCU response.

Law enforcement: Number of pre-planned/information-led tiger law enforcement actions conducted in support of the relevant government law enforcement agency and outcomes; number of suspects, evidence and, if Sumatran tiger, condition of evidence (complete or partial body parts, missing body parts). Law enforcement proceeding from arrest through Case Development to a court hearing and to sentencing. Judgments made (sentences, fines etc). Availability of suitable Expert Witnesses. Number of habitat and other law enforcement actions on patrols where offenders are present, type of offence, number of offenders, actions taken. Post-law enforcement patrol records and investigations in areas where law enforcement has been conducted and evidence of law enforcement impact (where relevant).

Human-tiger conflict mitigation: Number of human-tiger conflict incidents reported, grade (severity) of conflict. Conflicts reported before livestock (excluding farmland guard dogs) predation has occurred, and conflicts involving livestock predation or posing direct threat to people. Conflicts mitigated in partnership with other government agencies under multi-stakeholder conflict mitigation taskforce groups (satgas) or directly by TPCU personnel. Post-conflict mitigation outcomes, including use of community informants to monitor any recurrence of conflict or reports of poachers entering the area.

Shared learning: *(How will you share the outputs and learning from your project, in what format and with whom?)*

The programme operates under a partnership between FFI IP and KSNP management authority (BBTNKS) and all TPCU activities and outputs were reported, monthly, to the national park director and subsequently, to forestry headquarters in Jakarta. This reporting system delivered real-time information to the national park leadership and national MoEF decision-makers in evaluating progress towards Sumatran tiger goals, challenges recorded in the field and actions required.

Activities were also reported monthly to the FFI Kerinci Seblat Landscape project team so informing wider conservation strategies in the Kerinci Seblat Landscape.

Key members of the project team also took part in distance discussions with colleagues in the Sumatran tiger conservation forum 'Harimaukita' on a range of wider national tiger conservation issues and strategies while KSNP members of the TPCU team maintained cordial relations with local police detective divisions.

Planning for informal quarterly meetings between all components of the Kerinci Seblat Landscape team – Village Forest team members, TPCUs and the tiger monitoring team - did not proceed, primarily due to time pressures on all team members and ongoing funding constraints however routine distance communications were maintained.

The team advisor additionally joined distance meetings with colleagues of the Tiger Conservation Coalition of international conservation NGOs. Identification of long-term sustainable funding strategies for conservation of wild tigers and tiger landscapes has now taken centre stage following approval of a 12-years Global Tiger Recovery Program II and mobilising sustainable landscape-appropriate funding resources is the focus of an international conference to be held in Bhutan in April 2024.

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

Have you provided at least 2 blogs? Y/N?

Have you provided at least 10 high quality images with details of the relevant credit? Y/N?

Section III. Appendix (Please populate this section with details from section II)	
<p>Did you carry out camera trapping as part of this project? Y/N, No. However, with support from other funding, the tiger monitoring team were able to conducted the 'Spot' camera trapping in and adjoining the Core Area of KSNP to monitor tiger movement dynamics. From 35 camera stations placed in the field, seven individual tigers were identified. Three of these tigers were 'old' individual tigers who had been identified in the previous surveys, one of them was identified as a tigress who has been recorded by the camera traps across numerous survey periods since 2010. The other two other 'old' individual tigers were the male tigers recorded for the first time as a young tiger each in 2020 and 2022.</p>	
If yes:	
Total camera trap nights/days:	Total area surveyed:
Numbers of tiger/leopard/prey recorded	Please include data on other species recorded
Are numbers of tigers/leopards/prey increasing or decreasing in your project area? Please show trends	
Did you carry out other surveys? Y/N	
If yes:	
Please give details	
Did you carry out patrolling as part of this project? Y/N, Yes	

<p>If yes:</p> <p>Total distance patrolled:</p> <p>Patrol by foot: 1,128 km by GPS Waypoint or 1,588 km by Tracklog</p> <p>(Please give figures for different methods, vehicle/foot/boat etc)</p>	<p>Total area patrolled:</p>
<p>Do you use Patrol Monitoring software such as SMART? Y/N, Yes</p>	
<p>If yes:</p> <p>Total distance patrolled using patrol monitoring software?</p> <p>1,588 km of patrol walking distance</p>	<p>How do you collect data? Handheld devices/paper/other? Please give details?</p> <p>TPCU SMART data/observations are collected using individual paper 'Tally Sheets' which are filled in by all members of a patrol team, Data from these 'Tally Sheets' is subsequently cross-checked at post-patrol evaluation meetings so reducing the risk of a data observation not being recorded before entry to SMART database.</p>
<p>Please provide comparison data on from your patrolling over time</p> <p>1587 km using Tracklog in the last project period (Feb 22 – Jan 23).</p>	

Please provide data on violations recorded/arrests/successful prosecutions		
One successful tiger law enforcement in April 2023.		
Does your project work with local communities? Y/N		
If yes: (please be as specific as possible and include gender split)		
Who?	What did you do? Was it successful?	How many people did you reach?
How do you measure the success of this activity?		
Did you carry out educational activities with adults or children? Y/N		
If yes: (please be as specific as possible and include gender and numbers)		
Who?	What did you do?	How many people reached?
Have you seen behaviour change from these activities? (Please give details of your results and of how this is measured)		

Did you carry out training activities for any staff/community member on the project? Y/N		
If yes: (please be as specific as possible and include gender split) Who?	What did you do? Was it effective?	How many staff trained? How many others trained?
How do you measure the effectiveness of this training?		
Did you carry out conflict mitigation activities with community members?		
If yes: Who?	What?	How many people did this include?
Have you seen behaviour change from these activities? (Please give details of your results and how this is measured)		
Were any scientific papers/articles published because of your project? Y/N		
If so, please give details or provide copies.		